

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 6, 2020

Green Township has a population of fewer than 5,000 but it's using CARES Act money to help out as many of those residents as it can.



When the township came into the funding, the board of trustees — Barry Bennett, Terry French and Jeff Geno — and Brad McCorkle, township fiscal officer, used the first round of funding for fire department EMS-related items: hand sanitizer, masks, gowns, anything EMS personnel use when responding to a scene.

In all, the township received three rounds of funding — \$40,000 in the first two rounds and \$140,000 in the third.

"But there's no way you can spend \$140,000 on personal protective items for EMS and the money has to be used for any unbudgeted expense for preventing the spread of COVID-19," Brad said.

In addition, funding could also be used to support education in preventing the spread, he said.

Barry Bennett, president of the township trustees, said they wanted to help meet community needs.

Brad contacted administrators at Pickaway-Ross and Zane Trace — the two school districts in the township — and asked what they needed that fell within the CARES Act parameters.

"Brad reached out to me and wanted to discuss what our greatest needs were at Pickaway-Ross as we continue to deal with the pandemic," said Jason Vesey, director of Secondary Education. Having already spoken to Zane Trace High School, Brad had a pretty good idea that technol-

Jason Vesey, far left, with Green Township Trustees Terry French, Barry Bennett and Jeff Geno.



Students help Green Township Trustee Jeff Geno unload the Chromebooks donated by the township.

ogy issues were at the forefront with the need for remote learning.

To that end, the trustees budgeted \$30,000 to buy 120 refurbished Chromebooks; we were given 50 and Zane Trace got 70.

"Those are pretty important because you have to share them and that can pass on the virus," Barry said.

"The Chromebooks will enable us to maintain instruction for our students in many ways should there be a situation that requires remote learning," Jason said.

In addition to the Chromebooks, the township also provided both school districts and the township's seven churches with cleaning supplies to aid in disinfecting buildings.

"The idea is that we really wanted to do something for the community," Barry said. "The Chromebooks and sanitizing machines were not only nice but also practical."

Brad said the township has allocated 95 percent of the funds and will allocate the rest at this month's meeting.

"It certainly helps when you get a windfall of money that you can do things outside of your normal, everyday, customary items that you have to do," he said.

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