

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Monday, June 29, 2015

Meeting called to order: 4:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Bowers stated over the past year Mr. Costello has done extensive research on community paramedicine programs around the State of Ohio and Assistant Chief Winters has been extremely helpful in providing information and has taken very intensive training. Ms. Bowers said Lafayette Township has put off building a new fire station for nearly 20 years and now we are definitely in need of a new station. Ms. Bowers said the hope was to utilize Technology Park/Innovation Park to help us reach our goal and unfortunately it hasn't. In building a new facility, "it is important to get as much bang for our buck as we can for our residents". There has been talk of a community paramedicine program milling around the state for many years. The trustees felt if we were going to pursue paramedicine we needed to provide a space in our new facility to do so and the dilemma became do we sit and wait or move forward. Mr. Macron collected a lot of design information and Mr. Costello collected information on medical protocol. The trustees, individually have met with Dr. Vrobel, the Cleveland Clinic, the University of Akron. Ms. Bowers met with Senator Larry Obhof and Steve Hambley requesting they put together a pilot program, on a bill, allowing Lafayette Township to do community paramedicine. The Ohio Legislature also believes this is an excellent program not only passing it for Lafayette Township but state wide. Senator Bill Seitz, in Cincinnati, joined quickly and ended up carrying the bill along with Senator John Ecklund out of Munson Township. Ms. Bowers stated, "Although Senator Larry Obhoff did not specifically carry the bill, we know if not for his efforts, this would not have happened at this time and for that we are extremely thankful to him".

Ms. Bowers said community paramedicine is in the budget bill, amended substitute House Bill 64, which is at the Governor's office and will hopefully be signed within the next couple days. Once the Governor signs it, ninety days from signature, the community paramedicine will be allowed everywhere in the State of Ohio. There is a lot of work that needs to take place including work on a design and work on protocols determining how that will help our community.

Mr. Costello publically thanked the Cleveland Clinic and Dr. Vrobel for their support and assistance in this endeavor. Dr. Vrobel, with the Cleveland Clinic, has been instrumental, submitting letters of support in favor of this program. Mr. Costello feels this gesture may have been influential in getting the bill passed at the state level.

Mr. Costello explained paramedicine, which allows fire department members to go to residents homes on a nonemergency basis and perform checkups. Checkups could include hypertension checks- making regular checks on blood pressure, congestive heart failure- listening to lung sounds and ensuring that it is not going into exacerbation, diabetes- check blood sugars, etc. The goal of the program is to provide regular checkups keeping the residents health in a more stable condition preventing emergencies from occurring, which in turn would lower the number of transports to the hospital and number of hospitalizations and improve the overall general health and wellbeing of the residents.

Mr. Costello has three goals with this program in Lafayette Township and they are as follows:

- Better patient care coordination that will involve the fire department, the patient, the hospital and potentially the patients physician
- Preventing hospital admissions due to chronic illness
- Reducing the nonemergency 911 calls and non-emergent patient transports

Chief Hall stated that not only will this assist the residents of the township medically but could assist them by identifying other safety hazards in or near the home for example, tripping hazards for the elderly.

Assistant Chief Winters said a benefit of having a community paramedicine program allows certified EMT's to visit patient homes and provide non emergent care, treatment and follow up that coincides with a patient care plan. EMT's will periodically visit or call patients at their home who are enrolled in the community paramedicine program. EMS providers will work closely with the patient's physician, and the hospital medical director to assist the patient in following their care plan. There are four areas of service provided by the program, patient assessment, treatment intervention, referrals, prevention and public health. The goal of the Lafayette Township Fire Department Community Paramedicine Program is to improve the health of individuals and our community, reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits, reduce healthcare costs, provide safety consulting services to identify health and safety hazards in the home, help reduce the risk of fire and traumatic injury and illness. In addition, offer instruction on CPR and first aid. Assistant Chief Winters thanked the community for the overwhelming, continued support, the dedicated staff of the fire department for embracing and supporting change. He thanked the Lafayette Board of Trustees for embracing the program and the hours they spent to encourage and promote the required language change to the Ohio Revised Code, thanked the State Legislators for listening, supporting and passing the program provision that was included in House Bill 64, he thanked the many committee members, medical directors and associations including the Ohio Fire Chief's Association, the Ohio EMS Board, Dr. Matt Vrobel and Deanna Harris for the dedication and countless hours of hard work justifying and expressing the need for community paramedicine in the State of Ohio. Researching and collecting information from community paramedicine programs already in operation throughout the United States. Assistant Chief Winters stated, "Lafayette Township looks forward to working together with all of you as we begin our innovative journey into community paramedicine".

Mr. Macron said we are not looking to replace doctors, nurses, hospitals we are looking to provide a service to our residents who can't or may not have the ability to get necessary services.

Dr. Matt Vrobel thanked Lafayette Township for being interested in the paramedicine program and said it is unique for Lafayette Township to step forward and ask for the program. Dr. Vrobel said this is an opportunity for EMS and Fire to prevent concerns before they become an emergency, in turn helping reduce medical costs. He said this is a tremendous opportunity for the Cleveland Clinic and Medina to partner with Lafayette Township. Ms. Bowers said, "This was a really, really complicated team effort and there were different people who carried the ball at different times and I have to tell you, it was awesome to sit in different arenas in Columbus, showing them that one of the most respected hospitals in the nation were supporting us in this. It made a big difference in many places and I don't think we could've done it without the support of the organization, so thank you".

Ms. Bowers made a motion, provided the Governor signs the budget bill and as soon as the legislation becomes effective; Lafayette Township Fire Chiefs and Trustee Costello have the authority to work with the Cleveland Clinic to do all things necessary to move the Lafayette Township Community paramedicine forward. Mr. Macron seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Ms. Bowers made a motion for Trustee Macron be charged with the responsibility of coordinating all the information on the potential building design. Mr. Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Ms. Dorothy Ulrich, of Wedgewood Road, said she agrees with Dr. Vrobel’s comment that this is a rare feat Lafayette Township has accomplished with the paramedicine program. Ms. Ulrich said as a resident she is thrilled this will be offered. She recommended that magnets be distributed with pertinent emergency information printed on it.

Ms. Bowers told Mr. Evans she did not bring the bids for the post frame building but said the trustees can award off the tabulation, but can’t sign the contracts because they will have to go to the prosecutor. She said they can meet tomorrow regarding the bids. Mr. Macron received and previously distributed information on steel buildings. Ms. Bowers asked if Mr. Evans is interested in considering this as an option. Mr. Evans and Mr. Macron believe the cost will be higher. Ms. Bowers feels we have an obligation to find out more information regarding a steel building versus a wood building and holding off, it will put us behind an additional three weeks.

Ms. Bowers made a motion to hold the bids that we have for the pole barn and also submit an advertised bid spec for steel construction. Mr. Macron seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Ms. Bowers will set it so the bid openings will be at the next meeting.

Ms. Bowers made a motion to pay the warrants of the township. Mr. Costello seconded the motion.

Mr. Macron moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bowers.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Approved: _____

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Bryon Macron, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer