

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Meeting called to order: 10:01 a.m.

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

Not Present: Trustee Don Butler

The meeting was in progress when the tape machine began recording.

Please refer to the August 25, 2010 Minutes for an attached document.

L. Bowers - ...for the cruisers. Mrs. Shanley, I think you've seen the original. It was sent, I did ask Verizon to send a new one that they had filled out. They told me to make the changes. I sent them an email back indicating that you wanted a new one from them. I have not received it yet. But I did white out Fiscal Officer and I did, or Financial Officer and I did white out Mrs. Bailey's information and filled in Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and indicated that it would be a Trustee that signs. I put all three names on it. I will however ask that maybe you reconsider that. There's a reason that everyone of these agreements come with the Fiscal Officer's name on them, because whenever they have anything they have to deal with, they always call the Fiscal Officer because it usually has to do with billing and it's really hamstrunged our ability to get things done in an efficient way. If you insist on doing it that way, that's not a problem, we can do it.

N. Shanley – Yeah, I think the contract has to be between a Lafayette Board of Trustees and whoever the contract is with.

L. Bowers – Actually, what Mr. Thorne indicated to us...

N. Shanley – May I finish?

L. Bowers – Sure.

N. Shanley – I don't have any problem with adding Shirley as a designated user on the account and also it was suggested to me that we consider using Ken Baca or someone else at the Sheriff's Department as an additional designated user if there is a technical problem with the air card. They could then troubleshoot and they would have the power to do that without going through one of us or Shirley.

L. Bowers – Well actually, I talked to the IT guy and he's indicated that this is the Sheriff's Department's private system and it goes through them anyway so we don't have to do that. This is simply for billing purposes and, and again, I would state that, you know, we're pretty much as far as I can tell, the only Township that does it this way and in a conversation with Mr.

Thorne which apparently you had and that he talked to us later about as a Board, he indicated that clearly we have the authority to designate that...

N. Shanley – And that's what I'm saying.

L. Bowers – That ability.

N. Shanley – We can add that, to her, we can designate she can sign the contract...

L. Bowers – Then let's put her on there.

N. Shanley – I think that's what we can do, but ...

L. Bowers – Then let's do it.

N. Shanley – I still feel that it needs to be from the Lafayette Board of Trustees with the Trustees on there.

L. Bowers – Well then, then let's take the original that we got that says printed or typed name, Shirley Bailey, change Financial to Fiscal Officer, and, and write on behalf of the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees. That gets us all on there. You okay with that? And then we could designate that?

N. Shanley – No, because they will not talk to us. I've talked to Verizon. We have to be on there or it becomes only Shirley who can deal with them and that's the whole trouble of it. And that solves the problem, adding her to it.

L. Bowers – Okay. Then she is on there. And, and I would suggest that instead of one of us as a Trustee signing, she's an authorized official that's on here, let's, **I will move to designate Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey as the authorized official signing on behalf of the Board of Trustees.**

N. Shanley- I will second that.

L. Bowers – All in favor, aye?

N. Shanley, L. Bowers – Aye.

L. Bowers – And opposed, same sign.

N. Shanley – Shirley, are you willing to do that?

S. Bailey – Sure.

L. Bowers – Please sign that. And if you would put copies in each one of our boxes, I'll make sure that it gets scanned and sent to Lisa who administers that program and a copy of it to the Sheriff's Department today. The second issue is the siren box. Do you have any other questions other than the information I provided?

N. Shanley – No. I'm fine with proceeding. The only thing I would question is do we really want to spend the money sending back the other one? What does it really do for us at this point?

L. Bowers – Well, my thought on that was first of all, you know, it's been almost a week now since they've had to shut down and wait because they're waiting for us to get back. I didn't want to lose any more time than possible so I told them to go ahead and send it. I don't know whether it's been done yet or not. But I did talk to Whalen repair myself and they indicated that the low end of the charge, the very minimum it would be is \$105.00, and the maximum it would be is \$400.00, cause that's what it cost to replace it. My thought process was that at some point, you know, maybe we'll have an overlap in cruisers, we don't know, when we get rid of this one, getting another one, I can, I can assure you that based on this past experience that the Sheriff's Department is probably going to look at getting us started earlier because it's taken us six months to get this cruiser from start to finish on the road and it's not on the road yet.

N. Shanley – Do you feel that there's been nothing happening because of the Township?

L. Bowers – I do, I do.

N. Shanley – In what way?

L. Bowers – I absolutely do. I think that it's kind of the way you learn to drive a stick shift sometimes, it's steady by jerks. Every time they get started and they run into a problem they have to stop and wait for us to make a decision and we have to have a meeting and then we've got to get back to them and, and it's this constant start, stop, start, stop, start, stop.

N. Shanley – Well, since we have to approve that expense I don't see a way around that.

L. Bowers – Actually, there's an easy way around that. And if you think about it, I've employed this a number of times. Since we have started our new policies, I understand the hamstringing that it causes. I understand that you're new and you haven't seen this or experienced this but there's a reason that Townships do things the way they do and have done them that way for a hundred years. Because we have to get things done and we have to move...let me finish, please.

N. Shanley – Okay.

L. Bowers – And we have to move them through efficiently. Now when I started seeing us being hamstrung on the sign project because we had to keep coming back and approving minor things, and when I saw us starting to be hamstrung on the changing of the phone process because we had to keep coming back and that was starting to take up an attractive amount of time, in, in the spirit of efficiency, I made a motion just to allow you to handle those items and make the decisions and get them done, otherwise it would have taken many months and there was a reason I did that even though I started the sign project. There's a reason that Township's have in place procedures that allow certain decisions to be made and things to get done. When we have to keep coming together as a Board because of the publication

requirements and so on and so forth for these minor things, yeah, it protracts things out and it's more than just taking time to make the decision. It's, it's the people on the other end who have to stop, leave things sit, shut things down, move things out of the way, and it's very inefficient process. And for the most part I've been quiet about that because it hasn't interfered with our service. But as a Trustee for thirteen years, I have done at least seven cruisers, I think. Three ambulances, several Service Department trucks and we've always managed to have a turnaround time from start to finish probably less than thirty days. So you got to ask yourself, why is it taking six months to put a cruiser on the road and why do we still have a Service Department truck a year later that we haven't gotten worked out? It's the problems that are caused by the inefficiency and I'm gonna ask our Board to take a relook at those things because it's starting to cause problems on the road.

N. Shanley – Okay. Let me just, may I speak now?

L. Bowers – Sure.

N. Shanley - Thank you. None of the things that you cite as examples are minor expenses. If they're minor expenses I would have no trouble with them. If we were to revisit the resolution that goes to two-fifty and want to increase that, I would have no problem with it. But when we get into expenses that are into the thousands, then I think we have a duty as individual Trustees to take a look at what that is and to approve them. As far as the truck is concerned, that started last June. I don't think that any of these policies or any of the approval processes that we have put into place, and I do think that they're justified and I do think that it's a system of checks and balances that is important, has been the reason for that truck taking that long. As far as the cruiser is concerned, we made a decision on a cruiser, it was purchased, it was delivered. Things were brought to the table as far as approving the apparatus that it needed to, in order to be made road ready. There was some discussion at the next meeting. We still had to approve it, it was in the thousands of dollars, it was over four thousand. I'm not comfortable delegating that. I think it's my duty as a Trustee to take a look at these expenses and make sure that it's the right thing to do. But nonetheless, I don't feel that they were held up. At the very next meeting we considered those expenses, we approved them, we moved forward. We approved B & B, the cruiser sat in front of B & B Auto for over a week and didn't get done. I don't think that's a problem that the Board of Trustees could have resolved in any way or done any differently or made done any faster. With regard to the signs, I think that we ended up with a better option and more signage and a total package that was pretty cost effective that we wouldn't have ended up with if we hadn't looked at it. So I think in every case there's been a good reason to go about it the way we did.

L. Bowers – And it was delegated and that would, that allowed that process to carry forward and get done completely...

N. Shanley – And I brought it back to the table.

L. Bowers – And quickly.

N. Shanley – And I brought it back to the table for approval. I did not act unilaterally; I did not make a unilateral decision.

L. Bowers – I would simply say, Mrs. Shanley, that the proof is in the results and here's where we are and **I will make a motion that we order the new, the new siren box that's necessary to get that car on the road. I would also include in that motion that we continue to send the existing siren to Whalen and have it evaluated and then make a decision at that time based on the result of that evaluation whether it's cost effective to have it repaired and keep it as number one a spare and number two in case we put a second cruiser on the road down the road.**

N. Shanley – Before I second, I do have additional comments.

L. Bowers – Sure.

N. Shanley – I want to reiterate that anything that has come up with regard to this cruiser has been dealt with swiftly. I think the siren was brought up, what, Thursday of last week?

L. Bowers – The siren was brought up Thursday of last week and if we had the old policies in place it would have been taken care of Thursday of last week. And now it's a week later.

N. Shanley – And as I've said, I have no problem with revisiting the resolution...

L. Bowers – Good.

N. Shanley – that all Trustees approved in 2008 going back to two-fifty.

L. Bowers – Good.

N. Shanley – I don't have a problem increasing it to a reasonable limit. However, to say that the entire cruiser has been held up and expenses of over \$4,000.00 should be just made unilaterally I think is completely inappropriate and I would never agree to that. That's just not what I think our job is.

L. Bowers – Nanci, I'm not expecting...

N. Shanley – May I finish? Please?

L. Bowers – Sure.

N. Shanley – May I?

L. Bowers – Sure.

N. Shanley – Thank you.

L. Bowers – I thought you were, I apologize.

N. Shanley – No, I was not.

L. Bowers – Please finish.

N. Shanley – As far as using the word hamstringing over and over again, nothing has been hamstringed. We're putting in checks and balances we have not had. I don't think anything has been held up and I think that the decisions that we have made have been good ones in the end. And I just, I, it's something I just feel very, very strongly about. I think it's part of the job that I have and I've been elected to do. The siren is in the office, I just went in to check mail and the box is on the desk there, obviously it's something that I think...I'm assuming it's what it is. It's going to Whalen. Something that probably Joy is expected to handle when she gets back. I don't have any problems...

S. Bailey – No, I'm taking it to UPS today.

N. Shanley – Are you? Okay. So it's still here. I don't have any problem with sending it in, it's just, if it's heavy and it costs a lot of money it just seemed like, well why are we doing it. But if we're going to look at it as a spare, if it's cost effective to fix, and it's going to have an equivalent lifespan to a new one I don't have a problem with that. **Having said that, I will second the motion to purchase a new one and send back the old one.**

L. Bowers – All in favor, aye?

N. Shanley, L. Bowers – Aye.

L. Bowers – And opposed same sign. And Nanci, I don't want to leave on the record any kind of a suggestion that I or any member of this Board thinks that any member of this Board should not have input and review. It's never been done that way, there's always been input and review and, you know, case in point, on the cruisers, the \$4,000.00 that we ended up spending was not something that would have happened with or without all the Board's approval, in fact it was the initial bid that came in that we ended up doing. It just took us a month to agree to that initial bid. And there was a number of other things that went on in the meantime. There is and always has been a way for every Trustee to be apprised of and to be comfortable with the decisions that are being made. In fact, I would implore you; I know that you respect Ron Bischof over in Montville Township. Have a discussion with him as to how Montville does it and, you know, they send the information out, and you yourself have done this. You send the information out on something that needs to be done with a fire truck, and if I don't hear any major objection or any other information that another Trustee has, I'm going to get this taken care of because it needs to be taken care of. And that is an efficient way to do business. And I think that if we have written policies they need to be flexible enough to provide for those things and for all of the Trustees to have the review and the input at the same time. And it can easily be done and I don't want you to sit there thinking that I think that you shouldn't look at things. Cause I know that you do. And I do every bit as much as you did and I had great concern about Trustees who don't, and you know that we have had that in the past. I don't agree that any Trustee should not be looking at things. But I think that we need to have a more effective and efficient process than what we've come to and the proof is in...

N. Shanley – Well, the resolution that, oh I'm sorry.

L. Bowers – And the proof is in the results.

N. Shanley – Agree.

L. Bowers – And these results are not good.

N. Shanley – Well, Mrs. Bowers, we approved the apparatus for the cruiser at the meeting at which it was proposed, additional information was brought to the table, we did not go that way. It was approved at that very meeting. It was not delayed by a month.

L. Bowers – Well, let's just agree to disagree and be done with it. How's that?

N. Shanley- That's fine.

L. Bowers – See if we can move on more productively in the future.

N. Shanley – And I would also so, and I would also say that the resolution that I had prepared that we skipped over at the last meeting provided exactly the kind of situation that you are hoping to have, which is that it provides...we've always had a means of dealing with emergency expenses. Shirley is, can certify up to \$3,000.00 correct? In a then and now sort of emergency?

L. Bowers – I don't believe it's as flexible as it could be.

N. Shanley – May I finish?

L. Bowers – I don't believe it's as effective as it could be, as efficient as it could be.

N. Shanley – May I finish?

L. Bowers – Sure.

N. Shanley – Thank you. I think a resolution like that still gives us a checks and balances that we, still provides flexibility so that we can move forward when we need to, but does not give away complete ability to make unilateral decisions and that's my concern.

L. Bowers – And I've told you before, I told you in the beginning that I would be willing to cheerfully try all the new things that you want to do, and I believe that I have. But I asked you to agree that if it gets to a point where we realize that the medicine is worse than the illness, if that should occur that we revisit it. And I appreciate the fact that you are telling me now that you have an open mind enough that we're going to revisit it. So I'm going to make some suggestions based on experience, I'm going to make some suggestions on the resolution that you have proposed and we can discuss it in the meeting. Okay? When we're all three together.

N. Shanley – That is fine. I will also say however, that I do not agree with you that we have ill or that the medicine is worse than the problem or anything of that nature. I think that we have a completely divergent viewpoint as to what's really happening right now.

L. Bowers – Well then, we'll just agree to disagree.

N. Shanley – Yup.

L. Bowers – We have our results and we have the records. See ya.

N. Shanley – Bye.

L. Bowers - Okay. It is...anything else you want to discuss, Nanci?

N. Shanley – Nothing.

L. Bowers – Okay. I did not, by the way, put the zoning on the agenda because you told me that these were the two specific issues that you were prepared to address. Did you want to address the zoning or not? I did tell the Board members last night that I would bring it up in case and we are...

N. Shanley – Zoning is just setting a meeting...

L. Bowers – We are, setting another meeting. Yeah, we are properly published for any other business if you want to do that, that's up to you.

N. Shanley – We can set a meeting. I just think the first is too soon, given the ...

L. Bowers – Oh, I agree.

N. Shanley – delay.

L. Bowers – I agree. And I was able to, based on your email telling me that you didn't think the Gazette was a good venue, I was able to pull that.

N. Shanley – I don't think it's a bad venue; it's just not as good. People just don't get the Gazette as much as they used to.

L. Bowers – And Pam did call me and tell me that even though, even though her folks had sent the notice that they wanted a paid ad, she has a way that she can and will do that, so. What day do you, do you have a calendar in front of you, or do you want to look at mine?

N. Shanley – The week of the, this whole week is bad. I have nothing but interviews that week.

L. Bowers – I'm no longer using this calendar, so I, I can't, I'd have to check.

N. Shanley – We can do it 15th.

L. Bowers – Well, let me check and see.

N. Shanley – Or at that point should we just do it the day of our regular meeting? Five days, I don't know.

L. Bowers – Well, if we do it the day of our regular meeting I think we need to come in early, cause...

N. Shanley – They could come draggin' in, yeah.

L. Bowers – we're talking about interviews.

N. Shanley – Yeah, you're right. You're right.

L. Bowers – You're saying the 15th?

N. Shanley – We could do it the 15th.

L. Bowers – Let me take a look at...changing from a hard calendar to this is not fun. I can do it on the 15th. What time works for you?

N. Shanley – Well, we probably should do it late in the day because I suspect that most of the people involved work. So I think that idea, I think we...

L. Bowers – 6:00?

N. Shanley – Didn't we tell Karen something at 4:30?

L. Bowers – Well, you know what?

S. Bailey – 4:30 or after.

L. Bowers – I think if we start at 4:30 that gives us the ability to take care of the people who can come early and the people that need to come late.

N. Shanley – I think, we can stick with 4:30.

L. Bowers – Okay. I will go ahead and send that information to Pam then. And if we're going to set that on the 15th at 4:30, I would think that we can take applications right up till Friday the 10th, don't you think?

N. Shanley – Yeah.

L. Bowers – Okay. Interview meeting is set for the 15th and we'll take applications until the 10th of September.

N. Shanley – You have somebody...

L. Bowers - Yeah, Mr. Hollish?

D. Hollish – Just a comment about the, the cruiser taking six months. Without me going back to the minutes of the meeting, you guys approved, the first problem was at the meeting was going to a Crown Vic or the Charger which was resolved relatively close or within that same meeting to take the Charger. Based on that, all the equipment coming out of the, by other professional staff saying that all 90% of this equipment's going to be transferred to the Charger. Well, they did not, 90% not even get into that Charger? That most of the stuff was repurchased?

L. Bowers – Actually Dave, some of the equipment that was on the list that was compatible was equipment we didn't even have on our other cruisers, so, I mean, it's...

D. Hollish – So then, who made that mistake?

L. Bowers – Nobody made the mistake, they were just listing. We had three cruisers, we had stuff in the garage, and as a matter of fact, the new cruisers that they're doing right now has a number of items that we didn't even contract for to be put on, things that we had that the officers came down, I came down with them and we went through the garage and we were able to do that. And Hall didn't charge us for any of those extra things. So we have things that we had. They went off of our inventory list and, yeah, I will tell you that the inventory that we had that came out from our cruisers that we owned, the last inventory that was turned in, I didn't review it cause I wasn't the liaison then. Yeah, there was a lot of stuff that was on there that we didn't have and a lot of stuff that we have that wasn't on there and those are the only documents we had to work with and that's simply the way that it was.

D. Hollish – Wouldn't it have been better to call a professional in to look at this stuff and say yes, no.

L. Bowers – We did. We did. Absolutely. And they are looking over every piece of this equipment as they're installing it because they have a liability as well. And I'm sure you understand this as well as anyone, when you're taking that equipment in and out of those fine wiring harness and stuff and that sharp metal where things are going in and out, yeah, they're inspecting all of it very carefully, inspecting all of the circuits and testing everything to make sure that nothing's been nicked, damaged, shorted, all of those things and in the installation of the siren not only did they find out that there were problems that way, but this particular siren had also been modified nonprofessionally to be put on the explorer that we had it on. Now how that happened or why or when, you know, I couldn't tell you. The police were handling that. Our own independent department did that, so. But that's a problem and it's not only a liability for our Township if something happens out there and someone makes a claim that we weren't probably lighted, properly sired, and everything working right, it's also a problem for the installer. So they're being very careful, absolutely.

D. Hollish – So that had nothing to do with taking a longer period of time?

L. Bowers – There's been a number of things that they've had to have decisions on that required we come back to the Board. Every time they find something we got to come back to the Board and they have to shut down what they're doing and they can't just leave that car sit in the stall, you know...

D. Hollish – I understand.

L. Bowers – Taken apart for days. They have to move everything out and start working on something else and keep going back to it. It's a very frustrating process for them. Sure it is. And I understand that.

D. Hollish – Well, next time you buy new cruisers...

L. Bowers – And quite frankly, you know, according to the letter of our contract the Sheriff can go back to day one from when we took our last cruiser out of service and charge us. He can do that and so far he hasn't, but, you know, we keep dragging this out we might get that bill too. And I want to avoid that. Any other questions?

D. Hollish – No.

L. Bowers – Mrs. Shanley?

N. Shanley – No.

L. Bowers – Mrs. Bailey?

S. Bailey – No.

L. Bowers – We are adjourned at 10:25.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Approved: _____

Donald Butler, Trustee

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Nanci Shanley, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer