

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2016

Meeting called to order: 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Bryon Macron, Trustee Lynda Bowers, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey.

Mr. Macron moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting- July 18, 2016 and the Special Meeting- July 18, 2016. Mr. Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Financial Report: Ms. Bailey reported:

Fund Balance: \$2,477,498.43

Pooled Investments: \$1,543,095.36

Available Checking Balance: \$934,403.07

Ms. Bailey stated there are no requisitions this evening as all were covered under blanket certificates.

Ms. Bowers met with Ms. Bailey and requested copies of reports she needs to review. Ms. Bowers requested permission from the Board to start budget worksheets. Ms. Bowers stated that based on pooled investments, cash balances and no income relative to most of that coming in for the remainder of the year, we will be under our reserves so we need to pay close attention to where we can tighten 2017 budget. Ms. Bowers will meet with Mr. Evans to review road projects.

Ms. Bailey informed that she met with Mr. Dan Becker, Medina County Civil Engineer and he explained the process needed in order to execute the construction of the CSX Project in 2016. He cautioned against construction in late fall early winter due to the unpredictability of the weather. Ms. Bowers stated approximately a little over \$300,000.00 of the project on Deerview was done and paid for by the state due to Issue 2 applications submitted by the township.

Correspondence:

Mr. Macron thanked Mr. Russ Green for his organizational efforts in hosting the first ever Lafayette Township Community Picnic held on Sunday, August 7th. The picnic replaces the Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction which was typically held during the winter months. Mr. Green thanked the trustees for their support and suggested scheduling the Community Picnic on a yearly calendar and have the date available around the first of the New Year so the community can plan accordingly. Ms. Bowers reminded everyone this is not a trustee event but a private organization/community event and gave a brief history on its origin. She suggested to Mr. Green organizing a committee who could assist Mr. Green with his efforts. Ms. Bowers thanked Mr. Green for his hard work and effort.

Fire Department Report: Chief Hall reported a total of 73 runs for the month July (8-Fire, 54-EMS to Lafayette Township, 0- Fire, 4-EMS to Village of Chippewa Lake, 0- Fire, 4-EMS to Gloria Glens, 2-Fire, 1-EMS Mutual Aid). Fuel Usage: 317.0 gallons of fuel, 1,906 miles were logged on all vehicles.

Chief Hall announced 5 candidates applied for the lieutenant position and the first phase of interviews have been completed. The interviews were conducted by a panel comprised of fire chiefs. Chief Hall publically thanked Chief Petrone- Valley City, Chief Fletcher- Westfield Twp., Chief Davis- Westfield Twp., and Chief Disbrow- Chatham Twp for assisting him in conducting the first phase of the interviews. Mr. Costello said an executive session will occur before the end of this evening's meeting to further discuss the applicants.

Chief Hall followed up from last month's meeting regarding the fuel oil spill that affected the Woolsteen's property on Lance Road. Chief Hall stated he has followed up with the local office of the Medina County Emergency Management Association, EMA, and they assisted Chief Hall with his inspection of the property. The EMA contacted Reggie Brown from state and were informed if there was any indication of fuel oil currently, it would have to be opened as a new case. Chief Hall said he and Mr. Brown both personally inspected the property and there is no indication of the fuel oil. Chief Hall did follow up with the Woolsteens.

Service Department Report:

Mr. Evans reported:

- Chip and seal has been completed on motor paved roads- Deerview, Lance, Egypt, Carlton and Coon Club Roads
- Waltz Cemetery- poured 5 footers for older headstones that were falling over. Removed 10 trees. Removed overgrown brush and briars and under one of the largest trees and exposed approximately 8 to 10 headstones that are now visible. Mr. Evans contacted Mr. John Most and anticipates paving Waltz Cemetery parking lot and drives approximately the second week of September
- Equipment washed, waxed and maintained. Replaced all brakes, rotors and calipers on the F550. Universal joints replaced on the F350. Replaced hydraulic lines on the new boom mower.
- Cleaning and maintenance of town hall. Mowing and weeding all township properties.
- Berm Mowing and back slopes
- Repaired water line in Fire Department four times in a one week's time this month. Mr. Evans requested a quote from a plumbing company to repair the main water line and replace with a copper line for a proper fix, Mr. Evans explained every time the line breaks it shuts off water to the entire complex
- Two dead maple trees and a dead ash tree have been removed on the complex
- Mr. Evans asked if Mr. Macron has heard back from the baseball league regarding the dirt that is being dumped on the baseball fields. Mr. Evans is concerned because the dirt contains large pieces of concrete, asphalt and other miscellaneous materials and wants to ensure the safety of the children playing on the fields. Mr. Macron has not heard back from the league as of yet
- Temporary salt bin has been constructed to house the additional salt we must take possession of to avoid paying storage fees.
- Parking barriers in front of town hall have been painted bright yellow for better visibility

- Picked up power broom from Cloverleaf School

Ms. Bowers announced she has received only one complaint regarding the Deerview Lane improvement project. She requested Mr. Evans remind her to send out information in advance regarding the process of chip and seal to residents so they have a better understanding of the process before it begins. This may prevent future complaints.

Ms. Bowers stated there is a resident on Deerview Lane requesting a refund for his property's ditch enclosure and drive pipe replacement that has already been paid but the work has not been performed. The reason for his request is because he believes the pipeline will be routed on his property and he does not wish to have the work done because of this potential routing. Ms. Bowers has not been able to reach him and said there are five alternative routes under consideration and she is not aware of which route will be chosen. She said it must be made clear to the resident that if he chooses not to follow through with the project while the road work is being completed, we cannot do it at a future time. The trustees agreed to refund his money as long as his drive pipe is in good condition and there is no negative impact on the road.

Ms. Bowers spoke with the Roberts family and they asked she convey their gratitude for the hard work that has gone into enhancing the look of Waltz Cemetery. Mr. Ed Roberts is a 101 year old resident of Lafayette Township. The people of Waltz Church have also complimented the service department for their attentiveness in maintaining and improving the appearance of the cemetery and how considerate the service crew have been in working around the church's timetable and schedule.

Mr. Evans will address the standing water in the ditch near the corner of Erhart and Egypt Roads.

Police Report:

Mr. Macron reported a total of 26 calls for the month of July. He thanked the police, fire department and service department for their assistance with the Hunter's Run block party hosted on August 6th.

Ms. Bowers confirmed the replacement of a police cruiser will *not* be necessary in 2017. Mr. Macron said the purchase of new radios in both Lafayette cruisers is necessary in order to be compatible with the new system and should be considered when budgeting. Ms. Bowers said she specifically spoke with the county administrator regarding updating the radios and was told the new system was chosen to avoid having to replace current ones. Mr. Macron had a conversation with Cpt. Centner and Sheriff Miller and information including the cost of the new radios, will be forwarded to him once it is available and will relay the information to the trustees. Chief Hall was told that currently the fire department does *not* need to upgrade their radios but that in the future it will be necessary and will keep the trustees informed if and when that information changes.

Zoning Report:

Ms. Strogin reported that as of June Lafayette has far surpassed all of 2015 value and fees. Permits for new homes are still coming in.

Recreation Report:

Mr. Macron reported the baseball league has been dumping fill dirt on the baseball fields and he hasn't confirmed the purpose as of yet. Mr. Costello questioned how the cement and debris will be removed from the dirt, ensuring the safety of the ball players. Mr. Macron will reach out to the League's directors and gather information.

Economic Development:

Ms. Bowers reported the commissioners have hired a new marketing company for Tech Park. She attended a meeting where NAI Cummins had people present and they did a great job.

Old Business:

Mr. Macron announced the reason the meeting is being held in station 1 is to allow the public to view the current condition of the station. Mr. Macron announced some of the issues station 1 is experiencing including, the size of the station, storage of apparatus, roof leaks, and plumbing issues, lack of restroom facilities, etc. The station does not meet code and it is now mandatory to provide showers for staff to decontaminate upon returning from a call. He explained the intention is to build a new station with the future growth and development of the township and fire station in mind.

Mr. Macron explained after the levy failed they received calls from residents and firefighters both for and against the levy and it was requested the trustees consider placing the levy on the November ballot. Mr. Costello stated approximately 580 to 590 signatures were received on a petition to place the levy on the November ballot and were presented to the trustees at a special meeting. Ms. Bowers said the trustees were not needed to place the levy on the November ballot, it could be done by a referendum requiring on 263 signatures to accomplish it, in the event the trustees didn't agree to do so.

Mr. Costello explained the trustees basically are building a station in compliance by the standards set forth by OSHA and the NFPA. He explained one of the reasons for building bunk rooms in the station is for the staff that voluntarily come to the station on their own personal time during severe or inclement weather in order to be on site and prepared with faster response times in the event of an emergency and while only receiving pay for the actual call time. Another reason is the township hopes to one day staff 24 hours. Mr. Costello said for our sized township we provide an excellent fire service utilizing a minimum budget and in order to staff 24 hours would require additional funds.

Assistant Chief Brad Winter announced the first community meeting will be held tomorrow and there are plans developing to campaign stronger. The fire department will be discussing innovative ways to inform and educate residents with factual information concerning the levy as well as addressing resident questions and concerns. He discussed the current fire station and the original use of the station which was designed in the 1960's specifically for fire protection and not Emergency Medical Services and to respond as a true volunteer station. The building size was built to store apparatus of that time period which is no longer near the size apparatus are today and due to regulations for health and safety concerns. He explained staff has to eat food in the current kitchen area that they "wash up" in upon returning from a call, where they wash their turnout gear, and the same sink they fill mop buckets to clean the back of ambulances. The staff is in station twelve hours a day and have to wash dishes and utensils in this same sink. Asst. Winter

said the department is just asking for appropriate conditions. He explained that staffing full time in the future is a process and includes planning a building now that can accommodate those changes in the future.

Ms. Bowers explained that had the levy passed in August, the potential savings could have been near $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars and explained the reasons. Resident Linda Pelka, Spencer Lake Road, questioned whether or not the board has sought any grant money or zero interest loans. The different options the board utilizes to seek funding was explained. Ms. Bowers said the zero interest loan originally offered expires as of September 16th and due to the levy failure the deadline will be missed and hopes it will be authorized again. The board is constantly looking to save tax dollars. Ms. Bowers is on the Ohio Township Association Board of Directors that meet monthly in Columbus with trustees from across the State and search for available grants. Mr. Costello speaks with professional grant writers regularly to keep abreast of what grants could be available to us.

Dave Hollish, Carlton Road stated, "There is no question about it. You do need another fire department, a new station. There is no two ways about it." Mr. Hollish said he has received hundreds of calls from residents after the announcement that the trustees will be placing the levy on the November ballot. Mr. Hollish said the concerns he has been hearing is regarding the amount of money it will cost homeowners if the levy passes. He questioned the "needs" versus the "wants" of the proposed station. Mr. Macron stated the stainless steel appliances in station 2, the turn out gear racks, etc. were paid for by the fire association not tax dollars. Mr. Macron said he doesn't have an issue having a conference room built for the fire department to train and a space that can be utilized by the community for various 4H meetings, boy and Girl Scout meetings, CPR classes and voting, etc. Mr. Hollish questioned as to why Lafayette can't build a standard pole building similar to Litchfield. Ms. Bowers responded because it doesn't meet regulations for modern equipment spans and there are regulations when building a new station that the township can't control. Mr. Costello said it is more cost saving to build it for the future now than to *add on* in the future. He said the trustees have independently stopped at fire stations throughout the state and encourages residents to stop and tour stations.

Anne Gosser, Smith Road, said we only want to do build this one time and something to facilitate not only for now but in the future.

Ms. Bowers said there is no question a better job needs to be done in getting information to the residents. Township trustees are not permitted to use any township resources to endorse, support or object to an issue.

Mr. Stan Pelka, Spencer Lake Road, asked why the trustees chose the August 2nd election. Ms. Bowers stated the following reasons:

- \$500,000.00 was available interest free until September 16, 2016- (a potential savings of approximately \$363,000.00)
- \$50,000.00 soft cost grant available that Lafayette Twp could apply for engineering
- Ms. Bowers met with 2 lenders who agreed that under the current complexion of the interest rates that they would guarantee our rate at 2% if we were under contract with them before October 1, 2016. The current rate is 3.925.
- Mr. Costello stated the architect stated construction costs could be bumped as much as 10% if waiting to build an additional year

- If the levy would have passed in August, construction could have taken place in 2017 and be under roof before inclement weather approached. Waiting until the November ballot, there is a slim chance of a 2017 construction build
- The levy is set to start collecting when the process starts and had the levy passed in August and been able to save the money, we would have rolled the levy back before it started to collect and collecting less and that was a goal. We have rolled back a police levy three times to collect only what is needed. An ambulance levy that has not collected for 13 years because we pay for the ambulance inside a program that we have inside our fire fund and we have it on a regular replacement basis.

There were nine separate news articles in the Gazette and Trading Post over the last 4 months to convey the special election and the information and the County Auditor sent a newsletter. The township trustees direct mailed a township newsletter that had information in it.

Ms. Bowers explained the lot the commissioners were willing to donate to the township is approximately 6 ½ acres and has sewer, water and cable. Mr. Fredericks took into consideration the placement of the new station on the lot to accommodate maneuvering the large fire engines and equipment. Ms. Bowers said the extra acres could be for future township development if needed. She explained that if the station would be developed on this site, the township can partner with the University Center for a variety of reasons of benefit to the township.

Ms. Bowers said the trustees are proud that Lafayette does not have any extra levies and they do everything they can to avoid going to the taxpayers. Residents have voiced concerns that they are in support of a new station but right before it went to ballot many were notified by the County that taxes will be increased. Ms. Bowers showed the residents a stack of professional studies that were completed over the past twelve years. The studies were specifically detailed to our township based on services provided, growth trends, the regulations required to abide by, etc. Ms. Bowers referred to a needs assessment for that time was an 18,000 square foot facility at a construction cost of \$3,185,000.00 for a four bay station and did not include the cost of commercial septic or extension of public sewer, site engineering, tap fees, permit fees, furnishings, telephone systems, inspections or the interest costs for 15 years. Recommendations of renovating the existing building included an addition of 12,115 square feet and bringing the current building up to code in 2010 would cost \$2,730,000.00 minus the above stated. Ms. Bowers was shocked that the 2010 proposal with significantly more square footage, more money once the above stated was added, was supported by the trustee who is now stating we shouldn't be doing what we are currently. Ms. Bowers said when we can't provide a humane environment for the staff to function in, they leave and go to other departments and we will continue to experience this in the future. Mr. Costello said approximately 34 states have a presumptive cancer law, the bill has passed the Senate in Ohio but has not been passed by the House where if a firefighter develops cancer and they have not been a smoker during their lifetime, the department is responsible for their medical bills. Mr. Costello said, "The bottom line is we have to improve the overall quality here".

Ms. Bowers explained the ways the trustees intend on paying the levy off and rolling it back as fast as they can.

Mr. Costello responded to Mr. Mark Albrecht, Spencer Lake Road, confirming the only plans that have been drawn up was the concept design that was placed on the website and in the paper.

Discussion was held regarding the fire department budget. Ms. Bowers clarified that Lafayette does not have a voted road levy and roads are allocated using inside millage out of general fund and explained inside millage and where it typically is placed.

The trustees will be hosting community discussion forums over the next couple months to gather community input regarding the proposed station and to inform about the facts regarding the levy.

New Business:

It was agreed to have a fire station question and answer session with the community at 7:00 pm after the September 19th Trustee meeting to help address the facts from fiction regarding the potential new fire station. Mr. Costello will invite Architect, Dan Frederick and the Village of Chippewa Lake. Ms. Bowers explained the Village of Chippewa Lake never succeeded from the township and pays the same taxes as all Lafayette residents in addition to the Village taxes and that the levy affects those residents too.

Announcements:

None

Public Participation:

None

7:40 p.m. Ms. Bowers made a motion to recess into executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22G1 for the purpose of discussing personnel employment promotion and compensation. Mr. Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Roll Call; Bowers-yes, Costello-yes, Macron-yes

8:01 p.m. Mr. Costello moved to adjourn executive session and reconvene to the Regular Meeting.

Roll Call: Macron-yes, Bowers-yes, Costello-yes

Mr. Costello made a motion to promote firefighter Chris Blair to Lieutenant commensurate with lieutenant pay. Ms. Bowers seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Mr. Costello made a motion to pay the warrants of the township. Seconded by Mr. Macron.

Mr. Costello moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Macron

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Approved: _____

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Bryon Macron, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer