

Vienna Township Board of Trustees
Regular- Meeting
Townhall 7:00 pm
April 1, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call: Mr. Dascenzo – present, Mr. Root – present, Mr. Pegg – present. Quorum met.

No meeting minutes from March 11, 2024 to approve

No Bills or Warrants to approve

No Financials to approve

No Correspondence

Trustee Business

Motion 24-0401-A: Resolved, to appropriate the sum of \$18,200 for the purpose of providing for Assistants to the Township Fiscal Officer ORC 507.021 and to acknowledge the appointment of Tom Shay as an Assistant to the Fiscal Officer effective 04/01/2024 at the rate equal to the Township Fiscal Officer. Moved by Pegg, Seconded by Dascenzo.

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

Motion 24-0401-B: Resolution of Newly Elected Fiscal Officer

WHEREAS, Rhonda Root was duly elected at the General Election held November 7, 2023 capturing 58.69% of the vote, as certified by the Trumbull County Board of Elections on November 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, she has appeared before the Board of Trustees, or other official authorized to administer oaths, to take the oath of office as prescribed by Section 3.22 and 3.23 of the Ohio Revised Code and Section 7 of Article XV, Ohio Constitution, and has posted bond as required by section 507.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Vienna Township that Rhonda Root, elector of Vienna Township, Trumbull County, shall hold the office of Fiscal Officer effective April 1, 2024 until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rhonda Root shall be placed on all township accounts, replacing Linda McCullough who is no longer with the township.

Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Pegg.

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

Motion 24-0401-C: Resolution to set Permanent Appropriations

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Vienna Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, that to provide for the current expenditures and other expenditures of said Board of Trustees, during the fiscal year, ending December 31, 2024, 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, as follows:

General Fund

Administrative

Personal Services	502,000
Other	<u>784,500</u>
<i>Total Administrative</i>	<u>1,286,500</u>

Townhalls, Memorial Buildings & Grounds

Personal Services	10,000
Other	<u>212,000</u>
<i>Total Townhalls, Memorial Buildings & Grounds</i>	<u>222,000</u>

Zoning

Personal Services	<u>5,000</u>
<i>Total Zoning</i>	<u>5,000</u>
Total General Fund	<u>1,513,500</u>

Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund

Highways

Other	<u>32,200</u>
Total Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund	<u>32,200</u>

Gasoline Tax Fund

Highways

Other	<u>283,000</u>
Total Gasoline Tax Fund	<u>283,000</u>

Road & Bridge Fund

Highways

Personal Services	101,500
Other	<u>38,000</u>
Total Road & Bridge Fund	<u>139,500</u>

Cemetery Fund

Cemeteries

Personal Services	410
Other	13,667

<i>Total Cemeteries</i>	<u>14,077</u>
<i>Capital Outlay</i>	
Capital Outlay	<u>923</u>
<i>Total Capital Outlay</i>	<u>923</u>
Total Cemetery Fund	<u>15,000</u>

Police District Fund

Police Protection

Personal Services	210,000
Other	<u>55,000</u>
Total Police District Fund	<u>265,000</u>

Fire District Fund

Fire Protection

Personal Services	27,500
Other	<u>95,000</u>
<i>Total Fire Protection</i>	<u>122,500</u>

Emergency Medical Services

Personal Services	252,000
Other	<u>55,000</u>
<i>Total Emergency Medical Services</i>	<u>307,000</u>
Total Fire District Fund	<u>429,500</u>

Drug Law Enforcement Fund

Police Protection

Other	<u>1,195</u>
Total Drug Law Enforcement Fund	<u>1,195</u>

GRAND TOTAL

2,678,895

Moved by Pegg, Seconded by Dascenzo.

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

Motion 24-0401-D: Resolved, the approval of the previous month payroll. Moved by Dascenzo, Seconded by Pegg.

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

Department Summations (complete report available in each department)

Zoning: No permits issued

Police: 406 calls for service, 169 security and welfare checks

Fire: 66 calls, 25 transports to hospitals

Road: Contacted Adam & Eve to complete yearly backflow valve inspections, began installing signs received from the ODOT sign grant, called Dukes to flush pipes, picked up recliner dumped on 193, swept up broken glass on Maple Dr, placed flag at Vienna Center and reported 2 lights out

Fiscal Office: No updates at this time on the current financial status, plan to meet with the Police and Fire departments to gather information, get input and feedback from the employees and department heads to bring the fiscal office up to speed and get the township back on track. Meetings are not public meetings and the trustees will not be in attendance. Advised visitor that a Certificate of Transition was not received from the former Fiscal Officer.

Visitors:

Kim Ellis 3868 Warren Sharon Rd – What is the status of the EMT vehicle, is it being sent back – will they accept it? Chief Brannon: They do not want it back, it is spec'd out for Vienna Township

Mary Swift 4450 Warren Sharon Rd – 1. Stated last meeting and this meeting no correspondence, she addressed Mr. Pegg, she sent in a public records request addressed to all 3 trustees with 7 items in it. Mr. Pegg responded: The request has not been received, Mary Swift stated she will send it again. 2. Gave an update on previous domestic violence situation from May 2022

Doug Gollan 3781 Warren Sharon Rd – Why did we hire another Fiscal Officer? Trustee Root: per Ohio Revised Code the Fiscal Officer is allowed to hire an assistant and the trustees feel it's appropriate

Tarin Brown 1030 Ridge Rd – Any update on when the audit will be done. Mr. Shay, Assistant Fiscal Officer: Fiscal Office met with the Auditor of States Office Local Government Services Department, they have agreed to re-reconcile the year 2023 that has been unreconciled. Assured the Fiscal Office that it will be done if not already within the next couple of days. Reached out to Wilson, Phillips and Agin to see the status of the 2021 – 2022 audit is, left a message for Ken Phillips.

Ross Thompson Scoville Dr – Is there a timeline of when will budget be final? Trustee Root: We have a new Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal officer so we have someone we can work with to move forward, Mr. Pegg read the budget and copies are available after the meeting to anyone who wants one.

Trustee Pegg responded to previous question from Mary Swift regarding the records request – he has received in the last 2 weeks, four records requests for copies of budgets for 2021, 2022 and 2023 – we don't have them, first meet with Auditor of States Special Investigators office on February 28, 2024 and they removed 14 bins of records that's why I don't have them and am giving out their phone number for you to call. Again, met with Special Investigators office and they took 4 more bins

Brian Stidham 738 Niles Vienna Rd – 1. What revenues support the appropriations that were just approved? Mr. Shay: the budget that was passed today was actually prepared by the Local Government Services of the Auditor of State. The budget is based on the official certificate of estimated resources that is on file with the County Auditor's office and those numbers are from the alternative tax budget that was passed by the Vienna Township board of trustees in August or September of 2023. At this time the year end balances have not been updated and still needs to be done. The budget passed today will not be the budget for the whole year going forward because for one it is based on estimates and once it's reconciled we will have the real actual carryover. Once that is done the board of trustees will need to make a revision to reflect that. 2. Is the 2023 Audit going to be performed by the Auditor of States office or the independent firm. Mr. Shay: We need to reach out to Joey Jones, Chief of the Audit division in Northeast Ohio because we have a signed contract with Wilson, Phillips and Agin but we are not sure if the they will perform it or the Auditor of States office will.

Gidget Boyd 4660 Smith Stewart – Will you be putting a plan in action to get the Fire Station manned more often? Trustee Root: The Fiscal Office will be meeting with the department this week to have a plan to go forward.

Eric Ginn 1482 Stanley St – Mr. Root you are the fire department liaison and we know you are busy but we need open communication from you for quite a while. Have general questions for everyday operations that need answered, so if you can give us a half and hour or hour a month. Trustee Root: I agree, Chief Brannon can contact me at any time. I haven't received any calls from him. Chief Brannon: I've been emailing for the last month with no response, how do you want me to operate this township. How am I supposed to staff the department, other townships are only running one squad. Trustee Root: So all the other townships have the same problem, I'm aware. Chief Brannon: How do you want me to explain to the Fiscal Officer what we're going to appropriate when you won't even tell me what you want me to do, how am I going to staff the station. Mr. Shay: There is already a misunderstanding about the meeting with the fiscal officer, the meetings with the department heads are not to set a budget. There is a lot going on so it would be helpful for her and I to understand what's going on, where we're at to be able to move forward. Mr. Ginn: That's not what we're talking about, we appreciate the answer but we need open communication with the trustees, not asking for a lot we just want to talk. Trustee Root: We can meet this week, we'll set it up after the meeting.

Joe Ray Henhyde – What plan do you have in action moving forward so this doesn't happen again and are the trustees going to work with the fiscal officer going forward so on a monthly basis you know what your balance is? Trustee Root: Yes. Mr. Ray: Why wasn't that done before. Trustee Root: Fiscal officer is separately elected official, not like the school board – she has autonomy. Code states she doesn't even have to give records to the trustees. Government is broken, need to speak with your elected official Loychik. There needs to be requirements that the fiscal officer has to give trustees the records. Mr. Ray: Are there balances in our checking accounts right now. Trustee Pegg: We are getting advances on taxes, priority # 1 is payroll, # 2 is benefits and # 3 is utilities. As of Friday, there is \$180,000.00 in the bank. Payroll and benefits right now are about \$40 to \$50 thousand twice a month. Mr Ray: When budgets are set and you have department heads asking for money it's got to be we have this much coming in and this

much to spend to be profitable. Hopefully with the department heads, with your leadership and her coming in you take that stance moving forward and don't outspend what we have.

Tarin Brown 1030 Ridge Rd – Who all has access to the checking account for statements and stuff, is that just the fiscal officer or are there other people on the accounts. Trustee Pegg: It's primarily the fiscal officer, when we met with the investigators they wanted to know what I feel went wrong. She enters the information into the system we use UAN and submits it to Columbus, why didn't any flags go up? Why didn't our phones ring? We didn't receive the information and we accepted all the excuses but the system needs fixed and that's what Columbus is looking at. Tarin Brown: Who all is on the bank account is what my question was, I understand the system and all that but are any trustees on the account that you can get a bank statement? Trustee Pegg: We are and that's one of the things they are looking at in the future. When the bank issues that statement, they are going to automatically send it to the trustees. Tarin Brown: So all three trustees have access to those statements. Trustee Root: Yes, Trustee Pegg: Yes, but only if you go in to get them

Beth Haddle Henhyde Rd – Want to thank Mr. Pegg for helping us with the commissioners and the Sheridan Rd sewer project. Trustee Root: For those of you who don't know the Sheridan Rd project money was approved to put the sewers all the way back to the school. Trustee Pegg: With ARP funds, the other two projects we were able to get were Scoville Dr and Smith Stewart West

Mr Golan - Is it necessary for the school resource officer at Matthews to come out on the highway and stop the traffic to let the kids drive their cars out of the parking lot. Chief Ludt: That is just the way we have always done it rather than have to investigate any crashes. We have school walkers that walk to and from residences, we don't have a lot of sidewalks and try to get them across the street and up the street. Apologize if it holds up traffic

Jacqueline Sage 3904 Warren Sharron Rd – 1. What is going on with the maintenance truck, did it get paid for or sent back. Trustee Pegg: They picked it up, the truck was supposed to be paid with ARP funds, the funds were appropriated but the truck did not get paid for. 2. Since all 3 trustees are on the bank accounts why were you accepting excuses instead of going and getting the statements yourselves, Trustee Root: We never got the statements, she didn't give them to us. Jacqueline: But you're on the account so you can go get them yourselves, why didn't you. Trustee Root: I called to get the statements and that's why we are where we're at now. Jacqueline: But why weren't we when you're asking for them and she's not giving them, Trustee Root: That's my answer, if you don't like my answer I apologize, Jacqueline: But it's not just you, there are two other people who can be accountable, so nothing from the other two.

Mary Swift 4450 Warren Sharon Rd – You're sure we got that grant money though, Trustee Pegg: That money was incumbered, we were planning to pay not only for the truck but also the excavator. The excavator we've had for over six months, the money was ARP funds

Corine Hardman 5131 Warren Sharon Rd – How come your budget does not match what the county budget was. Mr. Shay: The budget that was prepared that the board of trustees passed tonight the lesser of the 2023 budget that was passed or what the certificate allowed. Corine: Some of the line items matched up but the fire was under and there are a couple that are less than

what was originally on the certificate, Mr. Shay: It was the lesser of the certificate or last years budget that's passed. Corine: when the budget gets turned in are the trustees not supposed to sign off on it a well as the fiscal officer. Mr. Shay: No, they are not, the budget was passed by the board so that's the vote that was taken tonight. The motion and the numbers will be transmitted to the county auditor's office. There are no additional signatures

Brian Stidham - The fiscal year runs calendar year, was there no appropriated money starting in January. Mr Shay: There is a sixty day window you have to close your books, There are estimates made around August / September of your carry over and a temporary budget is passed. The board on January 2nd passed a temporary budget and that's to hold you over until you close your books and you figure out what your actual ending balance is and then your estimates are turned into actual numbers. There was a temporary budget that is good for 3 months that expired on 3/31/24. If the budget did not get passed today there would be no authority for anyone within the government to make expenditures and no warrants could be drawn on the township treasury.

Anthony Simone Youngstown Kingsville Rd – Any word on the animal pound moving to Vienna. Trustee Pegg: They have staked out the property, funding is not in place. Trustee Root: They are trying to put it closer to the street because of utilities.

Kim Ellis 3868 Warren Sharon Rd – You are all on the bank account and all signing checks with Linda McCullough, do you worry that perhaps you are legally responsible for the screw up in the account. Trustee Root: There is more to it that we can't get into. It's not as simple as you think. Trustee Pegg: There is an ongoing investigation

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Robert L Root III, Chairperson

Rhonda Root, Fiscal Officer