

Minutes  
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT  
Special Meeting  
November 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Lafayette Township Fire District, Medina County, Ohio met in special session, November 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Safety Services Building, Hall, 6367 Technology Lane, Medina, OH. Notice of this meeting was consistent with ORC 121.22 and the township's open meeting policy and posted on the township sign 11/15/2021.

The meeting called to order at at ~~6~~10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Martin Warchola.

Trustee Costello noted that Trustee Warchola had pointed out the difference between the meeting notice sent to the Gazette and what was published. The discussion was that the law requires the notice be sent to the press, not necessarily for publication, although the notice does request publication, but so the press knows about the meeting to report on it if they choose. The township is required to send the notice to the press and does. The township is not responsible for what the press does with the notice.

**Minutes:** Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the minutes of the regular meeting October 18, 2021 and Special meeting October 18, 2021. All voting favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola to approve the Opioid Settlement Agreement. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers second by Trustee Warchola to approve the annual materials joint purchase agreement with the County. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers reported that on October 23, 2021 she received a call from Mark Albrecht with an idea and volunteering to assist installing the temporary access road associated with the Euclid Street Bridge replacement project. Trustee Bowers and Mr. Albrecht met with the project administrators, the representatives of the Medina County Park District and County Planning a couple of days later. Mr. Albrecht, the Township Service Department and the Park District worked together and got the job done the following week or so. The temporary is in. It is currently for emergency vehicles only and will be further improved as necessary for the residential traffic when that time comes. Mr. Albrecht was present and complimented the township service department for excellent response and cooperation.

**Fiscal Officer:**

Ohio e-Check – was emailed to service on 9/29, then again on 11/15/21. Just a reminder it is due by 12/31/21. Notification received for ODOT salt prices for the upcoming season at \$42.33 per ton. A letter requesting donation was received from the SPCA. It was determined it was not done last year because the board did not receive a request. SPCA is the only resource for the animal rescue / removal service they provide. The letter shows the service cost for Lafayette Township for the past year was \$11,000. Trustee Warchola would like to offer enough to make up for missing last year. Trustee Bowers inquired of the status of financial resources available. It was decided to delay this decision until the December meeting.

Received a recall notice for the 2016 F-550 truck on a potential issue. The township received a thank you note from the County Historical Society thank you note for barn stones. Trustee Bowers noted return the township gets the stones from the Euclid Street Bridge project.

Trustee Bowers reported she had prepared a notice to hire a new zoning secretary and would like to get the advertising out but believes it would make more sense to let the new trustees elect do the hiring as it would be the new board having to work with the position. The Trustees elect agreed. Trustee Bowers agreed to continue to handle the last Zoning meeting and BZA hearing through the end of the year.

Trustee Bowers moved to pay the warrants of the township, second by Trustee Costello, all voting in favor, motion passed.

**Executive Session:** Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Costello to recess into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline or compensation of a public employee and the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee pursuant to 121.22(G)(1) and conference with an attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that is the subject of imminent court action pursuant to 121.22(G)(3) and Details relative to the security arrangements of the public office pursuant to 121.22(G)(6) of the Ohio Revised Code. Roll call vote: Bowers – Yes, Warchola-Yes, Costello – Yes. Before entering the executive session, Trustee Bowers noted that elected officials and public employees are bound by confidentiality of executive session in the best interest of the township. The board believes it is appropriate and would like to include Trustees elect, Ty Fullerton and Chris O’Neil as the issues may be ongoing into their administration. In order to do so, Trustee Bowers asked the Trustees elect if they would agree to be bound by the confidentiality of the session. Mr. Fullerton and Mr. O’Neil both agreed. Invited into the Executive Session were Trustees elect Fullerton and O’Neil, Law Director Thorne, Assistant Prosecutor Mike Lyons and Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal.

The special meeting was reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

Trustee Bowers offered to Trustees elect that applications for hires be forwarded to them to set their own interviews.

Trustee Warchola made a motion second by Trustee Bowers to terminate at will employee Rick Evans effective November 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. All voting in favor, motion approved. Trustee Warchola will follow up with the employee.

Trustee Warchola made a motion second by Trustee Bowers for disciplinary action for at will employee Kim Buell, to suspend for one week, the week of November 22, 2021. All voting in favor, motion approved.

Trustee Warchola made a motion second by Trustee Bowers to approve the OTA Winter Conference registration for members including Trustees elect. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Warchola made a motion second by Trustee Bowers to approve an employee appreciation event. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Trustee Bowers made a motion second by Trustee Warchola for trustees to approve the hire of a zoning secretary as may be chosen by the trustees elect prior to the first of the year. All voting in favor, motion passed. Trustee Warchola inquired about the compensation. Trustee Bowers noted it is in the organizational meeting resolution. It isn’t a lot, but it isn’t a lot of work. This past year has been an


exception due to review of the zoning code. She advised the legal review of each section was meetings of 6 – 8 hours and about 25 hours each of typing which the township had no budget for that so she took over those duties for that time. After the legal review on each section, the zoning board reviewed the original and recommendations of each section, the zoning board decisions were added and now the sections are all being put back together into one recommendation for updating the book. The information is all being placed on a thumb drive. What happens next is the board must review the book again in its entirety. It has to be sent to the planning commission for it's recommendation and then there is a series of meetings and public hearings that have to happen. It's a lot of process, but not a lot of extra work, more back to the normal meeting schedule.

Trustee Warchola reported he wants to schedule a pre-organizational meeting with the Trustee elects sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is open to other board members as well to go through all the stuff that will happen at the organizational meeting,

Someone from the audience requested of Law Director Thorne to know if the employee termination was for cause or not for cause. Law Director Thorne responded it was termination of an at will employee. He inquired further if the termination was for cause or not for cause. Law Director Thorne responded "not for cause". Terminated. He inquired further if there was a complaint filed. Law Director Thorne responded Yes. He inquired who filed the complaint, Law Director Thorne responded the Fiscal Officer. He inquired the name of the E&O carrier. The response was OTARMA. He requested copies of the meeting notices sent to the press.

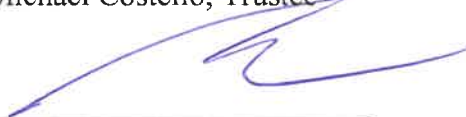
As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer

  
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Lynda Bowers, Trustee

  
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Michael Costello, Trustee

  
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Martin Warchola, Trustee