

Minutes
Regular Meeting – December 20, 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, December 20, 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 made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2021 and the Special meeting held December 13, 2021. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to accept the department reports and Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal's finance reports submitted by consent. All voting in favor, motion passed

Public Participation: A representative of the Secretary of State, Frank LaRose attended presenting Trustee Bowers with Resolutions of Appreciation from Secretary LaRose and Congressman Bob Gibbs for 24 years of Service to the residents of Lafayette Township and service across the State on behalf of all Ohio Townships. Trustee Bowers took the opportunity to thank Congressman Gibbs for his hard work in Congress on behalf of Ohio Townships. Curtis Perkins thanked Trustee Costello and Trustee Bowers and Chief Winkler for their service.

Fiscal Officer Report: Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal reminded the service department Echecks are still due.

Resolution 29-2021: Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to create American Rescue Plan Account Fund #2273 and to appropriate \$308,020.49 in ARPA Fund 2273. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Resolution 30-2021: It was reported the township received \$1,000 in fifty \$20 gift cards to Buehler's as a donation from Care Works. Trustee Bowers noted that both the Chippewa Lake Lions Club and Lafayette Methodist Church have programs suggesting these cards could be used to benefit residents of the township and Village. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to give the cards equally to the Lafayette Methodist Church and the Chippewa Lake Lions Club. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Resolution 31 –2021: Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to authorize online payment to the Bureau of Worker's Compensation in the amount of \$2,323 from the Township and \$12,385 from Fire and Rescue. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Resolution 32-2021: Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to make temporary appropriations in the amount of \$180,000 for the Lafayette Township Fire District and \$135,000 for Lafayette Township. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to pay the annual semipublic sewage disposal system fee of \$75 to the Medina County Health Department, all voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers reported she checked and all townships had been sent an SPCA request in 2020 but must not have been presented to the Board of Trustees. She stated she believed the estimated cost to the SPCA for serving Lafayette in 2021 was about \$11,000. The SPCA is the only resource to tend to injured and abandoned animals. Trustee Warchola reminded he would like to make up for the year the township missed requesting the township pay \$5,000 for 2021. Trustee Bowers inquired of the fiscal officer if funds were available. Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal responded affirmatively. Consistent with Trustee Warchola's request, Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to approve a payment to the SPCA in the amount of \$5,000. All voting in favor, motion approved.

Service Department: Acting Road Supervisor Ben Miller requested permission to replace five lights at Mann Field (Township ball field). Trustee Costello made a motion second by Trustee Bowers to approve, all voting in favor. Trustee Bowers reminded that on August 27, 2021 the board authorized a \$545,000 grant application for state funds to improve Ryan Road, a joint project with Westfield. We didn't include that in the total grants reported on. It's not signed yet, but we have received documentation looking like that project will move forward. That puts the township up to \$3,176,000 in the grants benefitting the township in the grant cycle. Trustee Bowers stated she recently saw a document claiming most of the grants received by the by the Township was CARES Act funding That is incorrect. The CARES Act amount received was \$307,000 and is closed. The Chippewa Lake infrastructure grant is \$700,000 for sewer & water lines in the old Chippewa Lake Park area, improvements to benefit the township with the Park District responsible for the reporting on that one. \$300,000 for the Buckeye Woods Barn project, a capital grant collaboration with the Park District with the Township. This is a reimbursing grant. The township is responsible for the accounting but park district is overseeing the project and doing the reporting. Another infrastructure project, the Euclid Street Bridge, a \$400,000 collaboration with County Planning and the Park District. The township has done its part on that project, the temporary access is in. County Planning is responsible for that reporting. When the bridge comes out, there is a lot of barn stone which the township gets. We use that on culvert projects. The Fire District did about \$60,000 in grants for MARCs radios and Fire Marshall Grants for SCBAs. The Resource grant was \$32,000.00 which is closed. The OPWC grant for the Carsten Road culvert replacement was \$186,000. The project is done and we are closing out the grant. And we can add the \$545,000 for the Ryan Road Project. She cautioned the acting service supervisor and onboarding trustees to stay on top of this one. She stated timelines are tight when they say they need something, we need to respond. If anything comes to her in the future, she will ensure it is delivered to the township. For the benefit of the onboarding Trustees Trustee Bowers noted it has been the township's policy to approach annual road bids early in an effort to get good bids before the companies are loaded up. The township has received the engineers estimates for the 2022 road projects as follows: Carlton Road in the amount of \$47,657.60; Palker Road in the amount of \$17,940; Egypt Road from Carlton to the Waltz Church in the amount of \$57,381.05 and Lance Road from Smith to the Railroad Tracks in the Amount of 10,888. Trustee Bowers made a motion to approve sending these projects to bid second by Trustee Costello, all voting in favor, motion passed.

Fire Department: Chief Winkler reported another successful visit from Santa, visiting, he believed 105 homes. He reported Trustee Warchola had obtained a \$5,000 snow plow donation from Meyer. Chief Winkler requested funding for officer Gross in the amount of \$2,900 (one half) for paramedic advancement adjusting the service agreement to 2 years. Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to approve the funding and service adjustment request, all voting in favor. Chief Winkler reported the need to update the Firemen's Dependent Board recommending members assigned to be Trustee Warchola, Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal, Assistant Chief Holzman and Fireman James

Shepard, and roadman Ben Miller. Trustee Warchola made the motion second by Trustee Bowers to approve the recommendations, all voting in favor, motion passed. Trustee Costello stated just in wrapping up some things at the end of the year, he inquired about lift assist responses to a residence that has been a challenge. There was discussion estimating about 50 calls to the same address. Trustee Warchola noted the ramp up in calls. Trustee Bowers commented the concern is the calls are sometimes two a day and there has already been occasion when the squad has been on a lift assist there and response to a life-threatening emergency was delayed which is not good. Trustee Bowers reminded this board has a policy how this kind of situation is to be handled but the new board may want to look at it for their own policy. Chief Winkler indicated he would try to meet with that family again to see where things are. Board members shared with the onboarding trustees that the challenge is when a squad responds, even if it is just a lift assist, they are committed to that call. If a serious call comes in, even if it is just a lift assist for the 10th time in the month, they cannot leave and are not available to respond to the emergency. Trustee Bowers took the opportunity to share with the onboarding trustees that there are a number of policies they may wish to visit for their own opinions such as there has been a long standing policy that if a resident needs a transport home for something like Hospice, if a crew will volunteer and the second ambulance is available (not taking the primary ambulance out of service) they township accommodates the request, a service for township taxpayers. It doesn't happen often, maybe only about 4 – 5 times in as many years but the township has always been able to accommodate. She noted the policies stay in place unless or until a new board changes them so they may want to take a look at some of those. Resource Officer Detchon noted that she has met with the family being discussed a number of times offering two pages, fifteen different resources, for them. She just wanted it known that the township is trying to help them as much as they can. Trustee Warchola noted doing a quick count, maybe missing one here or there, he sees 11 calls since September, five in a three-day period. Trustee Costello inquired of the Chief about the status of the fire fighter agility tests that were supposed to be completed by September as well a minimum call requirement. Chief Winkler responded he did not remember discussing the minimum call hours. Regarding the physical agility test includes the maze at the Career Center and the last he heard, still needs some work but they were working on it. He advised they wanted to get that done and it is still do, but ran into some snags. He said we have the program but need to get the facilities. Trustee Costello noted looking at minutes the board did establish minimum call hours and there are some members who have only done 3 or 4 calls for the year. He advised it's a lot of money for taxpayers to put out outfitting them and training, etc. Trustee Bowers reminded the Chief that's why the board approved the policy because the Chief thought that money could be put to better use. Chief Winkler responded absolutely. .

Police Department: Lt. Marcum commented on the report (attached). He also thanked the Fire Department for including the Police Department in the visit from Santa. Trustee Costello thanked Lt. Marcum for their service to the township stating he has enjoyed working with them the past several years.

Zoning Report: Zoning Inspector Strogin commented on her report. She reported she and legal counsel are still working through the Fairway Landing HOA documents which are still unacceptable. She reported on the work done by herself, legal counsel, the zoning chair and Trustee Bowers who provided the voluntarily secretarial services on the zoning code update. She reminded trustees of the need to appoint a surveyor for footer inspections as the surveyor currently assigned will have a conflict in the upcoming subdivision. Trustee Bowers reported she got a call from another township last week inquiring why she was doing another survey on zoning inspector compensation, she had done one last year. She didn't know we were doing one so sent out a text and learned it was Trustee Warchola inquiring. She reminded Trustee Warchola that they had done that last year and the reason was to compare Lafayette. She advised she has 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 activity countywide in a spreadsheet showing year in and year out housing permit and zoning permit activity. For activity,

Lafayette township is consistently in the top 3 maybe 4th once out of 17 townships yet are always in the bottom five for pay. She said her point is, we get a good deal. Trustee Bowers handed off the research to Trustee Warchola joking she won't be keeping those statistics any more so they were all his. Trustee Bowers noted she thinks keeping statistics and research is important. She reminded that not too long ago, they had trouble hiring paramedics and kept being told it was the pay, yet the research showed the pay was comparable. For that reason they dug deeper and learned applications were being ignored. At that point, the new Chief came in, we advertised for paramedics and had no problem filling those positions. All because we had some research. Inspector Strogan noted that in the two newest subdivisions there would be more than 200 permits to do. She indicated in the subdivision review she greatly appreciates and believes it is very effective to have the township attorney there. Trustee Bowers shared with the onboarding trustees that one township recently paid more than half of what Lafayette spends on our law director annually for handling just one issue.

Old Business

All members of the board acknowledged reading the proposed memorandum of understanding received from Cloverleaf Schools on November 2, for use of the township ball fields while the school is undergoing upgrades. The board agreed the agreement was verbally represented to them. They did agree to the request to name the township as an additional insured on their general liability policy. Trustee Bowers made a motion seconded by Trustee Costello to approve, all voting in favor, motion passed. Trustee Bowers reminded the Board approved giving the Big Injun Trail lot to the Park District.

Trustee Bowers explained a lot of the explanation tonight is just trying to tie up any loose ends to help set the new board up for as much success as we can with a good handoff. She said she has gone through as much as she can to make sure she passes on as much information as she can. She noted while they have had some conversations passing along information, she wanted to put some things on the record so they would have a reference to go back to if needed. The public body rule and meeting schedule templates were already sent to the new board as well as for the zoning boards. She noted the joint purchasing agreements they have already talked about encouraging them to familiarize themselves with all of those as staying in good standing with those gets the best prices. She noted some boards work with liaisons, some don't, it is up to them how they want to proceed if they don't want to work the way this board has. But if they do use liaisons, decisions still require a majority board vote. She reminded that the contract for the police service with the City is not a trustee decision, it is made by the voters every five years so be aware of when that comes up. She explained how the township landbank works to reutilize blighted properties such as the Big Injun lot the board considered earlier and that someone on the board needs to be responsible for watching those notices from the prosecutor's office. She explained how inside millage is collected, where it goes the unique circumstance of Lafayette also collecting inside millage payments from Chippewa Lake Village taxpayers and how that affects the general fund. She indicated the general fund is a small and very lean fund that must be closely monitored. There are very strong carryovers in all of the funds but never in the general. She joked that there is no cushion in that fund and if they overspend, the first thing it effects is their paycheck. She explained you will probably get calls on roads speeds. People often want trustees to reduce road speeds. Every township road in Lafayette Township is at the lowest possible speed possible under the current laws in the State of Ohio. She said she just did an update with the County Engineer in October verifying there has been no changes in the laws. She explained working with ODOT on traffic calming for problematic intersections at the state routes indicating currently we have everything the traffic studies and warrants will permit. She cautioned to stay on top of NPDES compliance, making sure someone is assigned to stay in touch with the County Engineers office which is paid \$1,500 a year to help with our compliance and reporting. She cautioned this is important as noncompliance can result in huge EPA fines. She advised the zoning documents she has been working with the board on in draft will be provided on thumb drives. Sherri Meinke, one of the

zoning board members has agreed to help do the formatting that is still necessary. She noted the dispatch fees letter they have been provided. She made sure the new board knows the huge pumpkin backdrop used for photographs for the kids Halloween party belongs to resident Guyles Clifford, not the township. She advised the township uses the same damaged mailbox policy as the county, the new board might want to look at that to see if they want to tweak it. She advised that Lions Park had some improvement done, she doesn't know what because it was before her time, but every year the township gets paperwork to fill out on it. That has to be done. Lions Park Drive is a private drive, it is not a township road, the township is not responsible for its improvement. We do plow it as it is the only access to a township park. It was a gravel road but when Hunter's Run was completed in 1999, we negotiated with the developer and helped obtain easements from the property owners so the developer would agree to pave it in exchange for installing the development sewer and water lines through there. That made the road good for 20 years, but were going to start getting maintenance complaints and you need to know the township is not permitted to spend money on that private road, that would be illegal but it is easy for that information to get lost. The only thing left hanging over this the lighting petition for Dover Highlands. Once the HOA gets the petitions done, there is a statutory process for the assessments the board will have to go through or the township will be responsible for the payment of the electric bill for the lights. She asked Trustees Warchola, Costello and Law Director Thorne if she missed anything. There were no comments.

Trustee Costello made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to pay the warrants of the township, all voting in favor, motion passed.

Mark Albrecht inquired about the Status of Rick Evans. Trustee Costello responded he is no longer an employee of the township.


Lee Lipka reviewed his ongoing complaint on Palker Road. The Zoning Inspector responded nothing has changed from previous discussions. A resident asked if there was a requirement to fence pools in Hunter's Run. He was advised the township had no requirement but the Hunter's Run HOA may. He was advised to check with the HOA.

As there was no further business to come before the board, Trustee Costello made a motion to adjourn at approximately 7:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: 
Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer


Lynda Bowers, Trustee


Michael Costello, Trustee


Marty Warchola, Trustee