

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

### Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday February 5th, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Rodger Scott at 6:30pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Kenn Baughman & Mr. Rodger Scott were present. Mr. Robert Kurtz was absent.

Scott made a motion to receive the treasury reports. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20250205-01**

Baughman made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2nd 2025 Organization Meeting & the January 2nd Trustees' Regular Meeting. Scott seconded the motion. Baughman & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20250205-02**

One hundred-eleven bills/warrants totaling \$118,078.53 were submitted for payment. Scott made a motion to approve the warrants. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20250205-03**

Sue Daugherty and Amy Bowman-Moore from Serving Our Seniors spoke on the need for affordable housing for seniors in Erie County. Daugherty announced a forum/discussion will be held by Erie County Treasurer Caleb Stidham to help residents understand how their taxes are calculated. The forum for Vermilion Township residents will be Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:00pm at Ritter Public Library in Vermilion.

Vermilion Township Fire Chief Frank Triana reported 56 runs for January & reports have been submitted to the state. Runs include: EMS-49, EMS/Mutual Assist-2, Motor Vehicle Crash-3, Residential Alarm-1, Dog on ice-1. The Department completed ice-rescue training in the classroom and ice-rescue skill training on the actual ice. Skills training will continue as long as the ice-remains safe. Two Fire-Fighter/EMT Bs and one Fire-Fighter/Medic have been added to the roster. In regards to the ice on Lake Erie and the Vermilion River, Triana stated no ice is safe ice, stick to sidewalks and don't walk on the ice.

Vermilion Township Administrator & Zoning Inspector Keith Sexton reported attending the Erie County Blue Ribbon Efficiency Committee meeting along with Johnson, Kurtz & Scott. The committee's objective is to explore ways to streamline government operations within Erie County's local governments, school districts and public service agencies. The meetings are on Tuesdays and the public is encouraged to attend. Please call the office for details. Sexton asked to discuss the proposed zoning fee changes. Sexton thanked the Township road crew for keeping the roads safe during the inclement weather conditions.

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young reported the 2025 Township Cleanup Days will be Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am to 3:30pm. The Department had a busy January with snow and ice removal. The Western-Star truck had radiator and coolant line repairs. The

culvert inventory has been completed and sent to the Erie County Engineer’s Office. Lawn mowers have been serviced and now roadside mowers are being worked on. Township hall entrance/exit signs have been ordered.

Vermilion Township’s Representative to Northern Ohio Rural Water Larry Deem reported that in 2024 NORW installed 169 new taps; repaired 36 leaks; rehabilitated two water towers; installed 52,291 feet of mainline; purchased 800,000,000 gallons of water to distribute to portions of seven counties. NORW has 24 full-time employees (11 are licensed water operators & 6 are licensed backflow inspectors) and 7972 OUPS requests were fulfilled for infrastructure location services. Deem continued, stating the major projects for the next five years will be Middle Ridge Road tank to Axtel transmission line; Baumhart Road to Lorain transmission line; Axtel to Berlin Height transmission line and Berlin Heights tank replacement. The estimated cost of these four projects is \$15,000,000.00.

Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson reported the 2024 Vermilion Township Annual Financial Report is complete and has been filed with the Ohio Auditor of State. The report is available for review by contacting Johnson at (440) 830-8908 or [vtfo22@gmail.com](mailto:vtfo22@gmail.com). The 2025 Erie County Geographical Information Systems annual cost-share agreement fee of \$5,036.26 needs approval. The 2025 Erie Regional Planning Commission annual participation fee of \$2,914.20 needs approval. Johnson stated the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources has been received from the Erie County Auditor and 2025 Permanent Appropriations can now be approved. Johnson listed the following appropriations:

| <i>Fund:</i> |                        |                |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 1000         | General                | \$451,009.00   |
| 2011         | Motor Vehicle License  | \$136,000.00   |
| 2021         | Gas Tax                | \$205,175.00   |
| 2031         | Road & Bridge          | \$870,655.00   |
| 2111         | Fire & EMS             | \$543,700.00   |
| 2231         | Permissive MVL         | \$30,000.00    |
| 2272         | ARPA                   | \$0.00         |
| 4901         | Misc. Capital Projects | \$123,372.10   |
|              |                        |                |
|              | 2025 Total             | \$2,359,911.10 |
|              |                        |                |

Baughman made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-03 Establishing Permanent Appropriations for 2025*. Scott seconded the motion. Johnson read the resolution: Now, Therefore, be it resolved, by the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees’, for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Trustees during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, the following sums be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made for and during said fiscal year. Baughman & Scott voted to approve the resolution. **20250205-04**

Baughman made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-01 Erie County GIS Cost Share Fee for 2025*. Scott seconded the motion. Johnson read the resolution for the 2025 Erie County Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Cost Share Participation fee of \$5,036.26. Baughman & Scott voted approve the resolution as read. **20250205-05**

Scott made a motion to approve *Resolution 2025-02 Erie County Regional Planning Fee for 2025*. Baughman seconded the motion. Johnson read the resolution for the 2025 Erie County Regional Planning Participation fee of \$2,914.20. Baughman & Scott voted to approve the resolution as read.

**20250205-06**

The four-year term of Larry Deem as the Vermilion Township Representative to Northern Ohio Rural Water (NORW) is set to expire this month. Scott made a motion to reappoint Larry Deem as the Vermilion Township Representative to Northern Ohio Rural Water for the next term of four years, expiring in February 2029. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20250205-07**

Baughman read a letter from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that states: ODOT is proposing the resurfacing of SR-2 in Erie County from SLM 24.503 (East of bridge over Norfolk Southern RR) to SLM 30.494 (Lorain County Line). The project will also include paving of the SR-2/SR-60 interchange ramps, bridge maintenance work and pavement marking replacement. The project is tentatively scheduled for a sale date of October 2025 and will begin construction in May 2026. ODOT will implement ramp closures and detours at the SR-2/SR-60 interchange for this project to minimize the project footprint, reduce cost and promote safety. ODOT would like input to make the final decision whether it is best to detour traffic during construction or maintain traffic. The potential detours are attached (to this letter) and we anticipate these detours to be approximately three (3) days for each ramp closure. Baughman noted that Triana and Erie County Sheriff Paul Sigsworth have already responded. Baughman said he has spoken with Vermilion Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Coe and would make a schedule of festivals and events for that timeframe to send back to ODOT. Baughman also spoke with ODOT Engineers about reevaluating the traffic studies for the SR-2/SR-60 exit and entrance ramps and the section of SR-60 just to the North of that, as the Engineers agreed SR-60 needs to be reevaluated. The footprint of SR-60 has changed in the last 20 years, it is the bottleneck, for the City of Vermilion as well. The traffic count has gone up, on average 6% per year; it's over 11,000 cars per day. One issue is exiting SR-2 going North on SR-60, using the "swoop" lane to maneuver over to Kneisel Road. That has become very dangerous. A safer possibility is removing the "swoop" lane in favor of coming to a complete stop at SR-60 then making the turn. Baughman noted a question was asked about why ODOT was working on certain drain tiles along SR-60. Baughman answered, ODOT was replacing old tile with new tile, not installing larger tile.

There are 68 lights and light poles in the Township with each light pole having a unique number tag identifying it. Baughman gathered the light pole information from Young and arranged it on a spreadsheet by street name. Now when a light is out, it can be called in to the Township by location, rather than a resident having to stop at the pole to get the tag number. The Township can then match the location to the pole number and properly relay the information to Ohio Edison. Baughman also noted Ohio Edison has plans to replace/upgrade all the electric meters in Erie County. Projected start time in 15-18 months.

As requested by the Trustees, Sexton put together proposed zoning fee changes. This was cross referenced with other townships in the area. Baughman would like to see commercial and Planned Unit Development (PUD) fees raised, due to the amount of work done to review them; but residential fees lowered as a service to the residents. Sexton said he welcomes suggestions as this is just a proposal. The discussion was tabled for now.

Scott opened the floor to the audience.

Brian Novotny from State Road asked whether he is to follow the City of Vermilion or Township codes for replacement windows. Novotny asked for answers to his questions from the last meeting. Scott stated Kurtz will be able to answer him at the next meeting.

Don Rowe from Kneisel Road expressed all residents of Erie County are seeing a property tax increase. Therefore, he would like residential zoning fees not increased, but agreed PUD fees should be raised. Rowe would like to add another fire levy to the ballot to help out the fire and EMS department.

Baughman answered some questions from the previous meeting. In regards to holes that were being drilled into Ohio Edison utility poles; they are done by a third party at the request of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to test structural integrity. In regards to the survey for Orchard Beach/Cuddeback Cemetery; the architect doing the official survey stated it should be done by the end of March. Baughman noted Mid-Ohio Cemetery Services did GIS plotting for every grave in Orchard Beach/Cuddeback Cemetery. Go to FindAGrave.com to locate a grave.

Scott announced the next meeting would be Wednesday March 5th, 2025 at 6:30pm

Baughman made a motion to adjourn at 7:28pm. Scott seconded the motion. Baughman & Scott voted to accept the motion.