

Winter, 2007

Elected Officials:

Township Fiscal Officer:

Sherry Wilber

Phone: 440-563-3051

April 2004—March 2008

Board of Township

Trustees:

Ron Tamburrino

Board Chairman and Board Representative to Northwest Ambulance District,

Phone: 440-474-4216

Jan 2006 - Dec 2009

John T. McMahan, III

Phone: 440-474-4204

Jan 2004 - Dec 2007

Willis Clay

Phone: 440-563-5476

Jan 2006 - Dec 2009

Trumbull Township Newsletter

What's in this Trumbull Township Government Newsletter?

Your elected officials are publishing this second volume of the Township newsletter in an attempt to better inform residents who may be unable or unwilling to attend Township meetings. We hope you find the information useful.

This issue of the newsletter includes reports about Trumbull Township's website, the July, 2006 flood damage and related FEMA projects for road repairs, Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue, Northwest Ambulance District, and the settlement of disputes between Trumbull Township and Trumbull

Township Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (the corporation that formerly provided fire and ambulance service to Trumbull Township).

Matters related to Trumbull Township's annexation into Northwest Ambulance District for ambulance services, effective January 1, 2007, and Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue (your Township owned and operated volunteer fire department) will also be the subject of an open forum at the February 12, 2007 regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trumbull Township Trustees. At that meeting, the

Board will discuss the elimination of existing tax levies for ambulance service and allocation of funds for Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue from existing tax levies for fire service.

See page 6 for details regarding the time and place for meetings of the Trumbull Township Board of Trustees.

Your opinions are important to us. We encourage you to attend Board meetings, visit the Township's website, or write to the Board with your comments and suggestions.

Thank you.

Trumbull Township Website: www.trumbulltownshipashtabulacounty.com

By Trustee John T. McMahan III: The website was created primarily for the posting of minutes from meetings of the Board of Trumbull Township Trustees and to provide a forum for Township residents to make suggestions and comments regarding Township business.

The Board's meeting minutes will be posted after approval by the Board at its regularly scheduled business meetings. The minutes of the first meeting in January, 2007 are now available for review on the website.

Some changes are being made to the website. Please be patient as we make these changes.

Rather than individual e-mail accounts for Township officials, there will be a general mailbox for comments and suggestions. At its public meetings, the Board will review and respond appropriately to comments and suggestions sent in by taxpayers and residents who identify themselves.

The Board is also eliminating the separate website for Trumbull Township Fire and

Rescue, incorporating their information into the Township's website. A link to Northwest Ambulance District's website will also be created.

Future goals for the website include posting a comprehensive history of Trumbull Township. The Board also hopes to be able to post applications for zoning permits, minutes of Zoning Commission meetings and related documents, matters submitted to the Board of Zoning Appeals and that Board's decisions.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS INVOLVING FORMER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

By Trustee and Board Chairman Ron Tamburrino: On November 13, 2006 Township Fiscal Officer Sherry Wilber and Trustees Ron Tamburrino and John McMahan III attended a court ordered mediation. Others attending for the Township were the Township's attorneys, Catherine Colgan and Tom Sartini of the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office, and Sandra J. Rosenthal. Attorneys from the Ohio Attorney General's Office attended as well. Trumbull Township Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (TTVFDI) was represented by some of its officers and its attorneys. The court appointed receiver also attended the mediation. Trustee Willis Clay did not appear on behalf of the Township, in part because he previously served as an officer of TTVFDI.

At the mediation, the parties discussed their claims and defenses. A summary of some of the claims and defenses follows.

TTVFDI sought to evict the Township's road and fire departments and to sell its assets and distribute funds. TTVFDI claimed that it owned all the real estate, buildings, fire trucks, and other property it had acquired over the years, and that the Township had no right to use or maintain the

Township garage for its Road Department and temporary quarters for the Township's new Fire Department. The garage is situated on real estate TTVFDI claimed it owned. TTVFDI also claimed that it had the legal right to amend its articles of incorporation so that it could sell its assets and distribute funds.

The Township sought a court order determining that all assets of TTVFDI were part of a charitable trust, that all those assets must be used to benefit the Township, and that title and possession of all those assets should be transferred to the Township. The Township also sought an accounting for all tax dollars and donations.

The Township claimed that hundreds of thousands of tax dollars had been inappropriately paid to TTVFDI by its officers who sat on the Board of Trumbull Township Trustees when it awarded contracts to TTVFDI, and that as a result TTVFDI should repay all that money.

Additionally, the Township claimed that TTVFDI otherwise inappropriately collected from the Board of Trumbull Township Trustees additional tax dollars.

Finally, the Township claimed that TTVFDI owned all its real and personal prop-

erty for the exclusive benefit of Township residents, that TTVFDI could not amend its articles of incorporation to sell assets and dispose of the proceeds as its officers desired, and that by refusing to turn over all its assets to the Township, TTVFDI had breached a fiduciary duty owed to the Township and its residents.

The Ohio Attorney General fully supported the Township's position that all TTVFDI's assets were the subject of a charitable trust and must be used only to benefit the Township.

As a result of the mediation on November 13, 2006 a tentative agreement was reached resolving all the claims. A written settlement agreement and addenda were drafted, revised, and executed by the parties and by certain officers of TTVFDI. The Board of Trumbull Township Trustees approved the settlement agreement after a special public meeting, held after proper notice to the public, on December 21, 2006.

A copy of the complete settlement agreement between the parties will be posted on Trumbull Township's website. You may also review a copy at regularly scheduled

meetings of the Board of Trumbull Township Trustees.

As a result of the settlement, TTVFDI transferred to Trumbull Township title to and possession of all its assets, including but not limited to the real estate and all the fire trucks and other equipment. TTVFDI also admitted that all its assets were held as a charitable trust for the benefit of the Township. The Township released various claims against TTVFDI and certain of its officers. Claims of TTVFDI against third parties will be identified and may be pursued at a later date, for the ultimate benefit of the Township.

The Township agreed to pay certain debts of TTVFDI, to date settling for approximately \$20,000.00 claims totaling \$40,000.00. These claims included a \$35,000.00 claim secured by a lien on the new tanker truck. The Township has refused to pay and disputes the reasonableness of TTVFDI's debts for legal and accounting services totaling nearly \$45,000.00.

The Township incurred approximately \$45,000.00 for legal fees and the court appointed receiver's fees.

field Fire Departments, and we plan to have the same relationship with Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue also. We train together and problem solve together.

To help offset operating expenses and keep taxes lower, NAD bills for services rendered. Basic Life Support services are billed at the rate of \$225.00 and Advanced Life Support services at the rate of \$275.00. We bill most insurance companies and we have payment plans for those

whose insurance may not cover our bill. We also have an annual membership drive to help keep your costs down. Membership costs \$15.00 per year and gives the head of household and dependants unlimited use of NAD's services with "no out of pocket expense". Insurance companies will still be billed; however, you will not pay the difference between what they pay and your actual bill. Bills are also sent to motor vehicle crash victims, rather than their insurance companies. They may send the bill to their insurance company if they choose.

NAD is represented on the Northeast Regional Medical Response Group, Ashtabula County EMS Council. NAD operates under the University Hospital protocol and provides input on how it is written. Our protocol is the cutting edge and in partnership with University Hospital we have been first to implement many advanced types of care and technology in your home when you need it most. We look forward to serving you and everyone else in Trumbull Township.

Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue

By Trumbull Township Fire Chief Don Crites: Beginning the evening of July 27th 2006, Trumbull Township experienced what some who have resided in the community for over sixty years have called the worst flooding that they have ever seen.

Just after midnight, firefighters responded to the first of several calls regarding flooding basements and reported rapidly rising water in low-lying areas. Units were sent to monitor the deteriorating conditions and several roadways were closed. State Routes 534 and 166, as well as Windsor-Mechanicsville Rd. were closed since bridges and culverts were under several feet of water. Units were also sent to check low-lying areas to locate residents in need of evacuation in order to preserve life as there was real risk that residents would be sleeping and unaware of the quickly encroaching danger. As the incident progressed other roads were closed due to high water or other flood damage.

After working round the clock for 36

hours, Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue members assisted Township Trustees and the Township Fiscal Officer in canvassing the Township to assess damage, and coordinating FEMA funding efforts.

We were fortunate that no one in the Township suffered severe injuries or loss of life. We were unfortunate in that many residents suffered extensive property damage and much of our Township's infrastructure was damaged as well. While damage is still evident in some areas, some restoration has been completed and more is to come.

On December 22nd, 2006 I was informed by the Trustees that the property and apparatus of the former fire department had been relinquished to the Township. Since that time Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue members have spent over five-hundred man hours working to put that property and equipment back in service, an extremely labor intensive task. We inventoried assets, tested hose and pumps, cleaned, painted, and serviced fire apparatus and equipment. Several of these vehicles are now back in service.

Other units will be placed in service as soon as possible.

In 2007, we have responded to one mutual aid call for a structure fire in Morgan Township and a fire on electric lines in the Township.

The volunteers of Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue continue to proudly serve the community and appreciate the many words of encouragement and support from our residents. We are currently seeking volunteers interested in being trained and serving on your fire department.

We are also seeking to establish a fire department auxiliary or historical society, in part to raise funds and sponsor community events.

These are excellent opportunities to serve your community. Please contact me if you would like to serve Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue, an auxiliary, or a historical society. I can be reached at 474-4188.

Your community needs you! Volunteer today!



Trumbull Township Government

BOARD OF TRUMBULL
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

2443 State Route 534, Geneva, Ohio, 44041
(440) 563-3797

Now on the web!

[www.trumbulltownship
ashtabulacounty.com](http://www.trumbulltownship.ashtabulacounty.com)

Trumbull Township Meetings: Schedule and New Location



Get involved in
your community!

Meetings of the Board of Trumbull Township Trustees are held at 8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at the new Trumbull Township Administration Building (formerly fire station) located 2443 State Route 534. You are encouraged to attend.

The Township Trustees conduct Township business at these meetings, including appropriation of tax dollars to various funds and authorization of expenditures of tax

dollars so appropriated for various budget items.

Reports are received from the Township Road Department, Trumbull Township Fire and Rescue, Northwest Ambulance District, the Zoning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Zoning Administrator. Other financial issues may also addressed.

From time to time at these meetings, members of the community in attendance raise various issues. These issues and issues e-mailed to

the Township's website by citizens who identify themselves may be addressed when raised or at a later date if it the Township Trustees determine it is necessary to review additional information before providing a response or making a decision.

Beginning February 12, 2007 work sessions related to FEMA projects will be held one hour prior to each regularly scheduled Board meeting. If you live on or own property on a road impacted by a FEMA