

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, Special Time
Monday, December 21, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees, Medina County, Ohio met in regular session on Monday, December 21, 2020 at the special time of 3:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Hall, 6776 Wedgewood Road, Medina, OH. Notice of this meeting was consistent with ORC 121.22 and the township's open meeting policy.

The meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Department Reports: Trustee Warchola made a motion seconded by Trustee Costello to accept police, fire and service reports which are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Trustees discussed moving forward with the requirement to maintain separate fire district records. Consensus was the most effective, efficient and transparent way to would be to create separate organizational documents such as the public body rule and meeting schedules and of course maintain separate minutes. A concern is general public seeking information typically would only look for trustee minutes, not knowing there would be separate fire district minutes. That being the case and to ensure the public gets all of the meeting information, Trustee Bowers suggested holding the township and fire district meetings simultaneously. In this way, the Township Trustee meeting minutes would include all of the meeting including the Fire District information and the Fire District meeting minutes would duplicate only the Fire District excerpts. Law Director Thorne agreed this was an appropriate way to comply with the requirements. The consensus was to proceed in this manner. It was also noted that going forward all meeting notices should reference to both meetings.

Public Participation

Alan Pace of Palker Rd. appeared to address a complaint about the use of his property raised by his neighbor. Mr. Pace explained he does not operate a business. He owns collector cars that he rebuilds himself and sometimes with friends as a hobby. All of the vehicles on the property are owned by him personally. He stated that currently, he works on his vehicles in the existing barn on the property and intends to build a home in the future, He reported he uses a generator inside the barn for electricity. Zoning Inspector Alliss Strogan reported that pursuant to a complaint, she has previously visited the property and interviewed Mr. Pace regarding use of the property. She does not find any evidence that a business is being operated and no evidence of any township zoning violation. Law Director Thorne concurred, there is no apparent code violation. Ms. Bowers indicated that she had also previously had a number of email communications with the complainant, discussed the matter with Mr. Pace, ZI Strogan after her inspection of the property and LD Thorne regarding ZI Strogan's findings. She requesting LD Thorne address the matter in writing in order to forward that information to the complainant.

Ed McWhinney of Ryan Road requested advice on how to deal with excess dirt from a neighbor project being deposited on his property. Civil remedies were recommended. Mr. McWhinney was also given the contact information for the Medina County Soil and Water Department where he could obtain information regarding excavation regulations.

Shirley Temple Davis of Egypt Road discussed an ongoing drainage concern. Ms. Davis was advised it is believed the situation has not changed since the last time it was discussed; however, the County Engineer's office could be requested to revisit it. Ms. Davis also requested to be placed on the list to receive excess fill dirt if any becomes available in her area from ditching projects. Ms. Davis also advised of a junk car issue on Bungalow Bay. The zoning inspector will look into that complaint.

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal presented the following resolutions:

Resolution 27-20 was resubmitted for signatures. When it was learned that Resolution 27-20 needed to be amended, an office staff member inadvertently wrote the amendment onto the original document. Trustees signed a new copy of the original and the early original containing the inadvertent writing was attached thereto for accurately preserving the public record.

RESOLUTION 28-20: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2020 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION

Mr. Costello made a motion seconded by Mr. Warchola to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed.

RESOLUTION 29-20: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Warchola made a motion seconded by Mr. Costello to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed.

RESOLUTION 30-20: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS – FIRE DISTRICT

Mr. Warchola made a motion seconded by Mr. Costello to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed.

RESOLUTION 31-20: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ADVANCE COLLECTION – TOWNSHIP

Mr. Warchola made a motion seconded by Mr. Costello to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed.

RESOLUTION 32-20: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ADVANCE COLLECTION – FIRE DISTRICT

Mr. Warchola made a motion seconded by Mr. Costello to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustees responded to a request to increase the Fire District credit card limit by instructing the Fiscal Officer to do so within her previously approved authority.

Trustees approved prepayment of the 2021 Fire Department member insurance of approximately \$8,000 due in February 2021.

Zoning Inspector Alliss Strogan presented a lot split on Ryan Road for signatures and reported on permit activity.

Fire Chief Winkler reported the parade that was done in place of the Firemen's Santa due to Covid was very well received.

Trustee Bowers moved to approve signing the State Route 162 post closing release for the Ohio Department of Transportation after Service Director Evans reported there were no issues needing addressed. Second by Trustee Costello, all voting in favor, motion passed.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Costello made a motion seconded by Mr. Warchola to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 16, 2020 and special meeting minutes of December 14, 2020.

Community Resource Officer Kim Detchon reported the township participated in Shop with a Cop with Medina City and Montville Township. As part of the participation she made and distributed 130 face masks for children. Officer Detchon reported that at the request of Trustee Bowers she was working with Armstrong Cable to map areas of the township without cable internet service. This has become particularly challenging for children having to homeschool. Armstrong is assisting in the mapping area and preparing cost estimates for potential expansion. Trustee Bowers is working to identify potential grant funding to cover the cost as well as encouraging Armstrong to complete the installation on its own. Armstrong has been cooperative and appears interested in helping this project happen.

Trustees scheduled the 2021 Organizational meeting for January 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Trustee Costello submitted a resignation from the Lafayette Township Fire Department. He stated the resignation is regrettable but necessary due to a recently released ethics opinion that a trustee also a member of the fire and rescue service should not vote on fire department matters. He stated the residents of Lafayette Township elected him to be a trustee and that needed to be his priority. Trustee Bowers stated it is unfortunate as Trustee Costello, serving without compensation, has often been the extra EMT when a fast extra response is required. Law Director Thorne noted that the ethics opinion is in conflict with the Attorney General's opinion that serving in both positions so long as the fire department position is done as a volunteer with no compensation is not a conflict. However, he concurs that when there are competing opinions, the resignation is the responsible thing to do to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

Recess to Executive Session: at 4:15 Ms. Bowers made a motion seconded by Mr. Warchola to recess to sign resolutions, minutes and the lot split then to recess into executive session at approximately 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel promotions pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) and conferencing with the township's attorney concerning a dispute involving the public body which is the subject of imminent court action pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3). Roll Call vote: Bowers – yes, Costello yes, Warchola yes. Invited into the executive session was Chief Winkler and Law Director Thorne. Executive Session held.

Meeting reconvened: At 5:45 p.m. the meeting was reconvened. There were no decisions made in executive session and no discussion or decisions necessary as a result of executive session discussion.

Chief Winkler reported he is still investigation how to proceed with repairs required to the Zodiak boat. As previously indicated, the repairs necessary may well exceed the value of the boat. He is looking into the viability of collaborating with Emergency Management on the repair and use. He will report again once he has had an opportunity to further explore this possibility.

Adjournment: As there was not further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Approved:

Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Martin Warchola, Trustee