

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Meeting called to order: 1:05 p.m..

Members Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Donald Butler, Trustee Nanci Shanley, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey.

Also Present: Joy Turpin

L. Bowers – Go ahead.

N. Shanley – Are we in Executive Session?

L. Bowers – No. We're not going into Executive Session.

N. Shanley – Okay.

L. Bowers – Can't for this.

N. Shanley – Okay.

L. Bowers – Unless there's a complaint or something that, that's the only reason we could.

N. Shanley – I had thought the email said Executive Session, but that's fine.

L. Bowers – Um-um. Sorry. Um-um. It will be when Bill gets here.

N. Shanley – Are you sure the email didn't say that?

L. Bowers – It, it...

J. Turpin – The original one that I sent.

L. Bowers – I think Joy's request was, but...

N. Shanley – That's what I was going to base it on.

L. Bowers – I told Joy I can't, I can't find any basis for an Executive Session for this kind of meeting.

N. Shanley – Okay. Well, we probably should have let our people know that want to go to meetings, because I happen to know of one that isn't here because of Executive Session and I don't want it to be a problem.

L. Bowers – Did you send, did you send her a notice?

J. Turpin – A notice was sent to Ms. Heiszek.

N. Shanley – That it was Executive Session or that it...

S. Bailey – No, Special Meeting.

N. Shanley – Okay. Only putting it out there.

L. Bowers – And it wasn't published as an Executive Session.

S. Bailey – No.

L. Bowers – And it wasn't on the notice as an Executive Session, so...Okay.

N. Shanley – In the future, if we start out that way and it changes,

L. Bowers – Well, I think that that's what she requested...

N. Shanley – I think we need to make it clear.

L. Bowers – But that's not what I said.

N. Shanley – Okay. Okay. Because I feel bad because that's how it started and when I was asked I did say I believe it's an Executive Session so that's put me in a bad spot.

L. Bowers – Sorry.

N. Shanley- Okay? So, I, I'm a little uncomfortable because I said that. I don't want to misrepresent a meeting, but that was my understanding is that we were going to go into Executive Session.

L. Bowers – Never mind. Sorry. I know that Joy asked for that because I think she thought that it could be, but, Executive Session for personnel is very specific and very limited and this is not one of those issues.

N. Shanley – Could this be, and maybe this is a Bill question, could this be simply a private meeting such as what we have with the Auditor...

L. Bowers – No.

N. Shanley – if we don't reach a decision, nothing like that? Okay. Then I'm probably going to say that because of this complication we probably shouldn't do it because I don't want to hear about it later. I really don't.

J. Turpin – Do you want that person called?

N. Shanley – We could do that. We could do that. I just don't want to misrepresent a meeting and I didn't know any better or any differently.

J. Turpin – Okay, cause she should, I don't know if she would have received it yesterday or today, but if we want to wait a moment and I'll...

L. Bowers – Try calling her. We can, you can call her or we can continue this meeting to a different day. We do have a 1:30 meeting with Bill Thorne.

N. Shanley – Yeah.

J. Turpin - We can do this after that meeting if...

L. Bowers – But, if we want to continue it to a different day I have some things that have come up that I'd like to discuss with the Board anyway, so all is not lost. On March 1st we have, which is just a few days away, we have a Budget Meeting at 7:00. We could make this part of that. We could just hook it onto the tail end of that if you'd like.

J. Turpin – We could do that.

L. Bowers - You okay with that, Joy?

N. Shanley – I'm not trying to be difficult.

L. Bowers – No, I understand.

N. Shanley – I just, you know, I just really want to have things out in the open and not, you know.

L. Bowers – Don, what do you think? What do you want to do?

D. Butler – I try not to. Whatever's fine with me.

L. Bowers – Well then, then let's add it on to the budget agenda for the special meeting on March 1st. Our budget hopefully won't take that long to clean up the loose ends that we need to do.

D. Butler – We only have what, the General to do, isn't it?

N. Shanley – Well, there's some Fire things that were up in the air that need to plug in numbers.

L. Bowers – There's, and there's some Service things that were up in the air.

D. Butler – Okay.

L. Bowers – And there's a police cruiser issue. Okay. We can close this portion of the meeting where we're going to have that one on March 1st. Something that has come up, and I did publish this that anything, this meeting had anything else that came up, needed to come up, and this has come up, I still have not received any notice that our officers have been laid off but I have heard that they have been, so I had two meetings...

D. Butler – (indecipherable)

L. Bowers – Yeah, I've had two meetings with the Sheriff and I, I actually anticipated to have something written out to hand you today but unfortunately I spent the entire night going through my records and the entire morning going through my records on this other issue that has come up that we're going to meet with Bill on, and so I don't have anything in writing for you now but I will have in the next couple of days. At this time, you know, before we were able to keep our officers and we had made representations to the public that we would keep our officers and I thought that it was important that we do that because that was part of the support that we got for the levy. Now that, now that our officers are indeed laid off and there is absolutely no chance that we're going to get them or keep them...

N. Shanley – Um-hum.

L. Bowers – They're going to be replaced with other bodies. I've gone over all of the information with the Sheriff and, and our contract is not like other Townships contracts in that we have full time officers and so on and so forth and we've gone over some options, I've gone over some options with the Sheriff that allows us to maybe have a blend of part-time / full-time that would give us close to 2,000 hours more than we have now with roughly the same money or we could cut back some of the hours and go with a little less money. We still have a decision that we need to make on cruiser and what he has indicated to me is that Liverpool and Litchfield do buy their own cruisers. Sharon Township, which is all part-time, does not but the other townships do buy their own cruisers. And there's some other information but I'd rather put it all in writing and give it to you as options to look at. But one of the things that we could do is maybe have one full-time person for first shift so we have that continuity and that consistency with our businesses and so on and so forth, or not, it would be one of the options available and we could have the option of having the guys that we do have now, Covey and Clark and Rohrer, working some part-time hours for us in addition to one other officer, and right now it looks like that would be probably Tim Mahalovich or Dan King based on seniority. And the part-time doesn't have the same seniority issue with the union as full-time does and between their unemployment and working some part-time hours, if human resources says that that can do that, they're checking on that, that might give us a way to keep our officers whole too, and keep them here at least for awhile. But there will be options and the options that we have aren't necessarily tied to those bodies it's just something that we could ask for. But I'll try to get all of those options written out for you within the next couple days so we have them to look at on March 1st and you can get them at least a day ahead of time to look at them. It's just, I've been really pushed with this other issue that came up.

N. Shanley – I'm all for getting more coverage for the same money if we can do it. I think I said that at a meeting awhile back.

L. Bowers – Well, we had talked, we had talked about that before.

N. Shanley – Right.

L. Bowers – And, you know, at that time there were other issues that needed to be considered and those issues have been, through no fault of our own, addressed for us. We don't have a choice now. Don, any thoughts?

D. Butler – If I remember, the contract with them calls for one cruiser, correct? That we have to supply is one?

L. Bowers – Neil says that one would be fine for us.

N. Shanley – He always did say that, I think.

L. Bowers – Yeah, he always did.

N. Shanley – We just, we had three went over, so.

L. Bowers – Yeah, we just had them. He's always said that we could get away with one.

N. Shanley – So, we're thinking there's a possibility that we could retain Covey and Rohrer?

L. Bowers – Covey and Clark and Rohrer.

N. Shanley – Covey and all.

L. Bowers – All three. All three.

N. Shanley – A couple of (indecipherable)

L. Bowers – Cause they're gonna be, yeah, because they're gonna be minimized with the number of hours they're permitted to work and still collect unemployment and maybe Rohrer wouldn't even go to unemployment. And I talked to Deputy Rohrer just a little while ago and I told him he might want to stop and have a conversation with both of you as well. Because he works for other townships too so he might not even go to the unemployment issue, but Clark and Covey have families to support, too, I mean, they don't have other jobs.

N. Shanley – Continuity is huge. That's one of the biggest things that sold the idea of the levy. People would know our habits, at night, during the day...

L. Bowers – Yup.

N. Shanley – And the house looked...

L. Bowers – And we'd have the same officers. And we could, I think it's the best of both worlds for us.

N. Shanley – (indecipherable)

D. Butler – Yeah, it comes down to what the employment...

L. Bowers – Well, I've got, I've had two meetings with the Sheriff and I have all of the numbers. I just have to put them into some sense of order. And, you know, this is what, this is the hours that would be covered if we went with all part-time and this is who we could expect and how, this is what would happen if we went with one full-time, three or four part-time, so on and so forth. And it will all be done with hours, not bodies. The reason that I told Neil that I

personally, and I told him that it had to be a Board decision, but, personally I lean toward at least having one full-time person that would work that first time shift because that tends to be the person who does the interaction with our businesses and our people who are in their homes during the day and making reports and those sorts of things and that consistency and that point person is kind of important. That kind of becomes your person who glues everything together and keeps everybody else informed with what's going on and instead of having all part-time and relying on them to look at reports and so on and so forth, we would have that one person responsible for making sure that the greater information gets carried to the rest of them.

N. Shanley – Do we have, do you, at this time do we have any kind of say as to that person would be or is it by seniority, because that would be Rohrer.

L. Bowers – It's...no, by seniority it would not be Rohrer. Rohrer goes.

N. Shanley – Okay.

L. Bowers - Rohrer and Covey and Clark are the lowest seniority. Those three are gone.

N. Shanley – So our full-time person, what's...

L. Bowers – The full-time time people that the Sheriff, the Sheriff gave me three, that's what our contract requires, he gives us a pool of three, and I will bring those to you. That will be done in Executive Session because we're discussing personnel. I will tell you now that the three that he gave me, I've got no problem with two of them, one of them, he has a DUI. I don't know that we want a police officer with a DUI. I'm sorry. It's something that we'll have to discuss and that's, that's public record, it's common knowledge, I'm not saying...

N. Shanley – Is there, ...no, no, no.

L. Bowers – Anything out of turn.

N. Shanley – Is there any way to get that information in advance in some way?

L. Bowers – Yes, I can give you the names right now of the other two. I don't want to do the other one.

N. Shanley – That's fine.

L. Bowers – Cause that's...the other two would be Dan King and Tim Mahalovich, Maholcavich, Mahalavich. I don't know either of these officers. I know their reputations. Dan King's father I worked with, he was a secret service agent, David, over in Wadsworth but I don't know Dan at all. And Kevin Rohrer highly recommends both of these officers as well, so.

N. Shanley – Is that settled that Clark's gonna leave?

L. Bowers – Clark did not get the job in Lodi which surprised the Sheriff and surprised me because I, we had both heard that he was getting it.

D. Butler – So we had three full-time people, three people...

L. Bowers – Right now we have three full-time.

D. Butler – Okay. But if you hire those three, the unknown plus those two, where do the part-timers fit it?

L. Bowers – No, those, if we stay with one full-time position...

D. Butler – Okay.

L. Bowers – Those will be our choices, those, those, he actually gave us three.

D. Butler – One of those three.

N. Shanley – And the rest is filled in with a network of part-time.

D. Butler – And the rest...with part-time. Okay.

N. Shanley – And then we get more coverage for the same amount.

L. Bowers – And that network of part-timers could include Rohrer, Covey and Clark. And quite frankly, if our part-time, if they wanted to cover enough part-time hours, they could go up to thirty-some hours part-time if they wanted to do that. You know, might even be able to keep them off of unemployment where they could infill with road construction projects or part-time in another township. There are a number of other townships that are currently coming on line doing the same thing we're doing. You know, as the Sheriff's Department slowly dismantles, you know, townships are looking at, you know, we were way ahead of that curve. Not because we saw it coming, it just happens to be the luck of the draw. You know, our residents don't have to worry about whether or not we're going to have coverage because we've got it. In the townships where the Sheriff's Department is losing this service, they don't. I don't think there's anything else until we wait for Bill. I apologize, you're with...?

Katelyn – I'm with the Gazette. I spoke with you on the phone.

L. Bowers- Oh, okay. Yeah, yeah, we have...

Katelyn – spoken.

L. Bowers – We've got the Prosecutor coming at 1:30.

Katelyn – Oh, okay.

L. Bowers – And that will be going into Executive Session.

Katelyn – Executive then, okay. Yeah, I wasn't sure if the whole thing was or...

L. Bowers- Yeah, unfortunately you're not getting any decisions out of us today, but March 1st would be the meeting you want to come to.

Katelyn – March 1st.

L. Bowers – That's when we're going to make some decisions on the officers.

Katelyn – Okay.

L. Bowers – And things so, that is probably going to be your story.

Katelyn – Okay, yeah. I'm kind of, I am new to the Gazette so I'm not really aware what the whole situation is, I guess the Sheriff is obviously, you know...

L. Bowers – Suffering wholesale lay-offs.

Katelyn – Exactly.

L. Bowers – He's not doing it.

Katelyn – Are you...

N. Shanley – Can I suggest we want to recess this or otherwise you're going to have a huge transcription.

Katelyn – Oh, sorry.

N. Shanley – Do we want to recess this meeting and reconvene it?

L. Bowers – That's a good idea, recess the meeting.

N. Shanley – And then we can just fill her in on the controversy.

L. Bowers – Let's recess the meeting right now. Thank you, Nanci.

Meeting recessed at 1:20 p.m.

L. Bowers – Okay, we want to do, and Bill, would this...imminent?

B. Thorne – Yes. I think that, let me move over a tad. It should go to Executive Session. I'll just move over here.

L. Bowers – And I, I think I'm going to ask Joy to stay in as well, so, might as well hear this and know this because you might be doing some follow up, so.

B. Thorne – I'm sorry I took your seat then, Joy.

N. Shanley – Here, Joy.

B. Thorne – I thought it would be one less, so.

L. Bowers – What time is it, I’m sorry?

D. Butler – 1:39, 1:40.

S. Bailey – 1:40.

L. Bowers – Well, at 1:40 I would move to recess into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing imminent legal action with our legal counsel and inviting into that Executive Session Mr. Thorne, Mr. Karas?

T. Karas – um-hum.

L. Bowers – Joy Turpin and Shirley Bailey along with the Trustees. Roll call vote. Oh, I’m sorry, is there a second?

N. Shanley – I’ll second.

L. Bowers – Seconded by Mrs. Shanley. Roll call vote – Bowers – yes.

N. Shanley – Shanley – yes.

D. Butler – Butler - yes.

Executive Session convened at 1:40 p.m.

Special Meeting reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

L. Bowers – We are reconvene the meeting, Special Meeting. What time is it?

B. Thorne – Ten after.

L. Bowers – At ten after two and adjourn. No decis...I’m sorry. No decisions were made. Now we’re adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Approved: _____

Donald Butler, Trustee

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Nanci Shanley, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer