

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Lafayette Township Board of Trustees & Lafayette Township Fire District**  
**June 28 , 2021 6:00 p.m.**

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Lafayette Township Fire District, Medina County, Ohio met in regular session, June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Safety Services Building, 6367 Technology Lane, Medina. Notice of this meeting was given consistent with the Lafayette Township public body rule for the notification of meetings to the public and news media and the amended Ohio Revised Code providing for virtual meetings, ORC Section 121.22

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Costello, Bowers, Warchola, Ruebensaal.

Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 17, 2021 and Special Meeting of May 27, 2021. All voting in favor, motion passed.

**Fire Department** – Westfield Township, Chief Fletcher, Adam Anderson, who served as Incident Command for Westfield Fire, Rob Haas, Medina County All Hazards Team and Christina Fazio, Medina County Emergency Management attended. Officer Anderson provided a summary of a rescue and recovery operations on Chippewa Lake, June 26 & 27. He advised that while the outcome was not what anyone would have hoped, the resources, as many as 15 agencies, and operation could not have gone more smoothly. Officers from ODNR were on the scene early in the search on Saturday evening and remained on scene Saturday evening / Sunday morning and returned Sunday afternoon. Water search operations were suspended around 4:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and resumed just after noon on Sunday allowing crews to rest before returning to safely resume the operation. He also thanked Trustee Costello for providing a boat and navigation services for the search. Lafayette Chief Winkler explained Westfield Township was dispatched as primary response due to dispatch using an address indicator for Chippewa Lake o the Westfield Landing site. Lafayette was called a short while later by Westfield for a boat and as mutual aid. Chief Winkler advised that while the dispatch issue has now been corrected, Westfield having been dispatched on this call first had already established command and had contacted all of the appropriate resources. As the scene was being overseen effectively, they continued with Lafayette providing assistance as needed. Trustee Bowers advised that on Sunday afternoon, Chippewa Lake Councilman Riedel contacted her questioning why there were not more resources in the search. She responded to him with information provided by ODNR and EMA that they had all of the resources they needed and wanted. That traffic on the lake was purposely limited due to the need to keep the lake as calm as possible for optimum performance of the sonar equipment. Trustees thanked the Chiefs and all the responding agencies for their service.

**Service Department** – Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the bid / sign the contract for repaving the township parking lot by Melway Paving. All voting in favor, motion passed. The bid process was conducted by the Medina County Engineer's office and the contract was previously reviewed and signed by the Prosecutor's Office. Trustee.Bowers

made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the bid of N&N Construction for the Carsten Road culvert #17 project. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve \$17,000 to Denes Concrete for catch basin repairs on Meadowhaven Drive, ramp repair on Grovewood, curb and roadway repair on Tyndale, Wyclife and Wagon Trail. These projects are reimbursable from subdivision assessment funds. Trustees approved a request for service form for the Village of Chippewa Lake. Going forward, the councilman requesting service will need to submit the request in writing and signed off on by the Mayor. Road Supervisor Rick Evans reported he felt there was a little back peddling done when a couple of residents complained about mowing completed at the request of a Village Councilman and appreciated that Mayor Dodaro backed him up but it has also been an issue in the past. Trustee Bowers stated she also appreciated Mayor Dodaro confirming the service was requested and thanked Supervisor Evans for preparation of the new form. Trustee Costello advised he had read social media complaints about the mowing and felt the forms were a better means to document the requests from the Village. Trustee Bowers explained Ohio Revised Code mandates mowing berms once a year during June. The State Auditor and Attorney General even include the mowing mandate on the annual Trustee's calendars. She stated everytime we mow in the township we get people who say thank you and a few who complain. It is now different in this issue, two people over the phone thanked her for having the mowing completed, she saw two others on social media complaining. Supervisor Evans stated he had residents both thank him and complain as well. Trustee Bowers explained the day she saw the concerns on social media, she viewed the area physically and also obtained a county engineer's map (attached) of the right of way. She stated it is doubtful the property owners complaining realize that the right of way goes all the way to their structures, which unfortunately is typical for how that area developed. And, it is also unlikely they understand the mandate by statute to mow but felt that some communication with those owners might be helpful. She stated on social media those complaining had indicated a preference in maintaining the right of way themselves. She inquired of Law Director Thorne if such an agreement would satisfy the statutory mandate to mow. He advised it could. Trustees agreed it might be a good idea to give those property owners the choice. Supervisor Evans indicated he still needs a new printer. Trustee Warchola offered a printer he could donate. Trustee Costello reminded the trustees had instructed a light be installed for the west entrance of the administration building.

**Public Participation:** Lee Lipka, Palker Road appeared regarding an ongoing complaint that a neighbor is operating a business out of a barn. Previous investigations of this complaint resulted in findings that the property owner was restoring vehicles as a hobby, not a business and no zoning violation was found. The township's legal counsel and zoning inspector agreed to look at it again. Joe Praisler, Ballash Road appeared requesting clarification as to what activity would be considered operating a business in a residential area.

**Fiscal Officer** – There were no questions on the financial reports (attached) received by Trustees. Fiscal officer Ruebensaal presented a requisition for cell phone accessories in the amount of \$64.05 which was approved by Trustees. Trustees approved continued mileage reimbursement for travel related to zoning matters.

**Police Report** – Sgt. Marcum submitted the monthly report (attached). Sgt. Marcum noted that the intersections of S.R. 42 and Columbia Road and Columbia at Smith Road continue to be high accident areas in the township.

## **Old Business:**

**Capital Grant project** - It was noted that the barn renovation collaboration with the Park District funded by the capital grant program was ready to start. The grant is reimbursable so Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal will set up the account and work with the park district paying invoices and applying for the reimbursement.

**Ryan Road excessive signage complaint** - Trustees discussed the high level of complaints regarding excessive signage at a residence on Ryan Road. Trustee Bowers reported that in October of 2020, the property owner spoke with her about the zoning requirements for signage, indicating he wanted to follow the laws. She said she couldn't remember if she made a copy of the zoning pages for him or not but did advise him what the zoning allows in temporary signs and bill boards needing a permit. She said she also told him that if there is a complaint, he would be given a 30 day notice to correct the issue but by then the election would be over. There was discussion that a year and a half later, we get complaints not from just neighbors but all over the township, even outside the township. The signs, believed to be in excess of 20 or 30 include sizes in violation of zoning. As much as we don't want to get into the business of enforcing zoning for signs, residents are pushing for enforcement and to boot, the person in violation has basically asked for special police patrol/protection for signs that are the subject of the violation. Trustee Bowers indicated a willingness to try to discuss the matter with the resident. Sgt. Marcum reported that he has had several conversations with the resident and does not believe he will not voluntarily comply with the zoning code.

**Euclid Street bridge replacement** - Planning stages for the Euclid Street Bridge replacement project and installation of a new public street to enter the old Chippewa Lake Park property have begun. Supervisor Evans has requested engineering prepare cost estimates for concrete road. The grant funding for the project is not enough to cover the cost of concrete but both the park district and township is looking for more funding. While the concrete road cost is more up front, in the long run, it is a savings over the cost of maintenance.

**Job descriptions** - Trustee Warchola requested trustees review the sample job description as to form and let him know if that format is acceptable.

**Reutilization program forfeiture** - The court has approved the forfeit of 5912 Second Street to the township's land reutilization program. Trustee Bowers made a motion seconded by Trustee Costello to advertise sale of the property receiving bids by July 30, 2021. Law Director Thorne to approve the form of advertising.

**Technology maintenance agreement** - Trustee Warchola reported Warwick had not responded to requests to discuss maintenance contracting.

## **New Business:**

**Tax Budget** - Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to submit the proposed 2021 tax budget information to the fiscal officer. The motion and second was amended (Bowers/Warchola) to submit the tax budget to the county auditor as required by statute unless the Fiscal Officer proposes substantial changes, in which case, a special meeting will be held on July 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss.

**Depository Contracts** - Resolution 21-21 : A RESOLUTION ESTIMATEING AGGREGATE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO BE AWARDED AS ACTIVE AND INTERIM DEPOSITS. Trustee Bowers made a motion seconded by Trustee Warchola to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed. The township is required to solicit bids for depository contracts every five years. This starts the process. Typically, the township accepts all offers received to allow the fiscal officer flexibility in always pursuing the best rates without having to rebid. The offers are received on the bank commercial contract forms but because those forms typically contain language government agencies cannot use, years ago the prosecutor’s office developed a signed cover the townships use to attach to the banks unsigned documents.

**Medina Historical Society request for barnstone** – Trustees approved donating barnstone from the service department stock yard subject to an agreement with the Euclid Street bridge project that the blocks and barnstone salvage from the old bridge goes to the township.

**Stockyard landscaping** - The Medina County Park District has offered to provide some landscape trees along the township stock yard boundary with the park district trail. Supervisor Evans to determine whether or not that is advisable.

**Lake Road houses complaint** - Trustees received a letter from Alan Michaelson on behalf of the Chippewa Lake Village Council requesting the township issue maintenance zoning or other citations for the repair or rehabilitation of 7299 and 7385 Lake Rd. 7299 was the subject of a house fire. The owners are in the process of working to have the remaining structure removed for reconstruction. The township is advised that 7385 is scheduled for rehabilitation to house a business.

**Zoning** - Zoning Inspector Strogin reported she had followed up on the Lafayette Road storage container complaint. The property owner has agreed to stop moving storage containers on and off the property.

As there was no further business to come before the township, Trustee Costello made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bowers to pay the warrants of the township and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer

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Lynda Bowers, Trustee

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Michael Costello, Trustee

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Marty Warchola, Trustee