

**NORTHFIELD CENTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEE
SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:30 PM**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021

OPEN

Trustee Reville called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call: Russell F. Mazzola, Aye and Richard H. Reville, Aye. Paul Buesher was absent.

MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Resolution

Resolution 20/10-12-A A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF \$6435 TO BUTCHER & SONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE BASEMENT AND BURNED DEBRIS AT 480 W TWINSBURG ROAD.

Russell Mazzola moves; Richard Reville second.

Trustee Reville said this is the house that was burned down a year ago and the basement and debris was just removed.

Roll Call: Russell F. Mazzola, Aye and Richard H. Reville, Aye.

Resolution 21/10-12-B A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER \$46,000 FROM GENERAL FUND 01-A-26 OTHER-EXPENSES TO 01-B-03 NEW BUILDINGS AND TO APPROVE A PURCHASE ORDER FOR \$45,368.19 PAYABLE TO INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

Russell Mazzola moves; Richard Reville second.

The administrator reported that this is the third payment application for work performed by DS Architects. The payment was approved at the last meeting, but the money was not moved within the General Fund. The reason the money is being moved is because the monies from the loan for the project has not been appropriated. It will be appropriated in the November meeting.

Roll Call: Russell F. Mazzola, Aye and Richard H. Reville, Aye.

Trustee Reville said if the board doesn't mind before we get started discussing the leaf collection program, there are two people here. Mr. Reville asked if they had comments or questions of the board.

In reference to the payment resolution, Mrs. Boeing asked what phase of building is it in? Trustee Mazzola said it would be the pre-construction phase with engineering and a wetland delineation study. "For all intents and purposes, the design is done. Construction should begin in February."

Trustee Reville asked if Rich James if he had any questions. He answered no.

Leaf Collection Program

He asked Frank Buehner to move up to the table. He asked Rick Patz to come to the table as well.

Trustee Reville said he had asked Rick Patz to do some research on the leaf collection program since it had been discussed that Frank had a couple bids to do this from Neid's and Tri-Z. Rick has some ideas that we had hashed out based on the figures that we received from Frank and John, and I am going to let him go through this for the Board. Then, Frank we want to get your thoughts on this.

Rick Patz began with stating that the leaf collection is one of the largest expenses the township has next to taking care of the roads. He used the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 figures from the service department for his research. He said the \$27,000 - \$29,000 costs reported are direct costs but does not include indirect costs. Based on 2019, it cost \$67,000 with indirect costs, i.e., depreciation of equipment, repairs, and benefits. He also used hour meters on the leaf vacuums for his research. Mr. Patz drove the route to Sagamore Soils to determine time taken to dump the leaves and return. He came out with 125-man hours driving to the dump with just one man, two men is 250 hours. Mr. Patz said from his reports the leaf vacs are not filled to capacity. Data shows that if they worked 10-hour workdays they would be more productive and could accomplish the

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collection in 19 days. From his research in Township historical data since the 1980's, they have been doing it the same way ever since. "There is no doubt we need more bodies. In conclusion, a 10-hour workday increases production dramatically. How can it be done is that one crew can be picking up leaves, then take the full vac to the service garage and pick up the second vac. Then the employee(s) at the service garage, could take the leaves to the dump, while the other employee is cleaning out the vac to get it ready for the next collection." Mr. Patz volunteered his time to ride along to get a handle on it. He said to try it for two weeks to see if it works. Frank Buehner said he never had a problem with someone riding along to what they do. Mr. Patz also said tear tickets at the dump would help with submitting grant reports. Mr. Patz said Sagamore Soils is going to charge \$1 per yard, instead of a monthly charge of \$200.

Interim Service Director Frank Buehner was asked to comment on the research. Mr. Buehner said he appreciates the research Mr. Patz did, but said that until one does the work, one has no clue what it is like. It is a tough job digging the leaves out of the ditches. The biggest problem he has found is to keep the machine running. "We do not take breaks, and in the cold, it is freezing out there, freezing the leaves and freezing up the machine. It is the worst job we do." He added that the fuel is listed each day for any fuel that we put in the trucks. He said they fill the machine; the leaves are out the back when they head to the dump. "So, if Dinkmar is saying it is 30 yards, then our numbers are wrong." Frank was told the vac held 25 yards. Discussion went on. Frank said that in 2014, when they got a quote to outsource the leaf collection, the quote was \$90,000.

Trustee Reville asked why not start the first week in November instead of October 25. Frank answered that the leaves are dry right now and much easier to pick up. When they sit and get wet, they become packed and hardened. It affects time.

Rick Patz said if they worked 10-hour days it would be more efficient. Frank Buehner agreed with him. When asked, what would his employees think, Frank said he would have to talk to them. Rick Patz said when you start at 7, you start at 7. Again, Frank agreed.

Trustee Reville said, Dinkmar says there is a maintenance procedure you must do after every load if I remember right. Rick Patz said Dinkmar said you must check the air cleaner every day. Rick Patz said what Frank described is a better case.

Trustee Reville said the plan would be to have the four 10-hour days, but one guy would work 5 days a week, eight hours per day, and be at the shop with one helper. So, when the truck rotates back through, the one guy and the helper would take the truck to the dump then return and clean the equipment and have it ready to go back out.

Frank did not understand the need for two people to stay back at the service garage. He said the only time there are service issues is the first thing in the morning or before the end of the day. "Machines with moving parts are lubed every day, tire pressures are checked, everything is done. The air cleaners are checked every day. Once it is fueled it is ready to go. The only time we come back to the shop is at lunchtime or because we have breakdown issues."

Discussion followed on CDL requirements – Frank Buehner said he is the only one that can drive the leaf vac with a CDL-A. Before, both he and Rick Youel could drive the trucks.

Trustee Mazzola asked how many people are needed to work full capacity. Frank Buehner answered, three people for each machine (driver, operator & raker). All discussion is on tape and on file. Trustee Mazzola asked Frank if he thought it was more effective running both machines at the same time than what was proposed. Frank Buehner answered there is no benefit in having two machines. He understands the

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proposed and that was what Rick, and he were doing. The two leaf vacuum machines are not identical, one is manual and the other has remote control operation. They were ordered at the same time, but one was delayed.

Rick Patz asked the board if they were willing to consider the plan and try it for two weeks to see where you are at and if you need to hire someone else, then you move forward, and we still get the leaves picked up and you save \$33,000. Frank was concerned that if help is not hired at the beginning, they may not be available when you need them. Frank also said the hourly rate of \$12.66 per hour is less than what others make on part-time.

Frank Buehner said he was planning eight weeks for leaves with three days off due to holidays. He came up with the cost of \$21,500 for his crew of three, plus \$33,000 for Neid's for five weeks. Dumping fees of \$3500. Depreciation of \$10,000 for the two machines. Fuel costs based on last year is \$5-6,000. Frank said he is looking at everything with the worst-case scenario. He factored \$2500 for maintenance. The one vac was down for two weeks last year. Frank concluded saying, if we used his plan, it would be \$77,200. If a part-timer was included for eight weeks, it would go up to \$81,400 as a worst-case scenario.

Trustee Reville discussed the 10-hour days and asked if you scheduled Monday and Tuesday. If it rains Wednesday, take off and work Thursday and Friday. Frank answered he would want to work four set days each week. When asked, he said the team would be okay with four ten-hour days but could not speak for the other two for a flexible work schedule due to weather.

Discussed Neid's and Three Z's quotes. Neid's was working with the township vac. Three Z was supplying their own vac. Discussion followed on the quotes. All discussion is on tape and on file.

Discussion followed on the number of rounds the service department made in the past and what is planned for the current year. It was stated they plan to make two rounds this year.

Mrs. Boeing asked clarification- if they were going to make two passes through the community. She was answered in the affirmative.

Trustee Reville clarified that the thought is four 10-hour days Monday thru Thursday, but the problem is, if Frank is in the truck, you lose a service guy for Friday. Discussion followed. Frank will talk to Neid's for a CDL driver. The administrator will check with the insurance company regarding a non-employee with a CDL driving a township vehicle. Frank will talk to John and Mark to see if they are okay with 10-hour days.

Start date- Frank said he would like to start October 25 because the later they start, the later they pick up leaves. First two weeks would be the crew of three (3). He will try to get the two part-timers if they are available. This will also determine if they would have to utilize Neid's crew for the second cycle.

Trustee Reville asked Frank to work with the administrator on it.

Frank Buehner had contacted Asphalt Fabrics for crack sealing and found out the company is available. Asphalt Fabrics said they would look at the streets and give him a quote.

On the chip and seal project, Frank said Melway did the leveling. The issue is the divots in the center like Beacon Hill, with depressions that collect water. To have done that, Melway said that is called hand patching and was not part of the specs from the county. Usually, the township or city prepares the roads first.

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Rick Patz said a resident complained that his foot fit in a hole that was so deep. Rick Patz had video of the water on the roads from the Melway project.

The administrator will call the county engineer's office tomorrow to see what can be done about the poor job from Melway.

Discussed Rolling Brook being left out of the bid. Hopefully, the township will submit Rolling Brook for the ODOT Stimulus Grants along with Beechwood & Cherry, the cemetery road and part of Golden Link Boulevard.

Frank said Mid-Ohio did an excellent job on the work they performed.

Trustee Reville asked what was done with the sweepings from Melway. Frank said he asked for the sweepings for the Township, but he believes Nick's got it.

Trustee Reville asked Sam Morgante if he had any questions. He was answered in the negative.

THE CHAIR REQUESTS A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Russell Mazzola moves; Richard Reville second.

Roll Call: Russell F. Mazzola, Aye and Richard H. Reville, Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Richard H. Reville, Chair

Andy LaGuardia, Fiscal Officer