

**Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Fire District
March 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

The notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and the implementing rules adopted by the Board pursuant thereto were complied with for the meeting.

Roll Call 6:30: Fullerton, Peroli, O'Neil present

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes Pending Approval

Trustee O'Neil, and Trustee Fullerton that they are not ready to approve February 22, 2024 & September 11, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee O'Neil to approve the January 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve the Consent Agenda. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Fiscal

Medina County Economic Development Corp.: Do we want to renew? It was \$1500/year; now it's \$1800/year.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve the Medina County Economic Development Corp. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Service

Presented by Rick Evans, Service Director. Conference Room Carpet & Furniture for the Administration Building. Total cost for the carpet is \$4627.

Total cost for the entire new conference room project = \$ 11,700

Motion by Trustee O'Neil, second by Trustee Peroli to approve up to \$11,700 for carpet, furniture, and delivery for the new conference room. Total should be \$17,600. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Rick Evans, Service Director is asking to award a bid for Ballash Road Project; Culvert #30. Denes Concrete's bid was \$ 115, 329; OPWC will pay up to 77K; We pay 38K on the Road Project. Time frame of road closure will be around 45 days. Rick is not sure when the project will start. The pipe was ordered. Project should start sometime in May. Denes Concrete will be responsible for all signs and traffic control.

Motion by Trustee Fullerton, second by Trustee Peroli to approve Denes Concrete for the Ballash Road Project. \$115k; 77K to be paid by OPWC GRANT. Our total \$38k. All in Favor. Motion passes.

We would like to sell the Roller and Paver to Doylestown. We paid \$5K for it around 6-7 years ago. Doylestown will purchase for \$4K.

Motion by Trustee O'Neil, second by Trustee Peroli to approve selling the Roller and Paver to Doylestown for \$4K. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Fire

Chief Cavanaugh presenting. Chief lists all details of his report. *To view reports go to 'March Reports' link on website.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to accept the resignation of Jessica White. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Motion by Trustee Fullerton, second by Trustee Peroli to approve the hiring of Noah Gamble pending a background check. All in Favor. Motion passes.

\$4,098 to improve Electric Sign outside Fire Station: includes Data plan using ARPA funds. \$195/year for Data plan on sign. Lifetime/7 years is \$1850. We have an outstanding balance of \$585 + \$195 due. Total for this update is less than \$5K and \$5K was allotted for the project. The updates will allow you to update the sign from your phone or tablet.

Motion by Trustee Fullerton, second by Trustee Peroli to approve new Electric sign updates for 4,878k using ARPA funds. All in Favor. Motion passes.

4 lights and flagpole parking lot lights are out at the Fire Station. This will be \$5716 to fix. We checked with Spielman (the light company) to see if they are under warranty, and they are not. This is a safety issue and needs fixed.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve \$5615 for Spielman Electric to replace the lights on the Fire Department flagpole and in the Fire Department parking lot. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Stryker Service Contract proposal by Chief Cavanaugh. Stryker is a service contract that will give the Fire Department essential batteries and materials needed. 4 batteries replaced every year. Batteries are used for the Load System; AED; stair chairs; cot load system; monitor for DFIB, etc. This equipment is very expensive to replace. This is much more cost effective. This will give us 2 squads worth of equipment and was already budgeted for this year.

Motion by Trustee O'Neil, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve Stryker Contract for 5 years for \$12,455. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Chief Cavanaugh would like to start a Lafayette Fire Department Facebook page to show the great things the department is doing. Trustee O'Neil is concerned about content and wants a

Facebook policy before Chief launches the page. Tara Powell would help with the page, but all posts would be approved by Chief.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee O’Neil to approve Chief Cavanaugh to have a Facebook page for Outbound Messages Only. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

Burn Ban from March - May (and OCT & NOV): You can have a small bonfire but not a huge fire; after 6 PM; watch for wind; do not burn yard waste; 3x3 fires for residential is the ideal size.

Police

Nothing to report.

Zoning

Sherri Meinke, Zoning Inspector reporting. Total revenue for February was \$2662.96
1 Agricultural exemption permit for the Medina Co. Parks, which we do not collect on.
2 properties we are looking in to: Lafayette Road and Chippewa Road.
3 properties on Palker Road are being inspected to be cleaned up. March 19, 2024 there will be variances being heard. In April there will be a variance for a parcel on Ballash Road for Solar Pannels. March 12 will be the zoning meeting. Trustee Peroli suggests we might want to look into outsourcing the writing of the zoning codes to a law firm. Trustee O’Neil thinks it is worth discussing. Trustee Peroli will work on it and present at the next meeting.

Public Participation

Resident Paul Koontz; 6235 Lafayette Road. Mr. Koontz had a complaint about loud semi truck noises going past his house late at night. He asked why there are no engine brake signs? Trustee Fullerton has talked to ODOT about the issue, in person, twice. ODOT has stated it’s a state road and they are not needed. Trustee Fullerton even asked ODOT to lower the speed limit and ODOT said no. The district for ODOT on that road is District 3 in Ashland. Trustee O’Neil stated that if it was a township road, signs would be posted immediately. Mr. Koontz wants Trustees to contact ODOT again and the state reps. He asked if there is noise ordinance for passing traffic. The answer is no. There is no way to enforce that.
Mr. Koontz had another complaint about motorcycles speeding and being loud in the early mornings on Lafayette Road. He asked police to hang around his address.

Resident Renee Drake had a complaint about cars speeding on Lake Road. She asked if there is a way to lower the speed limit on Lake Road and Chippewa Road before the railroad tracks? She is concerned about little girls playing by the road. Trustee Peroli suggested more police presence closer to the tracks. Police Chief said he will keep a closer eye on that area and have more police presence.

Resident Linda Collins had a fire & rescue question. She asked, “In the 49 calls, what is the longest time someone had to wait for rescue?” Chief Cavanaugh replied that the average time was 5 minutes. There are many factors; location, distance, are they already on a call, etc. Chief will look into the actual longest and report back.

Correspondence

Trustee Peroli brought up a resident complaint about clutter on Chippewa Rd property. Trustee O'Neil stated the Roadside Inn has gone into foreclosure. There was a notice of Delinquent Tax. He asks if we have interest in taking possession of the property as a township? Trustees in agreement that we should consider taking the property.

Resident asks: What do we do with the property? Trustees respond that we clean it up and make a use for the township out of it, or sell it for profit for the township.

Resident: 2 properties like that (that are owned by the township) are being used by residents for personal parking. Trustee Peroli will look into it.

Resident asked who owns the property across from the fire station?

Trustee look it up and respond that ownership is listed to RR2 ENTERPRISES. Transfer of ownership was back in May of 2021.

Motion by Trustee O'Neil, second by Trustee Peroli to discuss with the Prosecutors Office about taking the Roadside Inn into the Land Bank for Lafayette Township. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

New Business

Westfield Bank

Trustee Fullerton stated that last month Trustee Peroli brought 2 Resolutions to the Board. Trustee Fullerton suggests investing locally. He would like to change FDIC insurance. Currently, we have 6 Star Ohio accounts. They are making a great return. He would like to switch to Westfield Bank instead of Huntington for the Fire Department, Township Savings, and Checking. WE could make an extra \$75K just by changing banks. Trustee Peroli asks if we should be putting deposits back out for bid? Trustee Fullerton says that lots of discussions need to be taken first.

Jared from Westfield Bank presenting. He met with Trustee Fullerton and reviewed states from accounts with large balances. Interest is \$2200/monthly. FD \$4141/monthly. By switching, annual interest total would be \$72K; 6 total accounts held at Star Ohio. Westfield would match that rate for 6 months. All FDIC insured. Trustee O'Neil asked if there was 'no possibility for loss?' Jacob said that is correct. Trustee Peroli states that depository group needs to be bid out before we go with Westfield Bank. Trustee Fullerton will reach out to Mike Lyons about the requirements of bidding out. Trustees discuss opening another Star Ohio Account for the Fire District to invest in.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to open a Star Ohio Fire District Funds Account in the amount of \$1 Million.

RESOLUTION 9-2024FD

MARCH 4, 2024

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Trustee Peroli: YES
Trustee Fullerton: YES
Trustee O'Neil: YES
All in Favor. Motion passes.

Email Marketing Platform

Kristen Raulie, Administrative Assistant, speaking for Trustee Fullerton about MailChimp vs Constant Contact. The purpose of a email platform is to get residents information on up-and-coming meetings and events in the township. We would like to have a link posted on the Township homepage website to register to be on the email list. MailChimp is a possible platform to send mass emails. It is a free service for the first 5K users/contacts. We would like to use MailChimp to see how a "test run" goes.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee O'Neil for Kristen to set up a free MailChimp Township account. All in Favor. Motion passes.

BVIP OHIO (Burnham Flowers Insurance Group)

This is insurance for the Fire Fighters and EMS: Accident and Health Policy. Burnham Flower was probably purchased in 2015-16 (per the renewal date). Trustee O'Neil said we should have allowed it to expire. The other insurance is cheaper for the same benefits. Chief Cavanaugh said he is going over what we have within the next week. No motion is needed. We just need to let the BVIP expire.

Unresolved Business

Palker Road discussion and Mike Lyons. There does not seem to be any progress on the injunction. Shows online that they did pay their taxes. Trustee O'Neil stated that they were billed by the township of the cost of the clean up from last year. Resident asked if people are living there? Trustees stated that Mr. Palker owns it.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee O'Neil for Trustee O'Neil to work with Rick Evans and use up to \$10K to clean up the property on Palker Road with permission of the owner. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Spencer Road Property discussion. There is no contact with second property owner of another location that is becoming an issue on Spencer Lake Road. As of right now, we have no authority to do anything. Trustee Peroli states that it will become an issue if we don't address it. Welfare check was done on the resident. The resident was removed. Trustees agreed that the longer the situation is left unattended, the worse it will get.

Executive Session (if needed) Pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1)
Pay the warrants of the Township

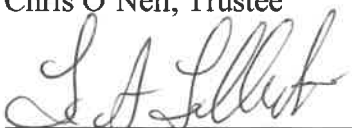
Motion by Trustee O'Neil, second by Trustee Peroli to Adjourn. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Board Chair declares meeting adjourned: 8:23 p.m.

Approved:


Laura Rubensaal, Fiscal Officer


Chris O'Neil, Trustee


Ty Fullerton, Trustee


Justin Peroli, Trustee