

Minutes  
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 17, 2020

Members Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Martin Warchola, Fiscal Officer Laura Ruebensaal and Legal Counsel William Thorne.

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees, Medina County, Ohio met in Regular session on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Town Hall, 6776 Wedgewood Road, Medina, OH. Notice of this meeting was consistent with ORC 121.22 and the township's open meeting policy.

Meeting called to order: 6:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

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

**Trustee Warchola moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 13, 2020 Regular meeting. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

While watching the latest Chippewa Lake meeting via live stream, Trustee Bowers noted the consternation regarding when the Lafayette Township Trustee meetings were held. For the record Lafayette Township Board of Trustee regular meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. She explained July's trustee meeting date had been changed to accommodate a deadline on documents the Board had to review.

Mr. Schmock paid compliment to the township for the reduction in response time for fire department calls.

**Financial Report:**

Ms. Ruebensaal reported the financial report was submitted to the Board prior to the meeting for their review.

Trustee Bowers explained Ms. Ruebensaal took office on April 1, 2020 and was quarantined due to COVID-19, she then worked a few days and was again quarantined. Ms. Ruebensaal's husband works at a place with high exposure to COVID resulting in family quarantine. Trustee Bowers explained the former fiscal officer declined training Ms. Ruebensaal prior to COVID issues, nonetheless, Ms. Ruebensaal is training as much as possible now and is doing an excellent job.

Trustee Bowers explained wo funds that reflect what appears to be high balances had not been invested in order to keep funds liquid until the Board receives a response from the Division of Taxation. The Board is awaiting permission from the State of Ohio to transfer of funds from Road & Bridge Fund into General Fund. The Village of Chippewa Lake is an incorporated Village within the township with most of the inside millage being deposited into the Road & Bridge fund except for .04 mil in General Fund. Chippewa Lake is at their 10 mil limitation on their taxes without going to the ballot and that inside millage has to be placed in a fund that would not require Chippewa Lake Village going back for additional taxes. Once the anticipated \$400,000 transfer is complete, the remaining money will be invested.

The fire funds had been left liquid for the completion of the Safety Services Building. Trustee Bowers said approximately \$1 million has been paid ahead thus far. Ms. Ruebensaal confirmed once budget meetings take place and the Board has a better idea of the carryover of funds, any excess will be invested..

Ms. Ruebensaal has negotiated with Huntington Bank to reduce the monthly service charges by \$20/month, a savings of \$240/year.

Trustee Bowers will review the revenue status, compare it with the Certificate of Resources to evaluate the collections we will be receiving which is information necessary for budgeting purposes.

Ms. Ruebensaal confirmed there were no requisitions this evening.

**Service Department Report:**

Mr. Evans reported:

- The state has approved OPWC funds. Medina County Engineers is contemplating replacing culvert #17 on Carsten Road. Approximate cost \$188,000.00 with the township paying 26% which is an approximate cost of \$50,710.00. the project is slated for completion in 2021. Mr. Evans noted the guardrail on Carsten Road needs to be installed this year prior to the project due to the deteriorated condition
- Road inspections led to the repair of a significant hole under Ryan Road. Mr. Evans provided pictures and explained the process necessary to rectify the issue
- Waiting on estimate from the county for chip seal on Ryan, Eastlake & Ballash Roads for 2021. Mr. Evans will report back
- Mowing & mowing of roadsides continues
- Ditch enclosure on Egypt Road along with ditching on Carlton Road
- Replaced 12” culvert #9 with a 15” at the intersection of Lance & Egypt Roads,
- Installed two 24” driveway culverts on Ballash Road at owners’ expense
- Used approximately 200-ton fill dirt to expand the shoulder on Carsten Road to accommodate the guardrail for culvert #17 & 19 (see attachment). The funds to cover the guardrail will be taken from Permissive
- Replaced diamond shape concrete with asphalt in Hunter’s Run. Medina County Engineers were present during the repair and ensured the monument box was not disturbed. Mr. Evans said Hunter’s Run roads need attention.
- Broken telephone pole has been replaced by Frontier at the corner of Longacre & Lake Road. Mr. Evans informed Frontier of the downed poles/wires along Ballash Road
- Requested a temporary easement on the property at Lance & Smith Roads allowing a culvert under Lance Road to drain. The county will survey the area because water is causing erosion on the north headwall. Trustee Bowers requested Mr. Evans provide a drawing.
- Mr. Evans said the baseball fields have been neglected and the baseball league is requesting \$5,000 for ball field dirt to fix at least one field. Mr. Evans has agreed to oversee the project , noting this is the best time of year to bring in the dirt because waiting until spring the ground is too wet and will cause a huge mess.

**Trustee Bowers moved to approve the requisition for the ballfield complex not to exceed \$5,000.00, the replacement of culvert #17 on Carsten Road utilizing the OPWC funds, with the township assuming the 26% balance and the Carsten Road guardrails for the bid amount of \$12,123.75. Motion seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Review and discussion of the current road resolution (revised in 2008) took place. This resolution laid out the code for residential subdivision development. Lafayette Township does not allow for asphalt roads in any subdivision. Trustee Bowers explained the two-acre lot subdivisions do not look rural when utilizing cement. She and Road Supervisor, Rick Evans rode through several townships to access how asphalt looks and holds up. Montville and Sharon Townships road resolutions were provided for the Board to review the allowance for full depth asphalt roads, as an alternative within their rural subdivisions. Trustee Bowers

stated concrete roads being installed are to be a minimum 7” deep with the county inspecting the installation and developments within our township were installed not meeting the minimum requirement. The Board unanimously agreed when roads are being installed within our township the township will require our own inspector to evaluate the installation and to ensure they are done properly.

Trustee Bowers read a post a Lafayette resident posted. The resident said the residents have no control over all the development that is taking place in Lafayette. Trustee Bowers wanted to place on the record the development allowed in the township is based on a comprehensive plan that was done by the residents of the township. You cannot strip people of their right to develop but the township can control to some degree what it looks like.

Trustee Bowers drafted a new road resolution and forwarded to Mr. Evans for review. She gave a breakdown of the changes made.

**Resolution 15-2020 Trustee Warchola moved to approve a resolution adopting the road district as prescribed by Article 4 of the Medina County Engineering Code for residential subdivision development of Medina County, Ohio. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Fire Department Report:**

Chief Winkler submitted a written report and covered the more pertinent events.

On behalf of the department Chief Winkler thanked the Board of Trustees for their personal donation of fitness equipment.

Chief Winkler reported the Fire Association approved the proposal for the Fire Department as presented. He said the proposal included the township installing the memorial with the Association caring for the memorial from the installation forward, noting the installation is scheduled for this Friday.

**Trustee Costello made a motion to approve the proposal of the installation of the fire department memorial with the Fire Association maintaining as presented at the July Trustee Meeting. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Chief Winkler announced the resignations of Jennifer Koczur and Mark Jonscher from the fire department due to family obligations.

Chief Winkler informed the Board of Trustees the department is low on gear to assign out to new personnel. He explained some of the gear/helmets are nearing expiration and hiring additional personnel will require the purchase of additional gear/helmets. He will obtain quotes.

Chief Winkler has been working with Mitchell Communications addressing the siren at Station #2, Chippewa which is not operating at full capacity. Mitchell Communications said there is no reason to place the siren higher nor replace the pole. Mitchell Communications claims a direction antenna could be used with an approximate cost of \$847.70. This would make the siren operational and would be the 400MHz system. Chief Winkler is also in the process of obtaining quotes for updating the township sirens if/when the Legacy system is discontinued. Trustee Bowers suggested coordinating with the MARX system switch over. Chief Winkler confirmed that no timeline has been set for the sirens to be set off using the MARX system. Trustee Bowers noted the sirens are decades old and the purpose was for the sirens to alert individuals outside that inclement weather was imminent. Nowadays many individuals receive alerts on their phones, cell phones and television. Trustee Bowers said it would be up to the residents if they wish to have the outdoor sirens and should be done when the updated MARX system is complete.

Most paving has completed the sealing and striping at the Safety Service building. Chief Winkler complimented for the job well done.

The Fire Association is in the process of working in conjunction with the Chippewa Lake Lions Club on a residential Knox Box program. This is a loaner program allowing fire department access to a resident's home in the event of an emergency versus a forced entry. A key to the residence would be placed in a box located at the residence in which the fire department holds a universal key to the box. Trustee Bowers suggested Chief Winkler enlighten Ms. Detchon of the program so she can inform residents.

Chief Winkler is working on response times throughout the township and noted it has been a timely project. He said Chippewa Lake response times have drastically improved since last year at this same time and he believes this is due to station location, stating increased staffing has helped immensely. Daytime response is approximately two minutes faster and 14 minutes faster at night since last year. Trustee Bowers has been assessing how to continue funding full time staffing and is amazed at the number of residents that think Lafayette is volunteer department. The township spends on average \$250,000.00/annually on salaries and strives to staff 12 hours/day 7days/week based off personnel availability. When staffed, response time is exceptional, and she explained the township does not have the funding to staff 24 hours/day 7 days/week. The recent 24/hr staffing is because the township is utilizing the COVID relief reimbursement funds. Gloria Glens and Chippewa Lake used their COVID funds and assisted the township in acquiring equipment needed, this allowed the township to focus relief funds on the increased staffing. As the township receives calls on potential COVID cases it requires staff to additional time to don personal protective equipment which factors into response times and having immediate staffing helps off set the additional delay in response times. Trustee Bowers anticipates the relief funds to allow for the increased staffing through the end of October at which time the Board will need to re-evaluate. Trustee Bowers explained the township currently funds Fire and Rescue with two levies but technically has three. There is an ambulance levy that hasn't collected in many years and can only be used for ambulance. There is a permanent operating levy and the safety service building levy which has a remaining 13 years. The township paid ahead utilizing resources it had available to pay down the mortgage on the safety service building because the levy is tied to the mortgage, the sooner the levy is paid the faster the levy is completed. The permanent levy is an old levy that includes the state of Ohio's match for the homestead exemption and if renewed, the township will lose the match, increasing residents' taxes. Trustee Bowers said if the operations levy is renewed at its voted millage, it would take in all the new construction at current value and the township could eliminate the Safety Service building levy altogether, resulting in net tax decrease to the residents although it would be permanent. This would be a savings on average of \$200.00 and it would allow full time staffing. She said this would be an education process to explain to the residents. This levy would be complete at the end of the thirteen years. The earliest this could go to ballot is November 2021 and that would allow time to educate residents and this is a decision the voters would make. The Board agrees keeping full time staffing saves lives and consideration should be given. The Board agrees to introduce the information in the next newsletter and encourage resident feedback.

Chief Winkler explained the fire department's 31-year-old zodiac boat has several issues including taking on water. He learned this model of boat is no longer manufactured which will make replacement parts near impossible. The regional salesperson from Birch said he didn't feel it was worthwhile to invest any more money into this boat as it would be an ongoing effort. Trustee Costello explained the boat is in the sun 7/days/week which is extremely hard on especially the rubber parts on the boat and if looking to replace the boat he suggests something non-inflatable. Chief Winkler said the department still has the john boat (without a motor) and the Dell Quay. Chief Winkler was told the Dell Quay is a 15hp motor and it would need a 25hp and he is willing to obtain quotes on both new and used motors. Discussion took place and Trustee Bowers requested Chief Winkler put together a recommendation along with the necessary supporting information and she would then present to different organizations that support such efforts. Trustee Costello recommended Chief reach out to Chuck Stiver and receive his input as well.

Mr. Alan Robbins, Village of Chippewa Lake introduced new Council member, Tamatha Sorgey. Mr. Robbins thanked the Board of Trustees for allowing input during the selection process for the hiring of the Fire Chief.

Mr. Robbins said approximately \$42 to \$44, 000 has been allocated from the Cares Act for the COVID Relief Funds for the acquisition of needed equipment for the fire department. The paperwork has been submitted to Allan Michaelson and Mr. Thorne confirmed he has not received it thus far. The Board thanked Chippewa Lake noting the assistance with the equipment allowed the township to utilize their funds to cover additional staffing. Mr. Robbins stated there will be verbiage in the contract that states the Village has no right to take the equipment nor pay for it which will protect both entities. Chief Winkler said the funds will allow the department to purchase two LUCAS devices which are mechanical CPR devices that allow personnel to perform CPR without touching a patient helping reduce t exposure and possible prevention of COVID. These devices also provide consistent and better outcomes from manual CPR and cost approximately \$14,000.00/each. The Village is in the process of acquiring two Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, SCBA utilizing the funds with a cost of approximately \$7,000/each. This acquisition will provide respiratory protection for emergency personnel while assisting COVID positive patients.

Mr. Robbins said conversation still needs to occur regarding the weather sirens and he noted this is an important issue to Mayor Dodaro and President Council, Mr. Keith Riedel. Mr. Robbins said the sound from other sirens is faintly heard. He thanked Chief Winkler for his hard work and dedication to rectifying the issue and noted that last report the siren worked and believes it's a radio frequency issue.

Discussion regarding the future of Chippewa Lake Station #2 took place. Chief Winkler said the County Water Recue Dive team is interested in the building and provided a lengthy list of items they wish to see fixed/repaired. Trustee Bowers said the township will be preparing for budget in October and invited the Village's participation and input.

Mr. Robbins said Chief Winkler has done an outstanding job keeping them apprised of response times. He agrees that when the station is fully staffed day/night, response times are drastically improved. Chief Winkler confirmed he was shocked at the difference in the response times.

Mr. Riedel reiterated the importance of informing the residents of the drastic increase in response times and the response times are not related to staffing at the Chippewa Station. Trustee Bowers said that station is and always will be no more than a volunteer response and even housing equipment will not increase response times and would make for decrease in response time. Trustee Bowers request the Village inform the Village residents, so they understand the information and offered assistance in doing so. Mr. Robbins said at this time he has the information needed.

Mr. Robbins inquired on the training and ongoing training the fire department receives regarding the pipeline and how it relates to the police department. Chief Winkler will report back.

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club hosts the annual Polar Plunge which the fire department has been a part of for the past ten years. The event is in the planning phase with precautions to COVID being reviewed. The fire department uses this event as a cold-water training for the department. The Lions Club provides the insurance for the event and the fire department participation is mandatory for safety reasons in order to obtain park approval.

The Board of Trustees confirmed there have been no changes to the shared services agreement between the Village of Chippewa Lake and the township. Mr. Evans will be forwarding the agreement to the Village.

**Zoning Report:**

Ms. Strogin has returned from a short medical leave and is doing remarkably well. Ms. Strogin informed that the information on the few reports has been accurate however, the spread sheet was not tallying the totals. This month's report reflects the correction. For the month of July 2020, the total estimated value to date is \$8,057,891.80 with 2019 at \$5,816,192.00. The fees to date are \$20,911.00 with a total in 2019 at \$16,050.65. For all of 2019 there were approximately 9 homes versus 19 new homes thus far for 2020 with an additional four permits turned into today. An additional 200 permits have been ordered due to the volume of permit requests.

**Community Resource:**

Trustee Bowers said Community Resource Officer, Kim Detchon is requesting a meeting with the Board of Trustees sometime before October to discuss budget and documents for the 2021 Safety Town. The Board confirmed the annual Halloween event this year has been cancelled due to COVID. Chief Winkler is unsure if the annual Visit from Santa will take place. Trustee Costello suggested dropping the gifts on a porch and wave to the children through the window. Chief Winkler will report back.

**Economic Development:**

None

**Cemetery:**

None

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

The clean up day voucher program has ended. Approximately 75 vouchers were requested and just over 40 vouchers were redeemed. Ms. Buell received positive feedback and believes if this program continues to be offered annually additional vouchers will be requested by residents.

Medina County Prosecutor's Office filed for the Opioid funds on behalf of Lafayette Township.

**Resolution 14-2020 Trustee Bowers moved to approve a resolution to authorize the filing of a government opioid claimant proof of claim against Purdue Pharma, L.P., and other related debtors in chapter 11 bankruptcy case 19-23649 (RDD) effective July 28, 2020. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Trustee Bowers filed a public record request with the county requesting every rate increase that the Central Processing Facility has had since the county commissioners shut it down and has gone to contract. The Board has received numerous complaints regarding the fees at the Medina County Solid Waste District. Trustee Bowers summarized the response received from the county. Trustee Bowers is going to submit another public record request tomorrow to seek additional clarification on pricing. Trustee Bowers explained there was a personal conflict of interest between a commissioner and the gentleman that held the contract. That particular commissioner made it his mission to rid the contract all without having a plan in place. Commissioner Geissman objected to the decision and wanted to remain unless until the county had another plan. Commissioner Geissman ultimately was out voted and the Central Process Facility closed. Everyone told the facility would operate more efficient under contract and the rates have tripled if not quadrupled. Trustee Bowers noted that Commissioner Geissman is still a board member who was not responsible for the change, Commissioners Swedyk and Hutson were not commissioners at the time the decisions had been made. She said it is now their responsibility to fix the issue. Residents are complaining

to local officials and it is the Commissioners responsibility. She said it makes no sense to have a facility that charges more than curbside pick-up.

Trustee Bowers made a motion to pay the warrants of the township.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynda Bowers, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Costello, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Warchola, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer

**Resolutions & Motions**

**Trustee Warchola moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 13, 2020 Regular meeting. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Trustee Bowers moved to approve the requisition for the ballfield complex not to exceed \$5,000.00, the replacement of culvert #17 on Carsten Road utilizing the OPWC funds, with the township assuming the 26% balance and the Carsten Road guardrails for the bid amount of \$12,123.75. Motion seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Resolution 15-2020 Trustee Warchola moved to approve a resolution adopting the road district as prescribed by Article 4 of the Medina County Engineering Code for residential subdivision development of Medina County, Ohio. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Trustee Costello made a motion to approve the proposal of the installation of the fire department memorial with the Fire Association maintaining as presented at the July Trustee meeting. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Resolution 14-2020 Trustee Bowers moved to approve a resolution to authorize the filing of a government opioid claimant proof of claim against Purdue Pharma, L.P., and other related debtors in chapter 11 bankruptcy case 19-23649 (RDD) effective July 28, 2020. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**