

MINUTES
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND THE LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 17, 2022 at 7 p.m.

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees, Medina County, Ohio met in regular session on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Safety Service Building 6367 Technology Lane , Medina, OH. Notice of this meeting was consistent with ORC 121.22 and the township's open meeting policy

Trustee Warchola called the meeting of the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and the Lafayette Township Fire District to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Trustees Warchola, Fullerton, O'Neil. Also present: Fire Chief Winkler, Fiscal Officer Rubensaal and Law Director Thorne.

Consent Agenda was considered as follows:

Trustee Warchola wanted to address the Social Media Chatter.

The Length of Executive Session at the Organizational Meeting. Initially a reporter stated Trustee Warchola promised it would take ½ hour – 45 minutes. He clarified he doesn't believe he said that. He should have come out when he knew the meeting was going long. Apologizes the meeting was too long.

The comment that came out was we created new positions. The only thing would be expanding the roles of the Zoning Secretary to include Zoning Secretarial work. It was formerly a stipend pay. Stipend pay to hourly pay remove stipend make it hourly pay to 10 hours a week and including more duties and responsibilities. If we determine it doesn't make sense we can modify things that work best for the Township.

The 5 minute maximum time up for anyone who talked. The reason was so everyone would not get up and talk ½ hour to 45 minutes. If for some reason 5 minutes is not long enough go to 10 minutes and so on and so forth. We determine what the right amount of time is.

The comment about excessive raises for Township employees. They were large raises. Everyone got a raise except Alliss who got her raise in 2021 at the end of the year. Fire Service is horrifically underpaid. Chief Winkler stated he reached out to all Fire Chiefs in Medina County. Received data from 13 out of 16 departments. We were the lowest paid in the county except for 1 area. In that 1 area we were the 2nd lowest paid. Raises to the entire Road Staff. Road Man \$20.00, Asst. Road Supervisor \$24.00 & Supervisor \$31.00.

Public Participation: Trustee Warchola opened up the Floor to anyone that had any questions, thoughts or concerns.

Unidentified Public – Are you going to raise my taxes to pay for Fire?
Trustee Warchola - No, it is all within the same Budget we have now.

Unidentified Public – A question on the five-minute limit for Public participation.
If something serious is going on can that limit be changed?

Trustee Warchola - If there is a situation where it needs to be expanded it will be addressed. It was explained that public participation is not required. They want to ensure that the public has a chance to interact and that this is going forward. We may find out 5 minutes isn't enough but we have to start somewhere. The danger is if someone gets up and goes on and on. The concern was if we have 30 or 40 people in attendance that all want to speak, we have to do something to keep the meeting moving.

Justin Peroli has a question about why the Executive session was as long as it was. Last Thursday the Gazette quoted Trustee Fullerton as stating. "The reason the session was as long as it was the past administration left us with a lot of unfinished business that is extremely important to the Township." What Business was left unfinished by the previous Trustees that could have been concluded before the end of the term and as a follow up, why could that business only be discussed in Executive session?

There were 2 legal matters that could not be discussed. There were a lot of things going on. Former Trustee Bowers has been helpful. There was some unfinished business and the one piece in particular that can't be discussed could have some pretty big effects on us and we need to get through that one.

Bobby Engle - Is there any chance that the Township can take care of digging out people who are elderly or disabled?

We do that now, we have a Senior Snowplow program. It is based on financial need and actual need. Once the roads are taken care of they take precedence over these other plowing tasks.

Fiscal Officer Financial Report - Anything other than what was on the consent agenda you want to talk about?

We need to modify temporary appropriations using even numbers that's for the Township side...
There are 3 things

Township and Fire. We have a resolution approving temporary appropriations for 2022.
Trustee O'Neil made a motion for it. Trustee Fullerton seconded. Motion carries Resolution 10-2022 for temporary appropriations.

Signatures needed from the Medina County Engineer. It's the Annual Township Road Mileage Certification for the Department of Transportation. It's due February 11th. Trustee Fullerton will confirm with Rick Evans.

Huntington Signature Card needs signed Bill Thorne will witness it.

Service Department –

Rick - New time clock procedures in the road department. Already started training videos.

Trustee Warchola wants to propose that Service Dept. could park at the Fire Services Building and with open beds sleep here for a few hours when dealing with a weather event? Then they do not lose as much downtime.

Fire Chief Winkler and Law Director Thorne agree it should not be an issue.

Fire District Report:

Fire Chief - 55 total calls in December that brought the annual total up to 741 which is as far as we know a record. That's up from 708 last year. In 2018, 599 calls. In the last 3 years up 24%.

Copier situation – Current 2 copiers brought from old station. 1 is currently inoperable, the other one kind of operates for the most part but it doesn't really see faxes. Faxes are critical for what we do. Captain Saveski spearheaded the project to get quotes. Received Quotes from 2 suppliers: Lake Business as well as Blue Technologies. Desktop quote: \$1200. Bigger unit \$4600.00. Fiscal Officer reminded them to suggest Government discount for bigger savings.

Trustee Warchola would like to propose to work directly with the Chief on a printer solution and get that purchased. Amounts not to exceed the quoted amount.

30 year old Fire Truck which we no longer need that we just received back from Seville that it was lent to them for a year for \$1.00 while their engine was being built. It is not dependable we need to decide what to do with it. Recommendation is try to sell it may get a couple thousand. Scrap yard? Sell to a collector? Program at Akron Public Schools for Fire EMS would like to have it. Law Director Thorne stated cannot donate it to another public entity.

Fire Chief Winkler would like a short executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Bill Thorne Field Internship agreement with Akron General Medical Center to the Chief. Reviewed and it is too long. Shorten the term up to 4 years vs 5.

Police – Nothing to report.

Zoning – Zoning Inspector Strogin not present.

Correspondence

Old Business– Ad for Zoning Secretary, Administrative Assistant, BZA & Zoning Alternate. Propose Sherri Meinke as an interim Admin Assistant 3 days a week 10-2. M-W-F. \$21.00 an hour starting tomorrow. Key #087 for Office given from Trustee Warchola.

Karen Schoonover filled in last week as temporary Zoning Secretary. Retain her in that position for now. Zoning Secretary up to \$21.00 per hour for a maximum up to 10 hours per week. All Zoning meeting minutes, BZA meeting minutes and any other responsibilities as necessitated by Zoning board, BZA board or Zoning Inspector or Zoning Commission.

New Business – Holiday Schedule propose to Adopt Federal Holiday Schedule for all Township employees. Motion carries.

Security Cameras for Admin Building. Automatic Door Access Button does not work. Quote to fix it \$1929.89. Motion made by Trustee O'Neil, Fullerton 2nded. motion carries

Fire Dept. FOB does not work at the door. Capt. Saveski asked that we add a keypad. Talked to Warwick and for \$820.00 2 readers and a keypad. Trustee O'Neil made a motion seconded by Trustee Fullerton, motion carries

Cameras at Admin Building. Coverage on some but not all of the exterior building. Would like to include entire exterior 2 quotes: Warwick to replace all very pricey. Media 144 to replace all and to add more \$2,505 to replace them all. IP67 approved cameras.

Will go ahead with automatic door at admin and 2 keypads at fire station.

Quarterly newsletter – Prefer not to mail it out very expensive. Email addresses of residents need to be acquired.

Want to be sure we are covered on Township insurance for things like Parades for 2022 events. Trustee O’Neil made a motion seconded by Trustee Fullerton, motion carries

Trustee Fullerton - Laptops and Township phones? Approx. \$600 for laptops. Cell phone numbers around \$80 a month. A motion to approve 2 new township owned laptops and 2 new phone lines. Trustee O’Neil made a motion seconded by Trustee Fullerton, motion carries Motion carries

Executive Session: Trustee Warchola to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel disciplinarian actions with Fire Dept., hiring, appointment and compensation pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) Roll call vote Warchola – Yes /No, Fullerton Yes/No, O’Neil Yes /No. Invited to executive session was Chief Winkler, Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal and Law Director Bill Thorne.

Executive Session held from 8:08 p.m. to approximately 8:28 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

Trustee Warchola states coming back out of Executive Session no decisions were made, for discussion purposes only. This is for a Fire Department Personnel issue.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the Ohio Revised Code statutory holiday calendar for the purposes of paid holidays for full-time employees.

Justin Peroli on broadcasting meetings....not everyone has access to YouTube. Steven Kile is currently recording them and posts them on his Facebook wall.

Trustee Warchola wants to have videos on website not YouTube. The website needs help will get Sherri Login information to assist current webmaster as they only get 1 hr. a month per contract for maintenance.

The board paid the warrants of the township.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Approved:





Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer


Marty Warchola, Trustee



Ty Fullerton, Trustee



Chris O'Neil, Trustee