

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting – August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Lafayette Township Board of Trustees & Lafayette Township Fire District**

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Lafayette Township Fire District, Medina County, Ohio met in regular session, August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Safety Services Building, 6367 Technology Lane, Medina. Notice was given consistent with the Lafayette Township public body rule for the notification of meetings to the public and news media and ORC Section 121.22.

Trustee Costello called the meeting to order followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Trustees Costello, Bowers, Warchola & Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal.  
Also present, Law Director Thorne

Trustee Costello recognized Mr. Fullerton and Mr. O’Neil welcoming them to their first time visiting a township meeting.

**Minutes:** Trustee Costello made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of July 19, 2021 all voting in favor. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the minutes of the special meeting July 29, 2021 Bowers and Warchola voting to approve, Trustee Costello abstained.

**Public Participation:** Chris O’Neil, Rosemont way. He said he wanted to take the opportunity to say he is not a convicted felon.

Lee Lipka, Palker Rd, reported what he believes to be zoning infractions. It was suggested he provide pictures on a thumb drive. Trustee Bowers offered to Law Director Thorne regulations from Brown Township, Carol County she thought, compared to the statute, might help. Law Director Thorne and Zoning Inspector Strogin will review the pictures and information again to see if anything has changed that the statute might cover.

Justin Peroli asked Trustees to share meeting schedules since the last regular meeting: Trustee Costello reported as follows: July 18, a 2-hour meeting with Medina City’s Comprehensive plan committee. Hunter’s Run residents regarding road issues. And, he attends a regular monthly meeting of Emergency Management. Trustee Bowers stated she only had her calendar with her for August but reported as follows: August 3 was spent writing a cemetery grant and 6 hours in a zoning meeting. August 4 - 5 in Columbus on broadband expansion & HB2, August 11 reviewed Chippewa Lake snow plow and road maintenance, August 13 with the Fiscal Officer reviewing payroll. August 15 reviewed the Chippewa Lake snow plow contract and Carsten Road culvert replacement with Service and throughout the month had several meetings with the County Engineer and Park District regarding the Euclid Street bridge replacement and restoration. Trustee Warchola reported as fire liaison he meets with Chief Winkler once a week.

**Consent Agenda:** Department reports were accepted (attached hereto). Trustee Costello moved to approve acceptance, second by Trustee Bowers.

**Fiscal Officer report:** - Depository contract agreement applications were received from Westfield, Huntington & US bank. Trustee Bowers explained every five years, the township must consider applications. Typically, all applications are accepted giving the Fiscal Officer flexibility to change for more favorable rates. Applications are boiler plate language which legal counsel marks up. A form is added that was prepared years ago by the County Prosecutor, which so far, the banks have accepted. Once completed, copies will be in the office for Trustees to sign. Most often, township funds are held in Star Ohio. Trustee Costello noted the interest rates offered are around 1% and Star Ohio is at 2%. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to accept all three applications, all voting in favor.

**Service Department:** Service Director Evans reported OPWC funding could be used for the Ballash Rd culvert #30 replacement. For the Chippewa Lake snowplow agreement he reviewed the equipment use, fuel, personnel, etc. and recommends the hourly rate move from \$45 to \$55. The rate has not changed since 2017 while costs have gone up. The township needs to break even. Trustee Bowers noted Councilman Reidel told her the collaboration saves the Village about 50% over their previous contract and about 30% for other road maintenance services. Trustee Costello reminded four years ago the township did an in-depth review of the equipment cost, replacement and man hours. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to set the snowplow contract rate at \$55 per hour. All voting in favor, motion passed. Trustee Bowers reported she was obtaining scoring information regarding the ODOT Stimulus funds. Mr. Evans wants to ask for just culvert funding. Trustee Costello asked if it was an all or nothing application. Trustee Bowers stated it is not. It is overall scoring. Trustee Bowers suggests adding some of the repair necessary in Hunter's Run subdivision. Mr. Evans agreed some cul-de-sacs in that development need attention but the culverts are his priority. Trustee Bowers said if the subdivision work might score higher, it might be smart to include a choice. Mr. Evans agreed to get cost estimates on cement repair from Dennis Concrete. Trustee Costello made a motion second by Trustee Warchola for Mr. Evans and Trustee Bowers to complete the ODOT Stimulus grant application. The landscape trailer was overhauled with new brakes, tires and hubs. Trustee Costello asked about storm damage cleanup. Mr. Evans reported had there was a fair amount of work to do. Resident Suzanne Heisek asked what is scoring? Trustee Bowers explained in competitive grants, there is a review, a system of scoring the application. Outlines against the criteria are used to make sure everything that scores is included. She reminded the township used to use a paid grant writer that was unsuccessful. But in just he last 18 months she believes the township has gotten about \$1.5M in outside funds. She noted just the small cemetery grant took about 15 hours of research and writing, but worth the effort. Ms. Heisek complimented the work on Spitzer cemetery.

**Fire Department:** July saw 73 calls; 61 in the township, 3 in Chippewa Lake, 2 to Gloria Glens and 7 mutual aid. Response times continue to improve. Comparing the Chippewa Lake response time before the new station was an average of 9.26 minutes out and 15.44 on scene. Today it is 2.29 minutes out, even when the crews are in bed and 8.51 to on scene. He indicated those times might be a bit high because it includes when the department was first placed on standby. The Chief explained the result of staffing is service much quicker than two years ago. The Chief reported Paramedic coverage scheduled for August is 100% -- phenomenal for a township our size. The Chief stated our Township has hardly no call off rate and other departments don't seem to have the recruitment and retention we have. Trustees approved a fire fighter course at \$3,900 and a FF2 class at \$1,750, both should be reimbursable by a state fire

marshall grant. The Chief reported when the pickup truck was purchased, it didn't include a plow. The cost is \$5,200 and service could install. Trustee Bowers advised there is about another \$364K of grant still available but maybe Trustee Warchola could see if Meyer would donate another plow as in the past. Trustee Warchola asked the Chief to share accomplishments he sent to trustees. The Chief confirmed two full arrest saves that they know of. He stated Medina PD is invaluable on calls. Probation and inspection and prevention programs have been revised. He said no personnel has left since last fall and multiple members completed higher training. Grant applications exceeding \$1M have been made and increased collaborations with neighboring departments are working well. Currently Lafayette has 32 members on the roster and 5 in the county all hazards team. We have the first credentialed fire chief, 2 credentialed officers and Chief Winkler is also the Fire Chief's Association representative to Emergency Management. Trustee Warchola asked if there is anything else the trustees can do to support. Trustee Bowers asked if there was anything the trustees are not doing for them. The Chief responded he had no recommendations, noting we have good equipment, good leadership and wants to just keep moving forward. He stated good comradery has been redeveloped within the department, most members working well together in and out of the department. He stated the best achievement has been bringing the department back together. Trustee Warchola asked that the list of achievements the Chief submitted be attached to the minutes.

**Police Department:** Lt. Marcum reported 289 calls for service in July. He noted the increase in crashes is likely due to detours. He thanked the FD for participating the National Night Out. Trustee Bowers thanked PD for the extra coverage on the intersections with detour issues. Trustee Costello thanked the PD for including Lafayette in the National Night Out. He said when he attended, he was happy to see all the activity, drones, helicopter, fire trucks, etc.

**Zoning** – report submitted. Zoning inspector Strogin reported there were lots of small things permits were written for and Ryan development permits.

**Correspondence** – A thank you note was received from Cooper who was recognized at the July meeting. He wrote thanks for recognizing him and for making our township great.

**Old Business** – Trustee Bowers reported the architects are working on design for the Buckeye Woods barn restoration project. This is a collaborative effort with the township obtaining a \$300,000 grant and another \$100,000 was provided by a private donor.

Trustee Bowers explained the township's land reutilization program. Only a few townships have it. If a property fails to sell twice at Sheriff's sale, the township can claim it. This was how blighted structures are eliminated, like the houses at the corner of Lake and Chippewa and then used a \$750,000 tobacco settlement grant to demolish them. The township also claimed 73 Big Injun trail and demolished it. The Park District would like it in exchange for the barn stone from the Euclid Street bridge project. Mr. Evans uses barn stone in culvert maintenance. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to donate 73 Big Injun tail to the Medina County Park District, all voting in favor, motion passed. Trustees thanked Law Director Thorne for walking through the filing of 5912 Second Street the township just acquired.

Trustee Warchola reported the technology maintenance contract is expiring. He will be getting new quotes.

**New Business:** Trustees discussed Chippewa lake closing. Trustee Costello asked if the testing was still being done once a week. It is. Mr. Evans indicated testing waters in several different counties is done after heavy rains for bacteria including runoff from fields. Trustee Bowers stated while she communicated with the Park District and the Sanitary Engineers office looking for information on the e-coli source. Trustee Costello checked on whether or not other lakes around the state are being closed. Trustees request the Park District consider at least allowing boats on the water over the July 4 weekend was declined. Trustee Costello reported he found boating still being allowed around the state and wants to encourage the Park District to revisit that decision when closing the lake. Trustee Costello said the park district reported hearing very little concern from the public so anyone concerned should turn up the volume.

Trustees opened bids for the sale of 5912 Second Street. The highest of two received was \$9,600. The waived tax was about \$16,000 so the funds have to go back for taxes. The goal is to get the properties cleaned up and back on the tax rolls. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to sell to Eric and Carol Diekman. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Chief Winkler asked why there are two websites, one township, one fire department. There was discussion that Trustees had that question too and were told by the Fire Department that is what they wanted. They wanted to maintain their own and since the cost was so minimal, trustees wanted to support their wishes. It was decided to link the FD website to the township website so people can find it all in one place. Trustee Warchola and Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal will follow up. Resident Karen Schoonover asked why the zoning meetings are not posted on the website. Trustee Bowers responded the meetings have always been there to her knowledge and are supposed to be. Administrative Assistant Buell, responsible for communicating with the web designer, responded that due to Covid the meetings had not been regular and were not posted. There was discussion about BZA meetings too. Those meetings are only called when a variance application is received, maybe 1 or 2 in the last year. Those should be posted as they come up. Ms. Schoonover inquired if zoning has a secretary. Trustee Bowers responded the zoning commission is updating the code right now. It is about 20 hours a month of typing for which there is no budget. With formatting also being a challenge, Trustee Bowers has been doing it to avoid any cost to the township. The zoning board just changed it's regular meeting from Tuesday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, Trustees will notify the Gazette of the change. Administrative Assistant Buell asked for clarification who sends notice to the Gazette each month. She said she believes the Gazette requires notice every month, not just the annual. Trustee Warchola will work with Administrative Assistant Buell and Chief Winkler to try and connect the township and the fire web sites.

There was discussion about snow plow program notices being sent. The program numbers are small. It is for emergencies only with an income qualifier. Administrative Assistant Buell said the problem is no matter how much it is explained, people don't understand it is for emergencies. Trustee Bowers suggested listing examples and asked the letter be forwarded to her for review. Trustee Costello stated the squad does a good job clearing for ambulance runs.

Mr. Costello made a motion seconded by Mr. Warchola to pay the warrants of the township.

Mr. Costello adjourned the meeting.

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