

Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Lafayette Township Fire District Regular Meeting 5-16-22

Trustee Martin Warchola, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
Roll call: Warchola, Fullerton, O'Neil, Rubensaal- all in attendance

Other township departments in attendance: Alliss Strogin, Zoning Inspector; Fire Chief Winkler,
Assistant Fire Chief Holzman; Bill Thorne, Legal Advisor

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Marty Warchola, Chair asked the board whether they had the opportunity to review & read the meeting minutes from the meeting of 5.2.22. Any comments? Any issues? Motion was made by Trustee Oneil to accept the minutes; seconded by Trustee Fullerton. All in favor? Aye- Those opposed, same sign. Minutes have been approved.

Thank you everyone for getting your reports to Sherri by Friday of last week. Everyone had a chance to read & review. Any discussion on any of these reports? Comments? Trustee Fullerton made a motion to review the reports; Trustee Oneil seconded. All those in favor? Aye; all those opposed; same sign. Consent reports have been approved.

Consent Agenda:

- Fiscal Report
- Fire District Report
- Service Department
- Zoning Report
- Police Report

Public Participation from anyone?

No public participation

- **Fiscal Officer:**
 - A question for clarification regarding the Warwick bill for the Microsoft 365? Falls under KGB, that bill can be ignored.

- **Service Department:**
 - Discussion with contractor of Wedgewood Estates, ?? Blvd. We are going to have to pay to have that concrete ripped out and re- done, the damage wasn't from the contractor that installed the road, it was from the builder that damaged that when they were building the homes. That gets back to something Ty is bringing up.
 - Ty: I have that letter, we brought that up at the last meeting. We are going to invoice Ryan Homes. Wanted all the Trustees to read it and sign it.
 - Spoke to the Postmaster about CVU boxes down there on Main Dr. in Chippewa Lake. This will eliminate all the mailboxes along Lake Rd. It will be roughly about \$6000.00 for those mailboxes. That will come out of the \$90,000.00 that we approved and budgeted for the road.

- Ty: not to interrupt you; Rick; but the bid for the road (Main Dr), came back with no bidders.
- It was a small job, no one bid on it. Rick will meet tomorrow with the county engineers, county planning, park system, to review options.
- We have an application for summer help, potentially will help with plowing snow as needed. Part-time help at \$15.00/per hour. Willing to mow grass. Right now, I am struggling to get it all done. Marty: This is similar to what we have had in previous years- correct? Yes. Part-time; 20/25 hours a week.
- Ty: I make a motion to approve the hiring for part-time mowing/plowing at \$15.00/per hour, for 20-25 hours/week. Chris Oneil- seconded the motion. All those in favor Aye,
- Rick was going to close Carsten Rd. tomorrow to change a cross-over pipe; but that will be delayed due to meeting regarding Main Drive Chippewa issue. Carsten will be closed for one day, next week.
- Sarah Bendar on Route 42 has been doing such a wonderful job on the area by the Gazebo. The sign has been painted, the beds have been edged, she is moving right along. Ty added that Richardson Farms is donating everything she needs to plant.
- One other thing, there was an individual that stopped in a couple of weeks ago. He is a veteran; he is going to be buried at the Western Reserve Military Cemetery but he has a plot at the Waltz Cemetery too. The Lafayette Cemetery policy does show that we buy them back not at the current price, but at the price they originally purchased it for. When he came in, it was a favor to him, that I wrote him a personal check so he did not have to run back again. I need to be reimbursed for that. I have all the info, a copy of the deed that he signed off on, receipt, etc.
- Fixed the ruts up at Shaw, where that big truck backed into Shaw Cemetery.
- Ty: I have a couple of things. The letter we need to sign for the OPWC application for the county for Ballash Rd, culvert #30. Can do that at end of the meeting.
- Ty: a resident on Chippewa Rd, 5646, had water issue in their backyard. They were not sure who to contact. It ended up being Hunter's Run HOA common area. Rick stated that is for their property management group to take care of or their Home Owners. It is in between the resident and the common area. We can't go onto private property.
 - Justin Peroli comment; the owner claims that there is a drain that is plugged. There are no drains that are owned by the Hunter's Run HOA. If she has a drain issue, and there is no drain on her property. Rick commented there is a pipe there that goes into the storm drain. Justin; if it goes into the storm drain, it is not privately (HOA) owned, that would be the county or the township. Justin: the water flows down the hill from east to west, and there is no HOA property to her east. Water is not flowing from the HOA onto her property. She clearly has a water issue; everybody had a water issue on Sat. with the amount of rain we all had. We have the county looking into it for the HOA. There are other water issues, we will see what they say.

- **Fire Department:**

- We received a \$50,000.00 grant from the Hillard Family Foundation. The money will go towards a radio, thermal imaging camera, other radio equipment, communications equipment.
- Received a \$7500.00 in bridge grant- that will be used for radios & repeaters.
- Thanks to everyone who came out for the pancake breakfast, very successful this year.
- We will begin hydrant flushing over the next couple weeks. Will communicate that via social media, try to get the work out which neighborhood/streets we will be targeting. If the water gets a little muddy, just run it until it is clear. Important to do to identify problems with hydrants, maintaining their working order. It is also part of our ISO grade which influences your insurance rates. Question was asked about when the next Fire Dept ISO audit is- not for a few

years. The Chief mentioned he keeps an eye on our grade, if he sees we are making strides in an area that will drop us a grade, we can call in the audit earlier. Dropping a grade is a good sign, the lower a grade, the better.

- Pete Dulovy has been serving as a safety officer since March of '03. He recently submitted his resignation to focus on family.
- James Bernard is leaving in June, signed up for four-year active duty with the Air Force.
- Congratulate James Jenkins, he was awarded a \$250.00 scholarship by the Ohio Fire Chief Association to attend the officer development conference held in Columbus in July.
- Action items; where are we at with the fireworks legislation?
- Marty commented at the last OTA; Ohio Township Association meeting the prosecutor was there. He mentioned that they are trying to put together a county wide policy. This would make the policy consistent throughout the townships. We do not have to adopt it, but we should at least see what it is. Marty will check with him tomorrow to see where we are at.
- The prosecutor was supposed to be talking to the fire chiefs.
- There have been communities in the county that have already taken the initiative and developed their own regulations.

- **Police Department:**

- Now that the weather is nicer, we do get a lot of speeding complaints. One of the things we are doing to address those, besides the additional extra patrol of running radar is we have a few speed signs that we put up and collect data to see if we actually do have a problem at different times of day, and try to focus our patrol during those times.
- Trustee Fullerton called me about Ballash Rd, we had a sign put up there. It is now showing that we are getting high speeds there. It does help to slow down the traffic.
- Couple of issues over the last month that used some manpower; a couple of sexual assaults that were investigated.
- Chippewa Rd we had a neighbor dispute where a man shot a German shepherd with a high-power pellet gun, the dog ended up in the vet hospital for a couple of days. The shooter was indicted under Goddard's law for abuse of a companion animal.
- Question was asked what other roads are you putting your radar on? Ryan, Chippewa
- Comment from audience; issue of speed on Lake Rd south of 162. Various audience members mentioned the police are welcomed to use their drives for speed patrol.

- **Zoning:**

- In the first four months we had retail evaluation of: \$15,212,599.00
- In the first four months the fees collected are: \$39,063.61
- Most of it is from Redwood, written permits for all of Phase I
- Starting Phase II of Redwood in the next month or two.
- The Medina County Park District dropped off the mylar that needs to be signed; transferring land from ?? to the park system. That needs to be signed at the end of the meeting.
- Bill, we did get back copies of the HOAs for the golf course which have been recorded.

- **Correspondence: none**

Old Business:

- **Broadband expansion project:** This was approved by the last board. This needs to be moved forward, but the more I reviewed it, I got concerned about a part of it. I consulted with legal. For us to get the remainder of the township covered that is within Armstrong's area. We agreed to give them \$300,000.00 and that we would pay them up front. We are getting that money from the ARP fund, so it is not coming out of anyone's pocket. This was one of the things that was targeted that you could do

with the ARP money. What bothers me about this, it doesn't give a timeline as to when this would happen. I asked Bill, theoretically, 10 years from now, if we give them the money, they still may not be done. Bill, legal, is putting together a letter that states we want an agreement as to when these things will happen. Are the other trustees okay with that? Yes, all agreed that that made sense. Comment was made by legal that Sherri sent out an email addressing that to all the trustees so everyone is able to review & approve.

- **Marty** made a comment that all his township email is for some reason, going to his spam folder. Will touch base with Keith tomorrow regarding this

- **Dispatch fees for fire:** The county came back with a comment that it is within the Sheriff's right to do this, Bill, legal, reviewed it. Bill has some additional information on this that will need to be discussed privately. Can be added to our executive session that is already scheduled for today.

- **Police Levy:** We talked about the need to put the new levy on the ballot. I received the information back from the auditor's office. I have the original ballot language. Medina Chief Kinney states that want roughly \$400,000.00/per year. We have two different options: To achieve an estimated \$400,000.00 the levy could be replaced at 2.2 mils which would bring approximately \$406,600.00/per year or at 2.15 mils it would generate approximately \$ 397,200.00. Or, we could renew the current levy of 2.3 mils with an increase of .3 mils for a total of 2.6 mils. Which would generate \$401, 000.00. Now, the difference between the two is if we replace the levy, we don't get the roll-over money from the state. This is a considerable amount of money that we would lose from the state. It's in our best interest, and it sounds wrong but it would be best to go with the renewing of the 2.3 levy with an increase of .3 mils. This makes the total effective of 2.6 which would generate \$401,000.00. Now the cost to homeowners; currently they are paying \$59.58 /per \$100,000.00 evaluation. If we do the replacement, at 2.2 mils it would be 77.00/per year/per \$100,000.00 value. If we do the renewal, and increases the milage .3 it would be 70.08/per year/per \$100,000.00. So even though it's a higher milage, you are not paying as much because there is a supplement from the state that we don't lose. What I would recommend is that we go back and do the renewal 2.3, with the additional .3 levy and that we create ballot language as such for the November ballot. This would still be a pass-through amount. Whatever we receive, we turn over. Some years it would be more, others less. This is how we have always done this in the past.
- **Comments?** Chris ONeil- I think that sounds like the most sensible. Ty Fullerton- I would agree with that. Marty: Bill we can sit down, the language on the ballot is pretty simple. The biggest part of this is going to be the education of the residents. We have to communicate that the 2.6 mils will be the lesser cost of the two options. It is true, that if we don't approve this levy – the township would receive minimal coverage from the County, the Sheriff's. They are still required to patrol, like always. We would not get anything near the coverage we get with the levy. Need a good public awareness program to get the word out. The levy provides us with full-time coverage. Currently we get 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year. We are in the southwest zone; we always have a police car that is patrolling in that zone. The southwest zone does include a portion of Medina city and Lafayette Township, so a car is in that area. Marty, I will work with Bill, legal to put this together if you guys are okay with it. Discussion w/legal/Bill as to the process needed prior to making the official resolution. Would like to get that out there sooner than later so we can start talking to residents.

- **Town Hall Rental:** Came up at last meeting. There was an issue that came up after the last series of rentals. We had damage to one of the doors/locks, the place wasn't cleaned up very well. We didn't have a good procedure in place when we did all the lock changes to consistently have the building checked after each rental. What I am proposing is: Rick gets an updated rental schedule from Sherri, so he knows when it is being reserved. When Sherri gets the deposit check, she doesn't return to the renter until Rick goes back through the town hall, checks the place out, makes sure it is okay, gives his approval, and then Sherri can return the deposit check. Are we okay with that? The other trustees

agree. Marty- Rick does that make sense to you? Perfect. Rick, do you have a key that you can get in and do that? I can get in; I just can't unlock it for anyone else. Question was asked if we have a Renter's Checklist? Rick- is there any type of checklist we've used before? Discussion regarding a checklist. Decided that Rick would sit down w/Sherri and create a basic one. Marty: Does anyone have anything else for old business? No.

New Business:

- **Social Media Policy:** There is a Facebook page out there that a former trustee created. He used his Lafayette Township email as the set-up email. At the end of the election last year, I had all those emails forwarded to me. I get messages 2-3 times a day that I have notifications on my FB page. It's always the same thing, friend requests. Nothing that currently has any significance for the township. The first thing I would like to do is eliminate that page and close it down. I don't know enough about FB to do anything w/it. If it's okay with the other trustees, I'd like to shut it down. Question was asked if it is even ours? It ended up under the township. No problems with doing this per the other trustees. The second question is: should we have a Township FB page? I'm not a big fan of it. We have a website that has a ton of information on it. You can get information/data from there. It is easy to find. My concern about having a township FB page is the amount of extra work. I know there are ways you can turn off comments, so no one can leave comments. You want it to post information, but we already do that on our website. Seems like duplication and a lot of extra work. Sherri sent out an email that had all the different townships that had FB pages. I checked them out, there are a few that were active, but many of them have not had any updated postings since 2020. Not a lot of activity out there for that. Talked to Guilford Trustee Winkler; there was a FB page created for Guilford in 2015. Not even sure if the governmental agency created it. Nobody knows. That is one of the things we are concerned about with the social media presence. Our fiscal officer brought up that down at the OTA conference, not sure who ran the session, but they highly discouraged having a FB page. They didn't say don't do it, but they highly discouraged it. Can open up such a potential can of worms. Is there a legal obligation if we put information out there can you legally shut off commentary on it? And if there is commentary, who is going to reply to that? There are so many issues you have to cover, protocols for who runs it, etc. In Guilford, we ultimately decided against it in 2018. Marty: one of our concerns is that we are working hard to get out website up to par. If we have a mirror platform, that will be twice as much work to get it out there. Marty: I would like to recommend to the board that we not establish a FB page for the township at this point. We can revisit it later. Ty Fullerton: I would like to say we revisit it later. Bill/legal and I had a conversation regarding some legality points. They keep changing and changing legal stands. Comment- it is not a good way for two-way communication. Decision was made by all trustees that we are going to hold this issue for the time being.

- **Any other New Business?** Yes- Ty Fullerton- speaking of websites. Through discussions with Sherri, other townships have their zoning forms on their websites. I think that is something we need to talk about. Make it easier for people to print it out, fill it out. They can hand it off to Alliss or drop it off at the town hall. Comment from Alliss: that would be nice if they knew how to fill it out. All that would do is create a phone call asking how to fill the form out. The developers know what I need, and bring their information in. At this time, I don't see the benefit to it. It has pros and cons. I think, at this time, there are too many cons. Question was asked if they have forms on their website at Medina Township? I'm not sure. Alliss: we all have forms; it's just the average person doesn't understand how to complete them. Questions on the forms about setbacks, etc. many people don't have a clue. I personally don't see how it would be helpful, I believe it would generate the same number of questions. Discussion regarding educational process of forms, may mean more work up-front, but smoother in the long run.

Comment about it might not help anything, but having forms available won't hurt anything either. Marty asked Chris ONeil to dig into this issue deeper and get back to the board.

- **Marty:** As some of you may know, May 15th-May 21st is EMS Appreciation Week. I have a resolution I would like to read in:

Whereas emergency medical services are a vital public service and, Whereas the members of the emergency medical service teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and Whereas access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and the recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury and, Whereas the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others, and

Whereas members of the emergency medical services team whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training, and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills, and

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of the medical service providers, by designating Emergency Medical Services Week now therefore, the board of Trustees of Lafayette Township, in Medina County Ohio in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week May 15, through May 21st as Emergency Medical Services Week during which EMS Rising to the Challenge is the theme. This theme is particularly meaningful now to remind people that every day we are faced with so many new challenges in our lives and yet we still rise above them, continue to respond, support and care for the needs of our community. This was created by the American College of Emergency Room Physicians in partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, EMS Rising to the Challenge with other associations, sponsors and national media to honor the dedication of EMS practitioners nationwide with the theme EMS Rising to the Challenge. In witness of, we have subscribed our names on the 16th day of May, in the year of the Lord 2022.

Marty: Do I have a motion to approve? Ty Fullerton made the motion to approve, seconded by Chris ONeil. All those in favor- AYE, those opposed same sign- Motion was passed, all in favor. Congratulations Chief, you guys do a phenomenal job! (Audience clapping) In honor of this we do have cake in the back with soft drinks. Help yourself.

- **Marty: Executive Session:** we are moving into executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22G1 & G3- this is for potential legal litigation, as well as personnel issues. It is 7:55 pm. Roll call vote: Fullerton-yes, ONeil-yes, Warchola-yes. Also invited will be: Fire Chief Winkler, Legal Counsel Bill Thorne, Fiscal Officer Laura Ruebensaal. 8:56pm out of Executive Session. Returned into session at 8:58pm; no decisions were made.

- Marty: I would like to make a motion, based on conversations with legal counsel, that we approve paying Sheriff's dispatch fees for fire and EMS per the contract that they presented to us a few weeks back. The cost is around \$30,000. Do we have a seconded for this motion? Ty Fullerton seconded. All those in favor- AYE, those opposed same sign. Motion was passed.

- Marty: I would like to make a motion that our Fire Chief's current contract expires at the end of this month. I would like to move that we offer to extend his contract in the same format for another two years effective the day after his current one expires. Do I have a second for this motion? Chris ONeil seconded. All those in favor state Aye- those opposed same sign. All in favor, motion passed.

- Ty: I would like to make a motion to approve the settlement agreement between Lafayette Township and the Knock Corporation for \$79,750.00. Marty seconded that motion. All those in favor Aye- all those opposed same sign. All in favor, motion passed. Question was asked whether that was less than we owed them? Marty replied that was the amount that was agreed to in the legal settlement.
- **Anything else?**
- **Chris or Ty?** I have one more thing. Chief Winkler would like to get final approval to sell Engine 101 on GovDeals with reserve set at \$10,000.00. He would like sell outdated radio equipment as discussed in prior meeting on GovDeals. And three unused grid lockers that came from the old station. I would motion to put those all on GovDeals. Marty seconded the motion, all those in favor AYE- all those opposed say I'll buy them.
- **Anything else?**
- Marty made a motion that we adjourn the meeting and pay the warrants of the township at 9:02pm. Seconded by Ty. All in favor; AYE All opposed same sign. Meeting is adjourned.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm
- Approved:

Martin Warchola, Chair



Ty Fullerton, Vice Chair



Chris O'Neil, Trustee



Laura Rubensaal, Fiscal Officer

