

Minutes  
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Special Meeting  
Friday, June 19, 2015

**Meeting called to order:** 3:30 p.m..

**Members Present:** Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Bryon Macron, Trustee Michael Costello, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey, Secretary Kim Buell, William Kramer PhD, Resident Dave Hollish

Mr. Costello stated being the Fire Department Liaison and with the township looking into the possibility of building a new fire department within the next year or two, the overall services that are currently offered with the potential of increasing those services, along with making changes within the department, he felt it would be a good idea to bring a third party service to present their services which could potentially help in making some of the decisions.

Mr. Costello gave a brief history since he was hired nine years ago. He said when he was hired; the department had only a single person Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm. Over the past nine years staffing has increased to three people, 12 hours a day, and seven days a week. The department currently reviews response times regularly and those times vary depending on the time of day and staffing.

Mr. Costello thought it would be advantageous to have an analysis from a third party regarding all aspects of the fire department. Mr. Costello has knowledge of another fire department using this third party service and they have had success. The outcome from that departments report resulted in several changes taking place including; implementing process changes, response improvements, and streamlining operations. Mr. Costello feels with the potential to increase what the Lafayette Fire Department currently does, along with the possibility of a new station, now is the time to have presentations and receive evaluations. Going forward, the department will have more knowledge of both short and long term goals regarding the changes the township would like to make and implement. Mr. Costello thinks with the education and experience that Dr. Kramer, with Kramer and Associates, has he can offer insight and recommendations on the changes and processes we would like to impose. Dr. Kramer was appointed the number one fire protection consultant for all NASA administered fire protection facilities.

Dr. Kramer thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to explain his services. Dr. Kramer stated Kramer and Associates is registered with the State of Ohio and six other states. The company assists in:

- Optimally locating and constructing fire and EMS stations,
- Merging fire and EMS departments; Creation of new Fire Districts
- Converting from volunteer to on-duty paid departments, while retaining a viable role for members who wish to continue volunteering
- Financial planning and gaining government grants for local communities
- Gaining standardization and quality control

Dr. Kramer then presented a more in depth overview of services he offers, an approximation of the costs associated with the analysis and went over sample reports. He then said he could give a projection of how much money could be saved in the future, using the services of a third party

resource. Mr. Kramer said some his clients are struggling with Community Para-medicine where paramedics make house calls preventing visits to the emergency room. Ms. Bowers explained to Dr. Kramer that Lafayette Township petitioned the State of Ohio for a change in the statutes to allow community para-medicine across the State of Ohio and we received it. Ms. Bowers explained there is an Akron University Center located in the middle of Lafayette Township and it provides fire and rescue and paramedic training. Mr. Costello did a survey on the county to review where the “training dollars” are going and how much was being spent. The University Centers receive a lot of free equipment from medical companies allowing the students to train on their specific equipment with the hope that when students enter the private sector they are comfortable and familiar with the equipment and make recommendations for purchase. Ms. Bowers said the township is looking to create a synergistic relationship with the University Center and have the opportunity to provide community para-medicine and expand the relationship with our med control at the Cleveland Clinic. Ms. Bowers said it is important for Dr. Kramer to know because Lafayette Township is in the process of applying for an innovation fund. Dr. Kramer said, “The township residents and visitors of Lafayette Township, in my opinion, will be the recipients of better service with a much more cost effective delivery resulting in more services for their buck”. Mr. Costello stated he has contacts in all four corners of the State of Ohio and he keeps in touch exchanging many ideas regarding paramedics and fire and rescue.

Ms. Bowers stated, “If we are in the process of implementing a community para-medicine program, along with the possibility of building a new fire station, it only makes sense to put forth the effort now, ensuring that we are getting as much as we can and that it will service Lafayette Township for the next fifty years”.

Resident, Dave Hollish questioned when building a new fire station will all the information that was presented be incorporated in this third party plan. Mr. Costello said we are locked into retaining the Chippewa Lake Station because of several factors, one being the contract with the Village, the flooding that occurs and the railroad track that dissects the township. It was clarified that the intent is to keep a station on both sides. Ms. Bowers said we cannot make any improvements without additional funds and if we need to ask the residents to help fund the improvements, we need to approach them with a solid plan. Ms. Bowers said we have one chance to do this right and the trustees want to do all the homework to get the plan just right.

Dr. Kramer will forward a list of references for his services, including names and phone numbers. He thanked everyone for the invitation to present his information and stated if he can be of further assistance just give a call.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Costello received two quotes (one from B&B Auto and the other from South of the Square) from Chief Hall for the damage to 104 that was involved in the accident last week. Mr. Costello will forward them to Ms. Bailey in an e-mail.

Ms. Bailey gave Ms. Bowers the tax budget and requested the trustees review it before she forwards it to the commission. Ms. Bowers said we the trustees have already approved it, it just needs reviewed. Ms. Bailey said it needs to be mailed out by June 20, 2015. Ms. Bowers does not anticipate any changes stating it is right to the certificate of resources and can be amended if need be.

Ms. Bailey received a report from the insurance company that needs completed due to the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Bailey has to break the report down as to how many employees work 30 hours or more per week, or 120 hours or more per month. Discussion was held how to rectify the number of hours an employee works per week/month.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

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

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Lynda Bowers, Trustee

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Bryon Macron, Trustee

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Michael Costello, Trustee

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Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer