

Minutes  
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Special Meeting  
Monday, September 28, 2020

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

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees, Medina County, Ohio met in special session on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.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: 9:03 a.m.  
Roll call- Warchola-yes, Bowers- yes, Costello- yes

Discussion took place concerning the 30-day detour needed for the replacement of a culvert on State Route 162 with the Ohio Department of Transportation.

**Trustee Bowers made a motion accepting the agreement covering the use of county/township/city/village streets for maintenance purposes, culvert replacement on State Route 162. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Mr. Evans requested permission for the hiring of Mr. Tyler Mills at a rate of \$17.00/hr. with the agreement it is necessary he obtain his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) within 90 days of date of hire. Mr. Evans will find out the process in obtaining the CDL due to COVID restrictions.

**Trustee Warchola made a motion to approve hiring Tyler Mills per Mr. Evans recommendation at a rate of \$17.00/hr. with the agreement it is necessary he obtain his Commercial Driver's License within 90 days (with possible 6 month extension if necessary due to COVID) of date of hire in conjunction with a 90-day probation period, once probation period is complete he will be eligible for township benefits. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Ms. Martha Evans explained the township insurance renewal is due October 21, 2020. She has met with Fire Chief Winkler and Service Supervisor, Rick Evans to review/update inventory, etc. Ms. Evans explained there were numerous items that needed to be placed/removed from the policy. She sent in the necessary changes and the insurance is expected to increase from \$38,000.00 to between \$42,000-\$45,000.00. Ms. Evans explained the price differences will depend on the deductible chosen. Trustee Bowers requested the board review the information, as this will impact the budget and the board will address at the October Trustee meeting.

Ms. Evans said she is concerned with the lack of monies in the General Fund due to the denial received from the Ohio Department of Taxation concerning the transfer of funds. She made clear she is unable to continue to operate without funds in the General Fund. Ms. Evans said there are monies in both cemetery and zoning which are funded by General Fund, other than the fees collected. Ms. Evans inquired whether the township can transfer the excess in both funds to

General Fund and if so, notification will be sent to the Auditor's office via the Certificate of Resources. Trustee Bowers said these were not separate funds until the township separated it to track. Trustee Bowers said income should always go into the General Fund and is not sure why it has not been done. Mr. Thorne understands that if you create line item you can transfer. Ms. Evans will work with the State Auditor and Mr. Thorne to ensure proper procedure in the transfer.

**Trustee Bowers made a motion to do the necessary steps to move excess funds from the cemetery and zoning into General Fund where it should appropriately be. Trustee Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

Trustee Bowers requested Ms. Evans ensure that moving forward, income goes into the General Fund, as the board appropriates for cemetery and zoning based on the need.

**9:17 a.m. Trustee Bowers moved to recess into executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel promotion and discipline pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22G1.**

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

**9:38 a.m. Trustee Bowers moved to reconvene the regular meeting**

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

Trustees discussed everything the board has considered regarding the Chippewa Lake station and it seems to fall appropriately under Emergency Management. Staffing out of the new Safety Service building and responding to the Village, has a significantly faster response time versus a volunteer response from the Chippewa station. It would not make sense to go backwards in providing a lesser service to the Village. It makes sense to provide safety services that benefit the township as a whole, and specifically the Village, like in water rescue services that have been discussed. These types of services are more appropriately housed under Emergency Management. Considering the additional information, trustees are working to maintain full-time staffing with the current funding available, now that we have had it for a period of time due to COVID-19. Relief from the utilities, maintenance, insurance, etc. on the Chippewa Station could give the township arguably an additional 700 hours of staffing. Ms. Bowers reported Emergency Management, preparing to build a building, has a pretty substantial grant available and while the Chippewa Station is not likely what they would purchase or even chose with the funding available, they have looked at it and believe they can make the building serviceable for the agency. They are willing to entertain a deed restriction stating the facility and the property must remain for public safety use to the benefit of the taxpayers of the county. Trustee Bowers said, "One place I think elected officials often fail is wanting to control everything. Maybe we need to control that building. I think the people we represent are better served by letting somebody control the building who can provide good services with it and free up township funding to provide the services needed for township residents". Trustee Bowers indicated if there is a consensus to pursue this direction, we could ask Chief Winkler to work with the EMA board and trustees would need to communicate with officials of the Village of Chippewa Lake so they have a complete understanding of the Boards concerns and rationale. It was noted that the property was gifted to Lafayette Township from a private agency in 1967 for the purposes of safety services and this continued important use would honor that gift, having the property remain in safety services, having the EMA as a way do to so.

Trustee Costello is on the EMA Board and mentioned the idea. EMA is interested in the idea but this is not what they would have chosen because it is not able to house all equipment that would have gone into a building that they would have built in the future. The EMA is interested in housing the water rescue and mobile command, All Hazards and SWAT will remain in their current locations until such time they can build a building large enough to incorporate everything. This could also give the EMA space to be a regional distribution center for personal protective equipment for the entire county. After discussion, the Board requested Mr. Thorne review the proper procedure in donating the property in a way that would protect it now and in the future, as it will be used for safety service. Mr. Thorne said it can be donated to the Medina County Commissioners with deed restrictions much the same as commissioners did when donating the land to the township for the safety services building. Trustee Costello said it would make sense to donate to the commissioners because they donated property in which the safety service building was built. Returning the favor, giving the commissioners property no longer needed by the township but able to serve the residents in another way, is a show of good faith and cooperation for the benefit of all the residents. The board agreed to Trustee Bowers approaching Medina County Administrator, Scott Miller to discuss. The Board will then meet and discuss at a future date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.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:**

**Trustee Bowers made a motion accepting the agreement covering the use of county/township/city/village streets for maintenance purposes, culvert replacement on State Route 162. Trustee Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.**

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