

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND THE LAFAYETTE FIRE DISTRICT
2024 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Lafayette Township and the Lafayette Township Fire District, Medina County, Ohio met in organization session on Friday, January 4, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Safety Service Building 6367 Technology Lane , Medina, OH.

Fiscal officer Laura Ruebensaal called to order the organizational meeting of the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Fire District to order at 6:00 p.m. The Notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the ORC and the implementing rules adopted by the Board pursuant thereto were complied with for this meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Trustees Ty Fullerton, Chris O'Neil and Justin Peroli

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal called for nominations for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

Trustee Fullerton nominated Chris O'Neil for Chair. Second by Trustee Peroli.

Trustee Peroli nominated Trustee Fullerton for Vice-Chair. Second by Trustee Fullerton

Trustee Fullerton: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, motion passed

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal turned the meeting over to 2024 Board Chair Trustee O'Neil.

Trustee O'Neil called the meeting to Order.

First order of Business is assignments for Liaisons, anyone have any preferences

- Fire – Trustee Fullerton
- Police – Trustee Peroli
- Roads – Trustee O'Neil
- Cemetery – Trustee O'Neil
- Zoning – Trustee Peroli
- Recreation – Trustee O'Neil
- Economic Development – Trustee Peroli
- EMA – Trustee Fullerton

Trustee O'Neil made the motion to finalize all of the Liaison assignments. Trustee Peroli second. All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, motion passed.

Organizational Resolutions: They were all sent out in advance and will not be read in their entirety. Township to be done first then Fire District.

Resolution 1 – 2024 - Enacting the 2024 Lafayette Township Public Body Rule for the notification of meetings to the Public and news media.

Trustee Peroli wanted to add a change under the notification. It is listed to only notify the Gazette newspaper. He wishes to add the Post newspaper in addition to the Gazette for notifications as the Post is the only free circulation in the Township. There is Legislation pending in the State that could potentially remove the newspaper from the legal requirement. With technology allowing us to substitute the Township website, for the newspapers but until that time we should go back to publishing in both newspapers.

Trustee Fullerton: I'm good with adding the Post, keeping the Gazette and we'll still do the Township website and the sign out front.

Trustee O'Neil: A motion to accept the Change to Resolution#1 with adding the Post newspaper for notifications.

Trustee Peroli made the motion to approve, second by Trustee Fullerton.

Trustee O'Neil All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, motion passed and Fire District with the same exact changes.

Trustee Peroli made the motion. Trustee Fullerton second.

Trustee O'Neil All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, motion passed. Resolution #1FD passes.

Resolution 2 - 2024 – Establishing the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees 2024 Meeting schedule.

Trustee O'Neil: I don't have any changes besides Labor Day to move the meeting to the second Monday of the month, September 9, 2024.

Trustee Peroli would like to go back to meeting twice a month as it would cut down the length of the meetings. Would like to propose to meet the first and third Mondays of the month with exceptions for holidays.

Trustee Fullerton: I felt the same way as Justin, when we did it in 2022. After watching that year flow and then I was Chair and it got changes to one meeting a month. I think we can streamline things and not go to 2 meetings a month.

Trustee Peroli: Well for January if we do the first Monday of the month we've already passed that. I think if we wait til February 5th for the next meeting that is too long.

Trustee Fullerton suggested the 22nd of January.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting schedule and time. 7:00 is a late start and all were in agreement 6:30 would be acceptable.

Trustee O'Neil: The only change to Resolution #2 will be the monthly meetings start at 6:30 pm. Everything else remains the same to be held in Safety Services building the first Monday of the month with the exception of January which will be the 22nd and September which will be the 9th.

Trustee Peroli moved to approve as stated, second by Trustee O'Neil.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, motion passes. The same exact thing for Regular meetings with the Fire District.

Trustee Peroli made the motion as stated. Trustee Fullerton second.

Trustee O'Neil All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Resolution #2FD passes.

Resolution 3 – 2024 - -- Continuing Authority of the Fiscal Officer to authorize and make expenditures from the General Fund up to \$3000 and with the agreement of the Trustee Liaison from any other Funds when such expenditures are not previously authorized and determined to be necessary between Regular meetings.

Trustee Fullerton moved to approve. Second by Trustee Peroli.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Resolution #3 passes. The same exact thing for the Fire District.

Trustee Fullerton moved to approve. Second by Trustee Peroli.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Resolution #3FD passes.

Resolution 4 – 2024 - Expressing the intent to sell personal property by the use of Internet Auctions.

Trustee Peroli moved to approve, second by Trustee Fullerton.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Resolution #4 passes. The same exact thing for the Fire District.

Trustee Peroli moved to approve. Second by Trustee Fullerton.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Resolution #4FD passes.

Resolution 5 – 2024 – to be addressed after the Executive Session

Trustee O'Neil: The 5th Resolution will require us to go into Executive session to discuss things on both sides because it is going to include Personnel compensation.

Trustee Fullerton: My only comment on that is we had to do a 5A to amend it because of Town Hall rental stuff.

Trustee O'Neil: So the Holiday Schedule we'll move to that and table this for now. Before we go to that do you want to discuss the one that you proposed Trustee Peroli and sent out to us?

Trustee Peroli: So this would be a Resolution outlining procedures for handling meetings. Standard procedure, the only thing different from what was done in the past is having a formal Agenda starting point in advance of the meetings so we have an opportunity when one department has something it can be on the Agenda for the others to prep in advance and be ready to discuss. The idea would be to have everything to the Admin by 3:00 on the Thursday before we meet. Anything on that Agenda will get posted on the website for the residents to be able to see so that they'll know what's being discussed. That won't stop us from bringing up additional items of things that come up between that time that may need to be done. Anything after that

point each of us would have the opportunity to table it until the next meeting if we need more time to prepare or make a decision.

Discussion ensued on the benefits of such a practice.

Trustee O'Neil: Some of the content is redundant as it is already in existing Resolutions. Laura's comments on Fiscal Officer in regards to minutes needs to be stricken or changed. There were some things in Reference to that section 504.09 that doesn't pertain to us. I think some of the Resolution language in your document needs to be stricken. I like the Agenda and putting it out there and what our procedures will be.

Trustee Peroli: We can always work on this and adopt it at the next meeting if you think the revisions are more significant than what we can handle tonight.

Trustee O'Neil: I think so.

Trustee Fullerton: Either that or do you want to just make a motion to approve what you have on the Agenda? We can do that.

Trustee Peroli: The other thing would be the work session piece. The thought process would be we can do that at the end of a meeting, because that's not something there's public interaction on but it's open to the public.

Trustee O'Neil: It's a lot of rewrite. Let's table this until the 22nd.

Holiday Schedule is next on the Agenda. We have the Federal Holidays to observe:

Monday, January 01	New Year's Day
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, February 19	Washington's Birthday
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 19	Juneteenth National Independence Day
Thursday, July 04	Independence Day
Monday, September 02	Labor Day
Monday, October 14	Columbus Day
Monday, November 11	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day

Trustee Peroli motion to approve the Federal Holiday schedule. Second by Trustee Fullerton.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Federal Holiday Schedule passes.

Before the Executive session I'll make the motion to acknowledge Township sponsored events. Township supported and/or sponsored events for 2024 were discussed to include various community parades, Halloween party, Firemen's pancake breakfast, Visit from Santa, movie night, Auction dinner, etc. Historically we've not done all of these all the time but I would motion to acknowledge that we are planning to sponsor at least some of those and to notify the insurance carriers.

Trustee Peroli: I'll second.

Trustee Fullerton: Also Chris, the Board reserves the right to update and amend the list.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Township sponsored events passes.

Trustee O'Neil to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, hiring, appointment and compensation pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) and Resolution #5 for the Township and Fire District. Invited to executive session: Sherri Meinke and Curtis Perkins and Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal. We'll stay in there and when we are done with the first part we will invite in Chief Cavanaugh and the others can go.

Roll call vote Fullerton: Yes: Peroli, Yes: O'Neil: Yes.

Executive Session begins at 6:29 p.m.

Executive Session ends at 9:03 p.m. Meeting to reconvene

Trustee O'Neil states coming back out of Executive Session no decisions were made. We'll move forward with the final 2 Resolutions. One for the Fire District and one for the Township.

Resolution 5 – 2024 - Setting forth an annual organizing Resolution reciting positions and compensation of Lafayette Township Employees and appointees, miscellaneous fees and policies effective January 2024.

Trustee O'Neil: I won't read the whole thing just go through changes we've made.

The first one is Authorization to hire a Fiscal Assistant approved at \$21.00 per hr. up to 20 hours per week.

Bill Thorne will be retained as Legal Counsel at a rate of \$200. per hour on an as needed basis. No longer on a monthly plan.

Trustee Peroli: Zoning: under the Appointments we have for the Zoning Commission, a remaining term for Jocelyn Kogler who is stepping down from her position. So that term expires December 31, 2025 that needs to be filled. I would nominate Joe Praisler for that position. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed) We have an expiring term for Sherri Meinke's seat which expires on December 31, 2023. I would nominate Sherri to remain that position for another 5 year term expiring on December 31, 2028. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed). We have 2 Alternate positions for 1 year terms. The first Alternate position expiring on December 31, 2024, I would nominate Chase Burmeister. The 2nd Alternate position I would nominate Brian Morse. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed).

For the Board of Zoning Appeals: There is an unexpired term for the seat vacated by myself due to the election as Trustee. It expires on December 31, 2024. I would nominate Simon Bartos for the remaining term. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed). We have a Full term expiring on December 31, 2028 I would nominate David Ruebensaal. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed). 2 Alternate positions for 1 year terms. The first alternate expiring on December 31, 2024 I would nominate Julie Stanton. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed). The 2nd

Alternate position expiring on December 31, 2024 I would nominate Robert Fertal. (Both Trustees Fullerton and O'Neil agreed).

Temporary Zoning Inspector: For the Time being we will retain Sherri Meinke in her role and continue her with the compensation of \$1400 per month until we can fill a full-time position. In the meantime she will not be seated on the Zoning Commission.

Zoning Secretary: We will retain Karen Schoonover for both Zoning Boards at a rate of \$21.00 per hour for a maximum of 20 hours as work on closing out the book.

Assistant Zoning Inspector: Potentially retaining Tim Kassouf on an as needed basis at a rate of \$21.00 per hour.

Trustee Fullerton: Do you want to make a motion to put an ad in the paper for Zoning Inspector?

Trustee Peroli: I'll make a motion to advertise in the Gazette for a Full-time Zoning Inspector.
Trustee Fullerton: I'll second.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, that's for getting a full-time position posted. Motion passes.

There is nothing else to add on to Resolution #5 everything else stays the same.

Trustee Peroli: Makes a motion to approve. Trustee Fullerton: second.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, that's for Resolution #5 passes.

Resolution 5FD - 2024 - Setting forth an annual organizing Resolution reciting positions and compensation of Lafayette Township Fire District Employees and appointees, miscellaneous fees and policies effective January 2024.

Trustee Fullerton: I will do this and if we can motion each section than we can vote to adopt the entire Resolution at the end.

Fire Chief: \$72,500.00 per year will not change the contract is coming up in June 2024.
Assistant Chief: \$32,500.00 per year.
Operations Captain: \$20,000.00 per year.

Trustee O'Neil: I'm ok with this.

Trustee Peroli: I've stated my opinions in the past on where we stand with the Fire Department. I understand the need to be more competitive with our pay and the cost of everything going up but I don't see it in the budget at the moment.

The hourly rates that have changed: Safety Officer \$18.00 per hour. Training Officer \$18.00 per hour.

Proposing an increase for the FF2/EMT position currently at \$15.50 per hour to \$17.50 per hour. All other positions stay the same.

The next portion is proposing time and a half pay rates for all hourly employees for all National Holidays for Fire District. All the other Departments around pay double time.

Continuing current benefits, life disability insurance, vfiis, volunteer firemans dependent fund, Ohio police and fire pension fund.

Trustee Peroli: I'll move to approve based on last year's Resolution with the changes that we noted. Trustee Fullerton: I'll second.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. Trustee Peroli says No All voting in favor, that's for Resolution #5FD passes with a 2 to 1 vote.

Trustee Fullerton: I would like to make a motion. We did get Grant money for the Fire Department ambulance Retention Grants. In the amount of \$20,000.00. The Chief's recommendation is to give all the positions a \$2.00 an hour raise. It can only be used for payroll, so he's setting aside a 6 month period and wants to start the next pay period. No one will be over \$22.00 an hour. Everyone will get that raise until that Grant is expired. Trustee Peroli: I'll second

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, motion passes.

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal: I would like a Resolution to request the advance of taxes collected. We do this every year to the Medina County Auditor. We are requesting that we get our tax payments early. This would be Resolution #6.

Trustee Fullerton: I'll move to adopt. Trustee Peroli second.


Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, Resolution #6 motion passes.

Motion to adjourn and pay the warrants of the Township. Trustee Fullerton: I'll second.

Trustee O'Neil: All those in favor aye. All voting in favor, meeting adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Approved:



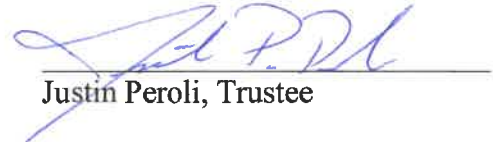
Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer



Chris O'Neil, Trustee



Ty Fullerton, Trustee



Justin Peroli, Trustee