

**Vienna Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting-Town Hall 7:00 pm
March 4, 2019**

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Brown-present, Mr. Dascenzo-present, Mr. Pegg-present.
Quorum present

Motion #19-070: Resolved, to approve February 4, 2019 regular meeting and February 11, 2019 special meeting minutes. Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Brown.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN=yes, DASCENZO=yes, PEGG=yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-071: Resolved, the approval of the payroll for the previous month fiscal officer. Moved by Brown, Seconded by Dascenzo.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN=yes, DASCENZO=yes, PEGG=yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-072: Resolved, the approval of the bills and warrants for the previous month as prepared by the fiscal officer. Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Brown.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN=yes, DASCENZO=yes, PEGG=yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-073: Resolved, the approval of the January 31, 2019 financials as prepared by the fiscal officer. Moved by Brown Seconded by Dascenzo.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN=yes, DASCENZO=yes, PEGG=yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Thank you note from Mrs. Rozycki for permitting her husband's burial on a holiday.

Department Summations (complete report available in each department)

Road-2 funerals, Tire grant mailed.

Zoning-1 permit issued fees were \$221.00. reviewing complaints about property #16-900574.

Fire-27 transports, 72 calls. Looking for grant to replace aging heart monitor. March 20, 2019 at 9:50 am will be tornado siren test.

Motion #19—074: Resolve, to hire Larry Manaro as part time as needed medic at a rate of \$13.50 per hour pending drug testing. Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Brown.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN=yes, DASCEZNO=yes, PEGG=yes. Motion carried.

Police-11 arrests, 157 security and welfare checks. Hosted OPOTA training academy. Recommends filling the full-time open position on Police dept. as summer is coming and work load increases.

Police Chief Bob Ludt took the opportunity to address very inflammatory, derogatory, and serious accusations leveled against the Vienna Police department. These accusations are very hurtful and demoralizing to our officers and to the department. The Police Chief's remarks are as follows:

As Chief of Police for Vienna Township, it is my responsibility to these officers and to you, the elected officials for Vienna Township, and the community to set the record straight and to put to rest any concerns that you and our community members may have if they ever need to call upon us in their time of need.

It has been alleged that our officers lacked legal authority to perform their responsibilities because the school district covers territory outside of Vienna Township. I want to assure you, the community members, and the parents who entrust their children to the Mathews Local School District that at no time were their children being protected by law enforcement officials who did not have the legal right to be in the school buildings. That allegation was first raised back in September and is entirely unfounded for several reasons. Our officers are actually appointed as police constables, and police constables have jurisdiction outside of the township's boundary and throughout Trumbull County. All of the law enforcement agencies in the Mahoning Valley have mutual aid agreements that give law enforcement officers legal authority outside their jurisdiction under certain situations. And we spoke with and secured approval for our SRO arrangement with the police departments for the City of Cortland and Fowler Township, both of whom without any objection or hesitation pledged whatever support this department would ever need within their borders.

But I am particularly disheartened by the serious allegation that this department "lacks leadership" and demonstrates a "pattern of corrupt behavior." There is absolutely no factual basis for these spurious accusations. In the six-year relationship between the township and the school district that predates my promotion to chief of police, there was one incident that was identified and immediately addressed by following the proper protocols. As was stated at last month's meeting when you, the board of Trustees, took the necessary steps required under state law to handle the situation, I will not have any further comment on that situation because I do not want to compromise a pending legal action.

There is absolutely no correlation between what is paid to our officers, the amount charged for their services (which is at-cost) and the quality of the services that they provide. For the last couple of months, we have had a new officer in the buildings who has received nothing but positive comments. He will continue to provide those services to the students, staff, and administrators at the elementary schools, as the school district has decided to limit the scope of services that we agreed to provide them under the contract and memorandum of understanding that we all agreed to in the fall. Now the sheriff's office will provide a deputy for the remainder of the school year at double the cost of what this township was charging. Paying more does not mean that a superior service is being provided. Such a statement negatively reflects on each and every officer who serves his department. It is absolutely true that our officers are paid a wage less than

what other larger townships and county police departments pay. But to say that that makes these individuals less qualified to be law enforcement officers is down right insulting. To me, it shows real character, dedication, and intestinal fortitude to give back to a community. Some of our officers have much higher-paying jobs but because they love their job and they are dedicated to serve the public, they do so without complaint. Again they choose to work for Vienna for whatever wage is paid. They are not in it for just the money. Many Vienna Police officers have gone on to full-time positions. I am proud to say that other departments in Trumbull County and Mahoning County recruit our officers for full-time positions. That is a proud moment when these larger departments come to us for qualified, Highly motivated officers to work for them.

This department will fulfill the terms of the contract through this school year. It is also our hope that we would be able to continue this service to the district in the future for the very reasonable amounts that we have been charging. I want you to know that my door will always remain open to the Mathews Local School District to discuss how we can work together for this community. And I sincerely mean that. I trust that you share in the same belief. We are talking past each other and not talking to each other. That doesn't help anyone. Chief Bob Ludt.

Trustee Heidi Brown had a short statement-Vienna Township Trustees stand behind Chief Ludt and our police officers 100%.

Michele Garman-President of Vienna Township Neighborhood Watch made a presentation and speech

The Vienna Township Neighborhood Watch would like to present this check for \$400.00 to the Vienna Police Department so that they can purchase Alcohol Screening Devices. Hopefully, these will be of assistance with DUI stops and maybe Drunk and Disorderly Investigations.

The Neighborhood Watch wants you to know that we appreciate the bonds you have made in the community thru events like our National Night Out. (which is coming up again in August). The Vienna Police Department is part of the heart and soul of this community. Hopefully thru Neighborhood Watch fundraisers such as our Annual Chili Cook-Off, we can continue to contribute to the Police Department's efforts to keep Vienna safe.

We present this to you because, Neighborhood Watch respects the integrity of the Vienna Police Department and appreciates all you do for Neighborhood Watch and the community. Also, THANK YOU to the Vienna Township Trustees for providing an open forum where we are able to express our appreciation in this manner.

After the meeting, we will celebrate the Police Department's efforts and the fact that due to Neighborhood Watch's fundraising efforts we could help provide this needed equipment. Of course we will be celebrating with some social time and "calorie free" cake.

Finally, THANK YOU again to the Vienna Police Department, Vienna Trustees and the community for supporting the efforts of the Vienna Township Neighborhood Watch which, makes it possible to make a presentation like this.

Trustee Business

Motion #19-075: Resolved, to have Trumbull County Engineer's office advertise for bids to pave sections A and B of #162 (Prindle Booth). Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Brown.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN-yes, DASCENZO-yes, PEGG-yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-076: Resolved, to pay Cerni \$1216.39 for Road department truck repairs. Moved by Brown, Seconded by Dascenzo.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN-yes, DASCENZO-yes, PEGG-yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-077: Resolved, to pay Phillips Healthcare \$845.00 for batteries for Heartstart. Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Brown.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN-yes, DASCENZO-yes, PEGG-yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-078: Resolved, to authorize a contract for outside counsel with Matt Vansuch. Moved by Brown Seconded by Dascenzo.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN-yes, DASCENZO-yes, PEGG-yes. Motion carried.

Motion #19-079: Resolved, to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Moved by Brown, Seconded by Dascenzo.

Roll Call Vote: BROWN-yes, DASCENZO-yes, PEGG-yes. Motion carried.

Phil Pegg Trustee Chair

Linda J. McCullough Fiscal Officer