

Minutes  
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 21, 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, September 21, 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.

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

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

**Trustee Warchola moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 17, 2020 Regular meeting and the Special meeting of August 27, 2020. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Financial Report:**

Ms. Ruebensaal reported:

Line 2272 of the Fund balance, the COVID relief fund, does not reflect the second distribution that was received in September in the amount of \$29,556.81. Today the township received the amended Certificate of Resources in the amount of \$4,237.00.

Ms. Ruebensaal asked if the Board wishes to remain with the Columbia Gas budget plan of \$330.00. Trustee Bowers asked if the Board would be willing to hold off payment until the Board reviews and discusses further.

The board instructed Ms. Ruebensaal to pay the extended Great Lakes Portables invoice for August & September out of service. The agreement had been extended due to COVID.

**Resolution 17-2020 Trustee Bowers moved to approve the agreement for services of the Lafayette Township Service Department with the Village of Chippewa Lake. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

**Resolution 18-2020 Trustee Bowers moved to approve the resolution authorizing Lafayette Township to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or local transportation improvement program(s) and to execute contracts as required and authorizing the chairman of the Board to execute all of the documents. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Ms. Ruebensaal inquired if the Board wished to continue the OPEC funding plan which would continue the \$4,000.00 for payment for healthcare. Trustee Bowers explained it is necessary and had been previously approved.

Ms. Ruebensaal had been instructed to hold off payment on the ComDoc invoice and was wondering if she should pay the current invoice. Chief Winkler said he dropped off a revised invoice from ComDoc and placed on Ms. Ruebensaal's desk. Ms. Ruebensaal did not receive them as she was not in the office today. Chief said if the copies he dropped off are not what she is looking for to contact him.

Ms. Ruebensaal inquired if the Board wished to have a hearing regarding the liquor control permits. Trustee Bowers said there are only certain items the township can be object to such as excessive law enforcement calls to an establishment, if the establishment is within so many feet of a church or school, etc. and there isn't anything in the township that could object to. She said the notice is informing the township of the establishments that need to renew. The Goodman Corner Cupboard Liquor Permit will be signed and submitted.

Trustee Bowers explained the township has received \$88,670.43 in COVID relief funds and anticipates a new bill to pass giving additional funds.

Trustee Bowers has reviewed the costs from 2019/2020 for the Chippewa Lake Station #2. The costs are averaging \$10,000.00 with utilities, insurance, etc. and that amount of money translates to approximately 600 hours of staffing. She said she wished the Village of Chippewa Lake representatives were present at this evenings meeting to further discuss. Due to the Village's concerns, the township has been evaluating in depth, all aspects of the station and will have discussion with township legal counsel to discuss recommendations for the future of the station.

Trustee Bowers forwarded Mr. Thorne information regarding dispatch fees. She said dispatch fees now exceeded what would be one month of fulltime staffing. Trustee Bowers gave the following explanation: Years back one of the county commissioners approached townships and requested payment for dispatch fees because there was an expense that needed to be covered with Lafayette Township objecting. The statute states the county commissioners fund the operations of the sheriff's office. All taxpayers pay taxes collected by the county commissioners for the purposes of what they must fund including the sheriff's office. Past Sheriff, Neil Hassinger wrote in the contract between Lafayette Township and the sheriff's department that the contract already included dispatch fees. The county administrator and the sheriff had a conversation with the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and said they were now going to be charged dispatched fees. Trustee Bowers said the fees equate to one month of staffing and she has requested Mr. Thorne review the information and to diligently look at the 911 funding. The sheriff's department may or may not be responsible for dispatching fire and rescue, they are certainly responsible for dispatching for 911 and are compensated \$380,000.00/annually for doing so. She gave notice to the County Prosecutor the Board may send a letter requesting he review the issue as well. Trustee Bowers was told this could possibly be double taxation if the residents are paying taxes and then paying the invoice as well. Therefore, the Board agreed to have the prosecutor review.

The tax commissioner has already heard a case regarding the transfer of funds, identical to Lafayette Township's case. The inside millage is going to have to continue to go to Road and Bridge with the difference being, now it cannot be transferred out of the fund unless there is a

legislative fix. Trustee Bowers said the township cannot continue to have the funds to accumulate in the fund and not be able to use them for anything else. The legislators are going to review. In the meantime, Trustee Bowers is not concerned and will work with Ms. Ruebensaal to make the necessary adjustments. She noted any changes will need to be documented well. Mr. Thorne explained there is approximately a month to appeal but doesn't feel an appeal will come to fruition.

**Service Report:**

Mr. Evans reported:

- Carsten Road guardrail #17 has been approved and is requesting culvert #19 guardrail be approved.

**Trustee Bowers made a motion to approve the culvert replacement with Cuyahoga Fence LLC. in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

- Service Department performed ditching and ditch enclosures on Park Lake Drive and Brookshore Drive, Chippewa Lake and payment has already been received. Trustee Bowers reminded Mr. Evans Chippewa Lake must request work in writing so there are no questions regarding the scope of work. Mr. Evans sent an email to the Village requesting residents be asked to place markers along their property. There are no curbs in the Village, and this will help with the prevention of property being disturbed when the plows push snow. He noted that when there is a complete white blanket of snow, it is difficult for the road men to decipher where the roadsides begin and end
- Replaced the stolen parking and speed limit signs in Hunter's Run. The speed limit sign had been replaced the speed limit sign with a 20mph construction speed limit sign. It was noted for the record this was an illegal action and It was recommended Mr. Evans file a police report
- Cleaned graffiti off the new guardrail on Egypt Road

The Board accepted the remainder of the service department report as submitted. An email was received from ODOT this afternoon informing the township that Route 162 will be closed between Route 42 and Lance Roads for thirty days starting October 5, 2020 for a culvert replacement. Trustee Bowers said Lafayette Township closes a road for approximately 3 days for a culvert replacement, so she contacted ODOT to confirm if the closure would be for the full thirty days or a period during the thirty days. She was informed the road will be closed for the full thirty days and possibly longer pending weather. Trustee Bowers will send notification to the residents.

Mr. Evans said two quotes have been received for the new placement of the electrical reels in the Safety Service Building. One quote was received from Ron Pfaff Electric for \$6350.00 and another quote received from J&B Electric in the amount of \$4400.00. Chief Winkler said the current location of the reels necessitates being pulled across the apparatus and the isle. This is causing damage on both the apparatus and the electrical reels which has already resulted in an electrical issue with the squad and he recommends relocating all twelve reels at the same time. McCall Sharp has reimbursed \$1500.00 toward the relocation of the reels.

**Trustee Warchola moved to approve the J&B Electrical Contractors LLC quote in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the relocation of the electrical reels in the Safety Services Building. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.** Trustee Bowers said the amount can come out of building maintenance.

**Zoning Report:**

Ms. Strogin reported the zoning fees have increased 175% thus far compared to all of 2019 with the estimated values at a 200% increase.

**Police Report:**

The Board accepted the written report as submitted.

**Fire Report:**

The Board agreed to accept the fire report as written.

Chief Winkler reported Adam Nilson has completed Firefighter I training and Tara Powell is doing well in medic school.

- Publically thanked the service department for their assistance in and around the new building. Trustee Bowers said the grounds look great and although it is in the county setback it is the responsibility of the township to maintain and it is important to the township in how it looks
- Received the ice machine from Westfield Company
- Chief Winkler requested Board permission to fill the two vacant officer positions. He explained he would make all candidates submit a resume with cover letter, meet the qualifications, it would involve a written test and interview with the chief and potentially three fire (retired) chiefs from other departments to conduct a panel interview. Chief would then present the candidates for Board approval next month. The current interim officer will need to follow the process as well. Chief has a minimal qualification list but forgot to bring it this evening. Chief Winkler confirmed attendance at trainings has been well over all. Many department members are taking a self-initiative approach with training.
- Chief Winkler said both Lucas devices have been delivered and a training is scheduled this Thursday evening. Any member unable to attend will be trained in house. Next month extrication training will take place.
- Two issues occurred Thursday, a member struck the bollard outside of the building with 101-1. This incident is under investigation. Thursday evening 101-3 had a transmission issue resulting in needing towed to Parkers. He believes the fix is an electrical issue with the power lead and anticipates hearing back within the next day.

Trustee Bowers received an email from the Medina County Health Department. They are in the early phase of exploring points of distribution for drive thru vaccination clinics and testing. The Health Department would like to know if the township is interested in having the Safety Service Building evaluated as a distribution site. Chief Winkler said his only concern would be if the department receives a call during one of the “clinics” and personnel/apparatus are trying to exit the grounds while individuals are entering, could be a potential safety issue. Trustee Bowers said one option would be to use the temporary emergency driveway during the specified time. It was agreed upon to have the Health Department to conduct the evaluation and Trustee Bowers will forward Chief’s contact information to the Health Department. Chief Winkler said the State Medical Director, Carol Cunningham, sent notice clarifying paramedics can now administer vaccinations and flu shots due to the shortage of healthcare workers. He explained that is technically outside of the departments scope of practice in general but qualifies under a pandemic.

Assistant Chief Holzman reported hose testing is nearing completion and the department will be checking for fire hydrant visibility. He requests if anyone sees a hydrant in need of attention to please let the department know.

Ms. Buell received a letter of resignation from Mr. Bill McDonald and the Board accepted the resignation. Trustee Warchola received an email from Mr. McDonald stating that if his services are needed in the future, he would be available to hire back.

**Community Resource Report:**

The Board agreed to continue scheduling the 2021 Safety Town in the event COVID does not prevent it from occurring. Ms. Detchon said everything is complete and ready to move forward except for purchasing the materials and anticipates introducing the program in early May 2021. Trustee Bowers said a grant had been received to cover the purchases needed for safety town. Ms. Detchon spoke with Rebecca Byrne, Montville Township and relayed the township is invited to join the MCPAL group and participate in the Shop with a Cop program this holiday season. Trustee Costello requested Ms. Detchon see how the fire department can get involved.

Chief Winkler said the annual visit from Santa will be discussed at the October Fire Association meeting and he will gather the information and report back.

Lafayette Township will follow Medina City and hold trick-or-treating on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A delinquent tax foreclosure has been received for a parcel of property on Egypt Road. The Board agreed to have the fiscal officer send a notice in.

Trustee Bowers gave an explanation regarding the Medina County Solid Waste Management Plan Update Ratification.

**Resolution 20-2020 Trustee Bowers moved to approve the Medina County Solid Waste Management District's Amended Draft Solid Waste Management Plan as presented. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Discussion took place regarding the number of residents calling the township to voice displeasure with the Medina County Solid Waste District and the inaccuracy of pricing. Trustee Bowers has spoken to numerous residents and has been told since the Central Processing Facility has closed, the cost to dispose of trash has tripled if not quadrupled. Residents have been told by Waste District personnel that a reason for the increase is because the facility is trying hard to force curbside pick-up within the communities. Trustee Bowers said Lafayette Township is at the mercy of the facility.

Ms. Buell stated the Board previously made a motion for the purchase of a new copier for the administrative office. It was determined to hold off and continue using the copier until such time that parts could no longer be obtained or serviced. Ms. Buell explained the toner in the copier is becoming lighter and lighter. She had been informed the last time she placed an order for toner that was the last available. The Board instructed Ms. Buell and Ms. Ruebensaal to work together to obtain quotes for a new copier.

**7:15 p.m. Trustee Bowers moved to recess into executive session pursuant to 121.22G1 of the Ohio Revised Code for the purposes of discussing personnel hiring, firing, discipline and 121.22G2 of the Ohio Revised Code for the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property pursuant to 505.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and 121.22G3 for a conference with our attorney for the public body concerning a dispute involving the public body which is the subject of imminent court action.**

**Roll Call Vote: Costello- yes, Bowers-yes, Warchola-yes.**

**8:25 p.m. Trustee Bowers moved to reconvene the regular meeting**

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

**Resolution 19-2020 Trustee Bowers made a motion, seconded by Trustee Costello to adopt resolution 19-2020, a resolution pursuant to House Bill 481 making certain appropriations in compliance with the expenditure of corona virus relief distributions. All voting in favor, motion passed.**

**As there was no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

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

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Lynda Bowers, Trustee

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Michael Costello, Trustee

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Martin Warchola, Trustee

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Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer

## **RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS**

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