

TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and Fire District
Monday, May 6, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Trustee O'Neil

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

Peroli here, Fullerton here, O'Neil here. All Here.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes Pending Approval

- April 1, 2024
- April 19, 2024

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve the meeting minutes for April 1, 2024 and April 19, 2024. All in Favor. Motion Passes. Minutes Approved.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor. Motion Passes. Consent Agenda Approved.

Fiscal

Fiscal Officer, Laura Ruebensaal, reporting. The Township received some Palker nuisance clean up money in our first half settlement distribution. It appears that they have collected half of the amount due (\$9131.20 of the \$18,262.40) but deducted \$118.71 in fees which they will also tack on when the second half is distributed. How does the Board want to handle that (draft a bill, write it off, etc.)? Do we bill him? Do we eat the cost? When they collect from him, they charge us fees. Trustee O'Neil suggests we charge them the fees. Trustee Peroli asks to double check with Prosecutor's office to see if we can do that since we didn't do it up front? Trustee O'Neil will contact the Prosecutor's office to get their option to see how to proceed and re-visit this topic at the next meeting. All Trustees are in agreement.

Armstrong Easement Report. Mike Bricker said the project was completed the first week in February. 3 Railroad crossings that held up the project completion until February 15, 2024. Door-to-door sales started on February 19, 2024, to schedule installation of services for residents for anyone who wanted it. There were 5 homes who were on a private drive and

would not agree to an easement for Armstrong to construct their lines. Other homes on that drive did have easements and the project was constructed.
Audit was certified and released at 12:05 am on April 22, 2024.

Service

Ballash Road Culvert Project

Service Director, Rick Evans, reporting. Contractor will be starting Monday May 13th and the road will be closed for 45 days. Kristen will work with Sherri to put on the website.

Town Hall Interior Concrete Leveling

Leveling of townhall flooring will be done this Wednesday in the southwest corner of the building.

Fire District Report

Chief Brian Cavanaugh presented.

69 Calls in April 2024

2 Chatham, 2 Medina City, 45 Lafayette Township, 9 Village of Chippewa Lake, 9 Glory Glenss, 1 Lodi, 1 Seville, 1 Westfield, 1 York Township. 37 Daytime, 32 Nighttime Calls. 2 Min 5 Sec Avg Turn out time; YTD 2 min 6 sec. 75% EMS calls; rest are fires or false alarms. We gave mutual aid: Medina city 2, York 1, Chatham 1, Lodi 1, Westfield 2, Seville 1. We received mutual aid 2 times.

Community

Community Advisory Committee met on April 25, 2024. We reviewed our EMP capabilities, and our crews demonstrated common EMS equipment. Upcoming meetings will be CPR certification classes. Pancake breakfasts were a huge success with record numbers. Chief thanked the community for their support. Lafayette fire department, along with other local departments, participated in a parade to bring home a little girl who underwent cancer treatments.

Training

Ohio Fire Academy offered a free course and taught our department the Basic Pump Operations. We trained with Seville and Medina Fire departments on search and rescue and fire ground operations at an acquired structure in Seville. Todd Kemp, Kelly Parker, and Noah Gabel completed 16 hours of EVOC Training. Ben Grega, Cody Uniack, Christian Hall, and Chief Cavanaugh completed the Foundational Leadership Course from the Ohio Fire Chiefs. Todd Kemp and Allison Jadlos attended the Wayne Co. EMS symposium. This was a free course offered by the Wayne Co. Firefighters Association.

Department

Our ambulance 107-2 windshield was repaired due to a crack. All preventive maintenance has been completed on all apparatus. We will begin hydrant flushing this month. We have been selected for the State Fire Marshal Equipment Grant for \$13,940.00. This will allow us to purchase four new sets of turn-out gear. Cleveland FF were injured today. Please say a prayer for them.

Trustee Peroli asked about spending. He was looking over the financials through the end of April. We appropriate around \$800,000 for the department. Looking at projections with YTD

spending we are looking at \$970,000. Chief Cavanaugh states that they had a big upfront cost from maintenance, and he feels like that might stand out. Trustee Peroli also states that the Township allocated a little under \$450,000 for salaries for the department. YTD we are at \$169,354 for department salaries, pacing it out for the year, puts us at about \$510,000. He asks if we have had extra staffing? Chief Cavanaugh states that they have had a couple extra fire fighters training, but no. Calls have been coming in when our crews are out, so people have been coming up for additional calls. He believes it will all even itself out.

Police Report

Sargent Simpson reporting. Nothing to report. Officer Desiak got a letter of appreciation from the wife of someone he tried to save. The townships is grateful.

Zoning Report

Sherri Meink, Zoning Inspector, reporting. Fees collected this month were \$5243.41 . Busiest month of the year so far. Variance request came in April 30. That is the 6th one for 2024. We have a new Variance system; the paperwork has to be in by the 30th of that month in order to be heard in the following month. Popular permits seem to be decks, sheds, and fences. We had 1 Agricultural Exemption permit.

Technology Park; Ohio Custom Pools. They were issued a permit to build their headquarters. They have notified nearby owners. Letters went out and they have 30 days to clean up the area.

Palker Road

6695 Palker Road. This is where the tent and platform was. Both have been removed.

Property was purchased on land contract.

6556 Palker Road. They are making progress with photo updates.

6635 Palker Road. Sr. and Jr. Palker have been issued vouchers. Garage looks great. You can actually fit cars inside of it. They will be cutting up the boat that is on the property. They have been very courteous. She has not seen the backyard yet.

Sherri has been advised of several other nuisance properties. Sherri will be out to look at them. Deerview Lane has had complaints of zoning violations. Sherri will be out to look at it. You can reach Sherri on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on her cell phone or at zoning@lafayetteetownship.com.

Trustee O'Neil asks a resident how the 6635 Palker Road looks from her residence? She said there are several piles of trash. She appreciates how Sherri is staying on top of things and the situation seems to be gradually improving. She said that as long as it keeps improving, she is happy. Trustee O'Neil states that they are still waiting to hear back from the Prosecutors office about the title searches on the property.

Executive Session

The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss ORC 121.22 paragraph G1: Employee Hiring and Firing Discipline/Compensation Investigation.

Roll Call: Peroli Yes, Fullerton Yes, O'Neil Yes

Time is 6:49 p.m.

7:31: Trustees returned from Executive session. No decisions were made.

Public Participation

Mark Freddrick. States illegal stuff is happening. Wants microphones and a portable amplifier, so he can hear the meetings. He would like to know why adults can't find a way to get along. He also wants to know why no one is recording the meeting and have it as a public record? He would like to see these meetings record.

Al Johnson. 6855 Ryan Road. He asks Mr. Peroli why he didn't go down to get the training with the other trustees? Trustee Peroli states that he had his foot in a boot and couldn't drive and he did all the training online. Trustee Peroli states that it costs the same. The only difference in cost would be driving down and the hotel. Next, Mr. Johnson states how people like to use vulgar language about his signs and how he votes. He says it will not be tolerated.

Renee Drake. Lake Road. She questions the Trustees if they were privy to the management letter that was sent out. They respond, yes. She asks when they all received the letter. Trustee Fullerton states that they all got it at the same time. Laura states that she handed all the Trustees a copy on Friday. She disagrees.

Paul Koontz. 572 Woodland Drive. He wants 'No Jake Brake' signs posted due to loud noises in the early morning hours. Wants to know why the signs are not put up. Mr. Koontz says that every other neighboring township has these signs. Trustee O'Neil responds and says it's his understanding that ODOT has been doing a study. Trustee Peroli says ODOT has completed their study, and we are waiting for their written report. Trustee Peroli states that they need to decide if the Trustees want to go this route. Trustee Peroli has been doing research on trying to figure out the best way to handle the signs. There are plenty of good reasons as to why a truck would need to use a jake brake. Prohibiting it wouldn't be the way to go about it. There are already noise ordinances in place. We can have the police pull them over and check their vehicles. We do have the authority to pass a resolution and submit it. The only restriction from ODOT is that we have to decide on one section per state route. We would have to decide where it would start and where it would end. We can't pick and choose where signs would be placed. As per Trustee Peroli's discussions with ODOT, we would pass a resolution, and submit it to ODOT. ODOT would have to verify the section of road. They would then bill the township for the signs. Trustee Peroli states that there are safety concerns to go with it, but if a trucker has to use it to avoid an accident, he doesn't think a sign would stop them from doing it. We can look at the grade and the speed limit. Trustee O'Neil is not opposed to it, but he is not a professional on truck braking systems. Mr. Koontz asks why they are using it. Can we take down the sign that Montville put up that says, "End of Engine Brake"? He's speaking for the people in the neighborhood. They are not local trucks. Melanie King states that it is a simple on/off switch. Trustee O'Neil states that the issue is the noise.

Kate Co. 7351 Westfield Road. Tells the officer that he is welcome to come sit in her driveway to see speeders. Doesn't like the semis coming down the road. States that Westfield Rd has a limit of 8 axels, and she sees semis going down that road. She would like monitoring. Officer says to call as soon as you see it.

Mark Albrecht. 5948. Asks residents to let him know if his trucks are being obnoxious. States that Justin had an excellent point about patrolling the noise situation. He states that

trucks, in general, are noisy. Mr. Koontz says it is not his trucks. Mr. Albrecht states we can save money on signs. He wants to know if any of his trucks (red trucks with black stripes) are causing any issues. Renee Drake asks what kind of trucks? Mr. Albrecht says it's dump trucks. On a positive note, he says he likes the passion that the trustees have for the township. He says everyone is doing a great job. Meeting attendees applaud him. Trustee Fullerton asks where in the township would you not put signs for safety reasons? Mr. Albrecht replies that if you have to make a stop, it will make a noise. Most guys who use them love noise and they are the ones that use them. Mr. Albrecht said he doesn't think signs are the solution, he thinks more patrolling would be the solution.

Dennis Ringcartel. 7726 Egypt Road. He drives a truck around here. He suggests that we don't put up signs. He states that tankers weigh 120,000 pounds. We are legal. He feels sorry for the houses over there that were not told that the roads are industrial roads. He states that roads disappear in front of you and his jake brake is always armed. He understands about the noises and there are some people who do use it to make noise. He doesn't want to kill anyone, so the jake brake will be used. He suggests that police patrol it. Mr. Koontz said the trucks coming down here are not local trucks. He agrees. Dennis wanted to give a different perspective of the situation. Truck drivers who are not from the area do not know the roads, thus the use of the jake brake might be needed. Mr. Koontz asks him why do other townships have the signs? Dennis says because they put up signs and then they don't enforce them. He doesn't think you need signs of no jake brake; he suggests a sign that says, "Residential Area." Trustee Peroli asks if the section from Westfield Road (downgrade off SR 42, past Albrecht on Spencer Lake Rd) needs a sign? Dennis says no. He offers for anyone to take a ride with him to see how the truck works. Trustee Fullerton says he would like to take him up on that. Once you start putting up restrictions, where do you stop? Trustee Peroli states that speed limits on state routes we have no control over. Trustee Peroli says that even if we do signs, we have to do some level of patrolling. There has to be more than one solution. Trustee O'Neil states that we have some quality conversation with some other perspectives on the situation. Mr. Albrecht and Dennis suggest adding noise ordinances.

Melanie King. Lake Road. Microphones for the meetings would be nice as well. We would also like videoing done by the township. There is too much arguing and bickering on Facebook. People need to be respectful online and in person. When you comment online, you are representing this township and it's getting embarrassing. She thinks it needs to stop. Thinks people are getting too many different views. Trustee Peroli thanks her and says she is not wrong. We can all do a better job at how we can do our discussions and disagree. It's not necessarily a bad thing to disagree. Ms. King states that doesn't matter if you like each other or not, you are all here for the township.

Mike Costello. 5525 Wagon Trail. Speaking to Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal, he states that he has sent her many records requests and she was asking legal counsel for clarification on how to respond. He asks if she has heard from them? She states that she got a response from them Friday, May 3, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Costello asks why he has not received them yet? The fiscal officer responds that he will be getting them this week. Mr. Costello asks why he could not have received them today? He asks why his requests need clarification from legal counsel.

Angela Ventura. 3833 Portchester Lane. Concerned about the release date of the Audit that was released in April. States that there was a letter to the Trustees on February 16, 2024. Says there was a management recommendation letter with it. She has made a records request for it. She states that she asked Trustee Peroli for it, and he didn't have it. She asks when everyone received the management letters. Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal responds that this was her first audit and she shared it with the Chairman of the Board. She doesn't know why Perry Auditor's said that there were 'no responses,' because they did give them responses, so she cannot answer for them. Fiscal Officer continues stating that they dated the letter in February, it went for desk review for April 8, then it went to the Auditor of State, and they released it on April 22, 2024. Angela asks the fiscal officer if she did have the management letter? She responded yes. Next, she asks if the Trustees can share what the document was that they just received before the meeting? Trustee O'Neil responds that it is a letter from Richard J. Marco, Attorney at Law, regarding Alice Strogina who was the Lafayette Township former Zoning Inspector. Trustee O'Neil reads the letter in its entirety. They just got the letter today, during this meeting. Trustee O'Neil says he does not know why Ms. Strogina's unemployment benefits were denied. He states the township did not try to deny her benefits. He will look into the matter and send it to the Prosecutor.

Linda Collins. 129 Shady Slope. Is there an update on the videotaping? Trustee O'Neil responds. He states that there is no convective effort to not video record. For 2 years, we have video recorded meetings without fail. The gentleman who records the meetings got a new job and the meeting times moved, so we regrettably have missed some. Trustee Peroli states we will have videoing going forward. Ms. Collins asks about microphones being put on the desk. During the Special Meeting on April 19, did we have resolution about the internet service? Trustee Fullerton reported that we do not have a resolution yet. He states that the Trustees had a meeting last Friday on it, with several companies and discussing what hardware we need, so it is moving forward. Trustee Peroli met with a couple other IT vendors to see what other information we can learn. He says everything is working and operational at this time, we are functional. Trustee O'Neil did speak with Keith from KGC, and he did agree to push the agreement to June 1 and he agreed to come in. Ms. Collins doesn't agree with the signs on Ryan Rd, but she does agree the owner has the right to have them on his property.

Melanie King. Is it possible for any time we open a bank account to have it be one that earns interest? Justin defers to Laura for a response. He asks Laura to confirm accounts have been switched to Huntington at 3%. Laura responds yes.

Correspondence

Trustee O'Neil reporting. Honey Shade Court residents were not happy with the late notice of construction in the cul-de-sac. We thought they were going to receive more notice and they did not. Trustee O'Neil takes responsibility and apologizes.

Trustee O'Neil states that after what was mentioned at the last meeting, he wants to go back and touch on it. Since the last meeting, Trustees O'Neil and Peroli have had a good discussion. Trustee O'Neil states that everyone on the on the board is committed to serving the needs of the township. They are all on the same page with that. Audience applauds. He

states that some of them have been at odds for 2 years and, he reiterates on how he stated previously, how he sincerely hopes trust levels will continue to increase. He believes steps have already been taken in that direction. No one is holding grudges. We are all here to be on the same team. Trustee O'Neil will make that commitment to the township.

Trustee Fullerton reporting. There was a public records request that had emails between Fiscal Officer Ruebensaal and Mike Costello. Trustee Fullerton reads the emails back and forth between the 2 of them. The emails discussed a public records request and the fiscal officer stating that Mr. Costello recorded their conversation on his phone after the meeting had officially ended. Mr. Costello said he thought he had stopped his phone recorder, and he would have to double check. He asks why meetings are not being recorded. He asks for a response from Trustee Fullerton. Trustee Fullerton responds by stating that Mr. Costello does not have his permission to audio record his personal conversations after a meeting has adjourned. He saw Mr. Costello walking up and looking at his phone and Trustee Fullerton saw it was on record. Mr. Costello states it was an accident and that he doesn't need his permission in the state of Ohio to record him. Trustee Fullerton moves on to state that when they took office, they did not guarantee video recordings at meetings, but they would do it to the best of their ability, video recording is not a requirement by the state. Written minutes is what is required by the state of Ohio. We are trying our best to have every meeting recorded. We are not perfect and there may be hiccups and we have had hiccups. All of our minutes are up-to-date. They are approved and signed. In 2020, there are several months of written minutes missing, per the audit. Mr. Costello states it is the Fiscal Officer's job to keep the minutes. Trustee O'Neil states that Mr. Kyle is here tonight, and we also have our own Township camera and meetings will be recorded. Trustee Peroli states that he has a cell phone to record in case of emergency as well. Trustee Peroli goes back to the statements about privacy and says that he disagrees with Trustee Fullerton. Trustee Peroli states that they are in a public office, and they should have no reasonable expectation of privacy. Trustee Fullerton states that he was in a back room having a private conversation. Trustee Peroli asks which meeting minutes from 2020 are missing in the Auditor's report. Trustee Fullerton does not know which minutes are missing. This is a concern. We need to find where those minutes are.

Lynda Bowers. 6440 Ryan Road. She states she downloaded all of the meeting minutes as well on the website when she left the office. If meeting minutes are missing, someone should find them, because that's a problem. You have to have them.

Resident. Question about recording the meetings. She asks if the ORC gives you an option to have either/or written or video reordered minutes. Trustee O'Neil states that the minutes need to be written and signed off on to approve. Trustee Peroli states that the official records of the meetings are the written minutes. The only legal requirement is that we have written minutes. Thus, everything else we do is to try to help increase the level of transparency and access for people who can't make it to meetings.

Steve Demoski. The only comment I make on the video is the audio. It does help me out a lot that I can go back and listen to the meetings. Trustee O'Neil agrees. Trustee Peroli reporting.

Mr. Demoski had issues with water pressure on Lake Road. Line runs down to new building and the truck stops. They have now hooked it up and now there are issues.

Email List Question: Trustee Peroli asks Admin Assistant, Kristen Raulie, if residents need to have a google email address to be added to the Resident Email Group. Kristen replies no, they can use any email. If residents are having an issue with the QR code on the newsletter, they are able to join the Email list by emailing admin@lafayette township.com and ask to be placed on the list.

Trustee O'Neil wants to address Facebook discussion inaccuracies that have been floating around. The first inaccuracy states that, "Starting as early as 2022, in the organizational meeting, the Trustees handed out double digit raises and created new positions of support staff for elected officials and other spending measures hiring in raises that have more than doubled the payroll in benefits." Trustee O'Neil goes on to debunk this by stating that in 2021 the Fire District and Township employed a Resource Officer that earned a monthly salary of about \$1500/month plus medical benefits. That was changed to an hourly rate of \$16.50/hour in December of 2021. That employee resigned in January of 2022 and that role was never replaced. There are some pretty large savings right there. That person was employed for probably 3-4 years. In 2021 the township did not employ a zoning secretary. However, in 2022 the Trustee's did hire a part-time zoning secretary at the hourly rate of \$21/hour and that person works on an "as needed" basis. Melanie King interjects and wants to add that the Zoning Secretary position was voted on and added in the 2021 meeting minutes before any of the current trustees took office. Trustee O'Neil says that is correct. In 2021 Lafayette Township employed an Administrative Assistant at the rate of \$19/hour. This employee resigned in December of 2021. In January of 2022 the role was filled with a new employee at the rate of \$21/hour. However, the newer employee, in general, worked approximately 10 hours less per week. The position is currently filled with another person who earns the same rate of \$21/hour. There is nothing new there. In 2021-2022 Lafayette Township did not employ a Zoning Assistant. However, in 2023 the Trustees did hire a part-time zoning assistant at the rate of \$21/hour. It is a very limited position with very few hours. It is not a large expense. In 2021 Lafayette Township employed a Zoning Inspector who was awarded a salary increase of \$1300/month in late 2021. That employee was awarded another salary increase to \$1400/month and remained in the role until December of 2023 when the employee was terminated. That role was filled by a new employee in February of 2023, and it is now \$21/hour. In November of 2021, the Service Director's position was terminated, and the Trustees did not fill the position before the end of December 2021 term end. At that time the remaining 2 employees of the service department were awarded raises from \$18/hour to \$21/hour and from \$20 to \$24/hour respectively. In January of 2022 the Service Director was hired back with Lafayette Township at an hourly rate of \$31/hour, which was a \$3/hour increase, and what was in line with what the other service department employees got in their hourly raises. In January of 2022, the Trustees did award wage increases to the following classifications of fire and EMS personnel; paramedics \$3/hour, EMT's \$2/hour, and firefighters at \$1/hour. These increases brought the Fire District up from the lowest paid in these categories to now be the middle of the range compared to 9 near-by departments. In 2022 the Trustees awarded the Fire Chief a \$5000/year salary increase from \$60,000 to \$65,000; including benefits that he already had, totaled \$89,700 in total compensation.

Effective in January 2023, following the resignation of that Fire Chief, the Trustees granted pay increases for the Assist. Chief from \$20,000 to \$32,000/year and for the captain from the hourly rate of \$24/hour to a salary of \$20,000/year, as both were filling additional roles with the absence of a Chief. In June of 2023, we hired our current Chief at the annual salary of \$72,500, which is about \$90,000 including benefits which is about \$400-\$500 away from the total compensation was from our previous Fire Chief. Those have been the only changes. There have been very minimal increase in wages and positions. It does not more than double the salary.

Trustee O'Neil responds and clarifies another statement made at last township meeting. The statement says that the 'fiscal officer reported that there wasn't enough general fund money for elected officials pay and benefits. The statement claims that the fiscal officer and trustees kept pushing to rob money from the fire district fund; that they just tried to convince the public was in financial trouble; and while legal council sat there and kept telling them he didn't believe the fire district funds could be used that way.'

Trustee O'Neil states that is not how it was. He states that we have a separate fire district and township budgets. The 3 Trustees serve as liaison for the different departments. The Fiscal Officer's questions were to get clarification on which portions of Trustee Fullerton's salary should come from the Fire District side since he is the Fire Liaison. It was not a matter of "robbing Peter to pay Paul." The fiscal officer just wanted clarification to make sure it was being done correctly.

Another clarification brought up by Trustee O'Neil states that 'over the last 2 years, Lafayette Township and the Fire District has benefited from more than \$500,000 in extra COVID related funding. 1 time money, but in 2022 Lafayette Township received approximately \$310,000 in COVID related funding. However, the FD did not receive any COVID related funds that year.' Trustee O'Neil rebuffs this statement by stating in 2023 neither the township or the fire district received any COVID related funds.

Lastly, Trustee O'Neil de-bunks any talk of Trustees raising taxes. Trustees do not raise taxes. Trustees can put a levy on the ballot, but it goes to the voters to choose whether or not to pass the levy.

Linda Collins. Agrees about the wages. She states we cannot be the lowest to pay and then get the best people. She has a question about insurance and healthcare. Is the plan that the employees have causing this underflow in the operating budget? Trustee O'Neil responds and states that no one hired new has benefits. They are all part-time employees. (Except for the Fire Chief, who forgoes his benefits). Trustee Peroli responds that the only people on the Township side that have benefits are the 4 elected officials and the 3 full-time members of the Service Department. Trustee O'Neil states that at the last meeting the trustees voted to increase the deductible in exchange for a lower premium pay. The premium is what we have to pay for coverage for the employees. It's going up a total of \$48/month total; not per person. The deductibles went from 4 and 8 to 5 and 10. Only if there are claims.

Brian Cavanaugh. 5578 Coverdale Way. We are the lowest paid FD in the county. We need to pay our firefighters to stay in the township. If we can't pay a firefighter a fair wage, we are

not going to get the best care for our families. We need to support our fire department. We need to fund our fire department properly. When this started, they did not have a plan in place for 24-hour staffing. We have a lot of trainees who train with us and then leave to go to the next best thing because they get paid better. A resident asks how much it is to train a new fire fighter? Chief responds that it costs about \$6,000-\$8,000. We get a lot of training money back from fire fighter training, we don't get the EMT training back, and they pay for their own Paramedic schools. We get some of that back in reimbursement grants, but we spend a lot of time training them here. We have not planned and prepared for the future of the fire department since 2020. It's about \$4,000 for a full set of turn out gear. We are getting 8 sets this year all on grants that Chief has wrote. That gear has to be replaced every 10 years. Ambulances need to be replaced. Tanker needs replaced. Engines are going to start to cycle out. These are things we need to plan for. Melanie King asks if we can have a fire department vehicle fund? Chief says we have a Star Ohio account, but those are general funds as well for the fire department. A small ambulance would be about \$400,000. Fire trucks will be over \$1 Million by the time we buy one in 5 years. Chief said we are earning some money now from the Star Ohio accounts.

Resident asks that with new homes being built, don't we get more revenue? Trustee Peroli states the fire district money doesn't change. When you have a levy that is passed it is earmarked to a dollar amount. No matter how many houses are built, we don't get any more money; your taxes just go down individually. When was the last levy passed? 2006 states Chief Cavanaugh.

Unresolved Business

Township Sponsored Community Events

Administrative Assistant, Kristen Raulie, reporting. She is planning for some upcoming community events like a movie night and Halloween party. Does the Township have any kind of budget for these types of events? Are there any local businesses that would like to sponsor these events? We are trying to have some fun events for the community to attend. A resident says that they have a friend who has a movie license who might be willing to donate their time. Kristen welcomes that. She also states that local businesses can have tables at these events to meet the community and maybe have a craft or game for the kids.

Disposal of Technology items no longer in use

Sherri reporting. She has made an inventory of technology items that are taking up space in the storage room. Trustee O'Neil states that we should get that list completed and we can vote on one of the upcoming meetings on how to dispose of all of that.

Lafayette Township Domain

Trustee Peroli reporting. We are still waiting for .gov to get back to us. We should have the .gov account for the Lafayette Township website. There is some grant money to help defer the cost.

Banking Update

Trustee Fullerton reporting. A couple months ago he sat down with Westfield. Trustees were not in agreement and decided to get more options. Last week Trustee Fullerton met with Huntington Bank. Tony and Julie, both VPs at Huntington. We have already switched to the

Preferred Checking at 3% interest rate. February 1, 2024, was the first time they started offering those rates. Tony was trying to email Laura and was using the incorrect email address. Trustee Fullerton states that the accounts have been at .3% for over 6 years. The township has been banking with Huntington since 1968. Both proposals were good.

Competition between the banks is a good thing. Trustee Fullerton wants to motion to open a Township side account with Westfield Bank and leave the Fire District account at Huntington. He wants to be diverse. He states that other townships use more than one bank. Trustee Peroli asks if Westfield's proposal has changed from the fact that they do not give interest on the first \$400,000. Trustee Fullerton says no, but all banks give different deals to get their money. i.e. some will give 3% and charge you service charges and others won't give you service charges and won't give you 3% until a certain amount. It's different ways of doing business. The numbers are close, and it would be a healthy thing for us to do. Westfield's last proposal states that the first \$400,000 would be 0% interest, but the rollover money in the mutual fund that we can pull from, and we can put money back and forth from on a daily basis would be 5%. Also, Westfield's service charges are less than Huntington's. The competition is a good thing.

Trustee Peroli states that once the interest rates start going down, Westfield will drop theirs. He states additionally, the \$400,000 that's at 0% can be deposited at Huntington and then the balance can go to Star Ohio, and we get out ahead. Trustee Peroli doesn't think that they can make up on the first \$400,000 getting nothing. Trustee Fullerton disagrees. Trustee Fullerton states that the 5% they will earn in the mutual fund will make up for the 0% that is not earned on the first \$400,000. Trustee Peroli asks how it would make up for it if he can get the same 5% on the overflow somewhere else at Star Ohio and get 3% on the first \$400,000. Trustee Fullerton states that he disagrees, which is fine, and they will defer to Trustee O'Neil's opinion. Trustee O'Neil asks for a review of the Huntington offer. Trustee Peroli states that there is no requirement as to what we keep in our checking from Huntington. We get 3% on all of it. He states that Trustee Fullerton is correct in that if we leave in all in Huntington, the township will only get 3% on all of it. Trustee Peroli suggests that then they would need to utilize the Star Ohio accounts, which are currently paying 5.5%. Yes, there is a risk that it will go down, but Westfield's will reprice their money market if their rates go down as well. Resident, Jo Fullerton, asks if Star Ohio is FDIC insured? Trustee Peroli responds that it is not, and neither is anything over \$250,000 with Westfield. Trustee Fullerton says that since the township is a public entity, they will insure it. Trustee Fullerton states that he would rather have 2 banks so that they are fighting over our business, and we get the better end of that deal. O'Neil states that Westfield will guarantee this for 6 months. He doesn't see a big drawback or negative to it. He asks Laura's opinion. She states she has to recuse herself. Trustee Peroli states that our goal should be maximizing our interest. That should be our only goal. He states these are extremely safe banking vehicles. Trustee Peroli believes Westfield's offer doesn't make any sense. Trustee O'Neil states that we already have the Star Ohio accounts that we can put as much money that we want in at any time. He doesn't see a drawback to opening a Westfield account and bringing in competition. He would second opening a Westfield account for another reason. That reason is, if you look at the management letter, we owe Star Ohio a policy on investing that apparently, they do not have. We can choose at any moment to take whatever amount of money we want out of the Westfield account and put it in Star Ohio.

Motion by Trustee Fullerton, second by Trustee O'Neil to open a Westfield account. All in Favor? Fullerton Aye, O'Neil Aye, Peroli No. Motion passes 2-1.

New Business

DeLight Electrical & Plumbing / Conference Room

Trustee Peroli reporting. Everything is set up for an electrical hook up. We have a quote for \$450 for it. There is also a need to fix the outlet above the copy machine in the Administration office.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee Fullerton to approve up \$1,000 to install the electrical outlets. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

Medina County Township Association April Meeting

Trustee Peroli attended and reported. Presentations on Federal government and programs that are available to the township. The federal government is awarding grants in return for local governments giving up some of their sovereignties. Something worth us keeping an eye on. Another topic was that Medina Township was having excessive amounts of public records requests. They were having discussions about having further restrictions about the public's right to access records. Their intention is to, once they get this legislation drafted for Columbus, have all the townships to get together and discuss. Trustee Peroli brings this up because he does not want to further restrict the public's access to records. He asks that the Trustee's draft a letter saying that they don't want to get involved. Trustee Fullerton states that we wait to see if this comes to fruition and what they send out, then we can respond. Trustee O'Neil brings up MCTA renewal for the 4 elected officials. Trustee Peroli states that they wanted to add the both zoning boards, zoning inspector, zoning secretary, service director, and fire chief. MCTA allows the township access to all the webinars.

Zoning Commission Alternate Interview

Trustee Peroli reporting. Sherri, Curtis, Diane, and Justin were there to conduct interviews for the zoning commission alternate position.

Motion by Trustee Peroli, second by Trustee O'Neil, to approve Nick Kiddle as the second alternate for the Zoning Commission. All in Favor. Motion Passes.


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 Fullerton to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. Motion passes.

Board Chair declares meeting adjourned: 9:26 p.m.

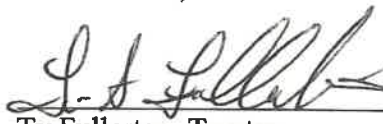
Approved:



Laura Rubensaal, Fiscal Officer



Chris O'Neil, Trustee



Ty Fullerton, Trustee



Justin Peroli, Trustee