

**MINUTES
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND THE LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT**

Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. - Special Meeting

The Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Fire District, Medina County, Ohio met in special session, on February 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Township Safety Services Building, 6367 Technology Lane, Medina, OH. Notice of this meeting was consistent with ORC 121.22 and the township's open meeting policy.

Members Present: Trustees O'Neil, Fullerton, Peroli - Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal

Trustee O'Neil: Called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Trustee O'Neil made the motion to enter executive session, second by Trustee Peroli, for the purposes of employee hiring. Three candidates were interviewed for the position of administrative assistant during the session (Jennifer Hazen, Kerrie Bellar, and Kristen Raulie). The Board unanimously voted to retire into executive session at 4:03 pm. The Board returned from executive session at 6:10 pm, having made no decision, and immediately recessed at that time.

Trustee O'Neil: Called the meeting to back to order at 6:30 pm after a return from recess that began at 6:10 pm. The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. The first portion of the meeting consisted of interviewing candidates and discussing the candidates in Executive session for Admin. Assistant. Three candidates came in and no decisions were made. We broke from Executive session and then we took a recess at 6:10 p.m. and now we're just coming back from recess. So, the meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. so we're just continuing it right now. So, do we have a motion on hiring an Admin Assistant?

Trustee Fullerton: Yes, all the candidates were good, but I would move to approve Kristen Raulie as our Administrative Assistant.

Trustee Peroli: I'll second.

Trustee O'Neil: All are in agreement, motion carries. It was a very tough choice as Trustee Fullerton said all 3 candidates were very good and interviewed well.

Trustee O'Neil: The second purpose of this special meeting is permanent appropriations. Everyone should've received copies of the Auditors certificate. We talked about Fire a couple of weeks ago in our February meeting in the work session, so we'll start with Fire.

Trustee Peroli: I did have a question looking over the Auditors certificate. There were some revisions since the initial certificate was issued in September. When we talked in the planning session under other sources of revenue that it's typically the EMS fees but the Auditor should've come back with a significantly higher number. So, I was wondering if we could get an explanation of what the difference is.

Trustee Fullerton: When I talked to Laura, she said it was the EMS charges what else?

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal: I sent you all the cash flow summary and that would've mentioned what was in there. Any other revenue that we get in, EMS fees, sometimes smaller grants go in there, the big grants are separated out by law but the smaller grants are in there.

Trustee Peroli: So that 184 in there is in anticipation of EMS fees and any grants that are received throughout the year.

Trustee Fullerton: During our work session Chief Cavanaugh went through each line item and expenses for the Fire District. He cut down the budget to stay within the parameters of the revenues that we have received. Revenues from the County are \$184,957.78. The taxes that the District brings in for operating expenses is \$612,200.00 and that includes the state rollback that we qualify for with that older operating levy. That totals up to \$801,157.00. During our work session we were a little bit higher but not by much, only \$482.00 so I called the Chief today and said we need to scale back that amount. We do have quite a bit of unincumbered balances of \$845,700.00. We're trying to not use that money. The way it was split to save was for salaries \$449,873.00. Operating expenses of the Fire Department is \$351,284.00. which comes up to the \$801,157.78. We also have a couple of other grants that need to be separated out. The Marcs grant is \$600.00 so that would go under expenses to help out and the EMS grant that he had just received for \$20,000.00 that has to be used for payroll for EMS people only. As far as the bond I would just bring over \$507,284.02. The work session really helped to delve into the itemized costs. The ARPA grant money is for expenditures and that was for \$2,083.08.

Chief Cavanaugh: The ARPA grant money for \$2,083.08 is getting returned to the state.

Trustee Peroli: My question would be for the bond why wouldn't we just appropriate exactly what we need? It is \$375,000.00 on principal. The interest payments for this year are \$59,560.00. Our total bond payments for the year are \$434,560.80. My only concerns are we are appropriating \$801,157.78, that's everything we are going to bring in this year and it's not allocating anything towards equipment. We've talked about the Fire levy for the Fall but there's no guarantee that the community accepts that.

Trustee O'Neil: We still do have a carryover of \$845,700.00. Let's go over each of the funds line by line. Can I get a motion to approve?

Trustee Fullerton: The grand total is \$1,258,401.66

Trustee Peroli: made the motion to approve.

Trustee Fullerton: seconded the motion.

Trustee O:Neil: called for a roll call vote, all agreed to approve. Adopted as of today.

Moving to Township side.

Trustee Peroli: questioned what service projects we may have planned out as that is the biggest variable.

Trustee O'Neil: I spoke with Rick today and he couldn't be here tonight. I had numbers of \$265,000.00 for the salary side and \$500,000.00 for the expenses side. I think there is going to be some significant work in one of the cul-de-sacs and that will be a sizable one due to the cost of concrete. The total for Road & Bridge would be \$765,000.00.

Trustee Peroli: questioned the increase over the last couple of years. Over appropriating if we are doing that makes it harder to make sure we are staying within the budget. Roughly we have 1.4 million dollars to work with on the Township side.

Trustee O'Neil: Under *General Fund* I have \$175,000.00 for salaries and \$200,000.00 for expenses. Under *Motor Vehicle License tax fund* there is nothing for salaries and we'll go with \$11,000.00 for total

expenses. *Gasoline tax* we'll go with \$120,000.00 for expenses. *Cemetery*, I know we spent more last year we did the columbarium, but historically I think the last several years it's been \$2,500,00. I don't think we have any big Cemetery projects on the horizon and that would all be Expenses. *Medina City Police Department*-last year we paid them I think out of two separate funds but now we just use the one Fund 2081 that would be zero for salaries and we are instructed to appropriate the entire amount. I would say \$472,495. 99.

Trustee Peroli: Why we are instructed to appropriate the full amount?

Trustee O'Neil: That's the contract payment because with that Levy this is the verbiage they used. We're supposed to appropriate the whole thing.

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal: Everything that you receive, because it passes through. So, if we're going to get if the contract is \$385,600.00 and then you add in whatever the difference is to make it 400,000 that's what you want to appropriate.

Trustee O'Neil: I'm fine with just doing \$400,000.

Trustee Peroli: We're only projected to receive 385,600. so appropriate the four because that's what the contract payment will be.

Trustee O'Neil: A grand total of 400. *Fund 2191 Fire & Rescue Combination* there is a little bit of a residual left from the fire and rescue combination. We have \$455.86 so I've got that under expenses just to exhaust that. *Fund 2231 Permissive Motor Vehicle Tax* nothing in salaries and 50,000 in the expense column. *Fund 2272 the Corona Virus Relief Fund* in that one we will exhaust everything in it. So, 8,199.09 in expenses. *Fund 2273 ARPA* I was going to appropriate the whole thing. It's got to be appropriated by the end of this year. So, zero on salaries and the entire remainder of \$230,100.35. *Fund 2274 One Ohio Opioid Fund* 2,501.74. That's what we have now but we're expected to get in 500. That's something we normally donate back to the county so they can use it.

Trustee Peroli: So, we appropriate the whole thing and then we'll worry about what we actually do with it at a different time. So, the amount is \$3,174.00.

Trustee O'Neil: Yes, appropriate the full 3,174.00. The last one is *Fund 4101 Bond Safety Services Building* - zero for salaries and for expenses let's try to exhaust the whole thing which was \$23,133.17.

Trustee Peroli: I mean my only concern is we're appropriating 1.9 almost \$2 million off of you know revenues this year of 1.45. I know a chunk of that's the ARPA funds right that we need to allocate. It's not necessarily a commitment that we're definitely spending the \$2 million but if we do that you know we're going into carry over from the previous year. I mean we haven't discussed anything I think that plan wise that warrants going into that project wise.

Trustee O'Neil: You are correct and we can pull back, the big one would be the expenses I don't think we can really touch salaries.

Trustee Peroli: I do think we have an opportunity where we can always appropriate additional funds if we need to later in the year. I think that this is probably appropriating a bigger budget than what we probably want to spend this year.

Trustee Fullerton: Well, I agree however what's making it foggy is the \$230,000.00 on the ARPA that we do have to spend which is great money. That's half the overage right there. The only thing that in my mind that you could cut down would be Road & Bridge down some. I don't know how much the concrete's going to cost for those cul-de-sacs at Hunters Run but it's not going to be cheap, but no one says we have to do all of them anyway.

Trustee Peroli: I mean if something pops up where it's a big project that we need to and we need to allocate more funds than we do, but I think you know maybe even if we can pull down an extra 200,000 total somewhere. I don't know realistically I think you know maybe we can take maybe even 150. I mean can we take 50 out of General? Can we get away with 150 in General Fund Expenses?

Trustee O'Neil: It's very possible last year we spent 136.

Trustee Peroli: So, maybe pull that down to 150. Pull Road & Bridge down to 400.

Trustee Fullerton: I was thinking Road & Bridge at 400. It's going to be a little lighter year other than those full depth concrete projects.

Trustee Peroli: Just so everybody knows too, this isn't where we've definitely spent this money or not spent it or not approved a plan it's just to give us the framework for how we manage the money that we have and helps us with that process throughout the year.

Trustee Fullerton: I'd Rather go 25 on the General Fund and give me 25 somewhere else. Just do 175 on the General Fund and maybe drop the Gas Tax down to 95. I think that's what we spent last year. We had to buy a bunch and we're full.

Trustee Peroli: Gas tax was 120 last year and only 50 the year before.

Trustee O'Neil: I'm good with either one of those.

Trustee Fullerton: So, 175 for General 400 on Road & Bridge and 95 on Gas. I think that will work.

Trustee O'Neil: I'll recap these here. *General Fund-1000* we have salaries of 175,000 and expenses of 175,000 for a total of 350,000 for *Motor Vehicle Fund – 2011* \$11,000 in expenses that's the total. *Gasoline tax Fund-2021* would be \$95,000. in expenses for a total of 95,000. Road and Bridge Fund-2031 would be \$265,000.00 in salaries and \$400,000.00 in expenses for a grand total of 665. *Cemetery Fund-2041* the expenses of 2500 and a fund total of 2500. *Medina City Police Fund-2081* \$400,000 in expenses. Fund total will be the same. *Fire & Rescue combination fund-2191* that would be \$455.86 out of expenses only. *Permissive Motor Vehicle*

Fund 2231 \$50,000 in expenses. *Fund 2272 Corona Virus Relief Fund* \$8,199.09 out of expenses and that would be the total *Fund 2273 ARPA* would be \$230,100.35 for expenses only. *Fund 2274 One Ohio Opioid Fund* \$3,001.74 expenses. *Fund 4101 Safety Services Bldg. Bond* would be \$23,133.17.

Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal: The total is \$1,838 390.21 that's the overall total.

Trustee O'Neil: That comes out to Total salaries of \$440,000 and total expenses of \$1,398,390.21 for a Grand Total of \$1,883.390.21.

Trustee Peroli: It's about 120 to 150,000. more than what we spent in the last two years. If we work off that number, we're at least same keeping it in line hopefully.

Trustee O'Neil: Motion to approve

Trustee Peroli: I would move to approve.

Trustee Fullerton: I'll second

Trustee O'Neil: Roll call vote all in approval. Resolution is adopted. That's all we had on the docket for the special meeting. So, I would make a motion to pay the warrants of the township and adjourn.

Trustee Peroli: Do we want to see if anybody's got any questions? We can as long as it's on the Appropriations.

Mike Costello: I'd be curious why you are donating the money from the Opioid Fund back to the Sheriff's Office. Your contract is with Medina City and I know somebody that was on the previous board who said that all the townships agreed to do that. That has never been the case. Most of the townships keep that money and it is my opinion that the money should go to Medina City police who is handling the Police contract and the police services.

Trustee Peroli: Tonight, we appropriated it so we haven't made a commitment one way or another with what we're going to do with it. I won't speak for the other two but I mean we'll definitely take that into consideration before we make a decision on what to do with those funds, thank you anyone else?

Trustee O'Neil: I would make the motion to pay the warrants of the township and adjourn.

Trustee Peroli: I'll second

Trustee O'Neil: All in agreement the meeting is adjourned it is 7:15 p.m.

Linda Collins: I thought all the questions were for the Appropriations but I have a question. Earlier this month we discussed finding a place to reap some benefits from the bond money. Someone had brought up Star money has anything been moved on that.

Trustee Fullerton: We'll discuss that at the March meeting regular meeting.

Trustee Peroli: Unfortunately, we're just restricted with it being a special meeting.

The meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.

Approved:



Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer



Chris O'Neil, Trustee



Ty Fullerton, Trustee



Justin Peroli, Trustee