

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2016

Meeting called to order: 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Bryon Macron, Trustee Michael Costello, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey.

Mr. Costello announced the regular trustee meeting will take place this evening followed by the 7:00 pm community fire station discussion with Architect Dan Frederick.

Mr. Macron moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting- August 10, 2016, Regular Meeting- August 15, 2016, Emergency Meeting- August 17, 2016 and the Special Meeting- August 30, 2016. Mr. Costello seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Correspondence:

Mr. Macron reported the Sheriff's Department and Fire Department received "You are My Hero" pictures with messages from the kindergarten students at Cloverleaf Elementary School.

Ms. Bowers explained the township has a land reutilization program and there is approximately a 35' x 40' property located near Chestnut and Third Streets that has been through sheriff's auction twice and is available to the township. She does not see a public purpose and the trustees were in agreement to not pursue the property.

Ms. Bowers announced that Lafayette Township is now listed with the EPA for the urbanized storm sewer areas. She feels the EPA should continue to focus on clean water and air, in which they were formed to do and to quit going after small communities for money. Ms. Bowers said the storm sewer program will take time and resources from our community and provide no benefit to the township. She has requested the EPA show the nine commercial and industrial structures within the township that are on sewer and water and if we are made to participate the deadline for the first reporting is in April. Ms. Strogin attended the informational meeting and gave a brief outline. She said Mr. VanLoon with the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) recommended the townships request being placed under the county program. Ms. Strogin said part of the program will require someone to inspect properties for issues and she stated she is not interested in being the individual and she recommends approaching the County to be placed under their program. Ms. Bowers said she will research being placed under the county program because the township will be required to pass regulations that will prohibit, governs and enforce certain issues that the township has no authority to do.

Fire Department Report: Mr. Costello reported (report provided by Asst. Chief Winter) a total of 69 runs for the month August (11-Fire, 42-EMS to Lafayette Township, 1- Fire, 7-EMS to Village of Chippewa Lake, 0- Fire, 5-EMS to Gloria Glens, 3-Fire, 0-EMS Mutual Aid). Fuel Usage: 218.6 gallons of fuel, 1,867 miles were logged on all vehicles.

Chief Hall informed Mr. Costello that last Tuesday a resident phoned his personal cell phone for a fire call. The resident explained to the chief that a call was made to the Administration Building before calling him to discuss an open burn near a property she was working at. The resident said she spoke with Ms. Buell and that Ms. Buell informed her that if the fire was not very big the fire department would not do anything about it. Ms. Buell questioned who the resident was and was informed it was Ms. Nancy Shanley. Ms. Buell said that not only was she not working on Tuesday but she was not even in town and would have never made a comment regarding an open burn. She stated that with Ms. Shanley being a former trustee she should know the proper procedure in handling an open burn. Ms. Bailey said *no one* was in the administration building on Tuesday.

Service Department Report:

Mr. Evans reported:

- Ditching took place on Carsten Road
- Shimmed Egypt & Lance Roads utilizing a skid steer
- Ditch enclosures & drive pipe replacements on Deerview Lane- The markings are only valid for 10 days
- Road issue repaired on Wagon Trail
- 360 ton of salt has been received which was required to take possession of from the 2015/2016 season. 210 ton are stored in the salt bin with 150 ton under the tarp.
- Waltz Cemetery -burial of Mr. Roberts (oldest living township resident)
- Continued removing overgrown brush, tree removal & trimming at Waltz Cemetery
- Asphaltting at Waltz Cemetery is scheduled to take place at the end of September beginning of October
- Trucks, equipment & mower are continually washed
- Replaced a cylinder on boom mower which was covered under warranty
- Replaced solenoid on John Deere Boom Mower- Under Warranty
- Sharpened mower blades
- Partial Asphaltting in complex lot
- Cleaning and maintaining Town Hall
- Mowing and weeding all township/cemeteries/properties
- Berm mowing & back slopes- Mr. Evans stated he is very proud of Mr. Rod Hooper and Mr. Henry Silberhorn that have been keeping up with this mowing.
- Received proposal from Swingle Plumbing for labor & material to replace 1 ¼” waterline in fire department \$3650.00. Mr. Evans said it is imperative this is fixed and fixed properly
- Flags have been taken down- Replacement of flags- Requests budgeting appropriately for 2017 (Approximately \$20 to \$25.00 per flag). Ms. Bowers said a resident has voiced a concern over the condition of the flag at Waltz and said she has a commercial grade flag at her home to replace
- Cleaning gutters on complex buildings
- Landscaped & mulched complex grounds- Mr. Macron thanked Mr. Evans and stated how nice it looks
- Roof needs replaced on service garage next year
- Mr. Evans requested the trustees replace the outdoor sign. The current sign is dilapidated and this new sign would require the service department to do the installation

Ms. Bowers confirmed with Mr. Evans that the CSX grade on the southern part of Deerview is slated for completion in the spring of 2017 and if she should send notice to the Deerview Lane residents.

Mr. Costello thanked Mr. Evans for referring a resident to the fire department for an in home fire inspection. Typically this is not a service the department provides but given the circumstances and condition of her husband being confined to a wheelchair an inspection was conducted. The resident was very grateful. Mr. Evans said he was just doing his job and part of that job is serving the residents of the township. The trustees are appreciative that the service department are the eyes and ears of Lafayette.

Ms. Bowers stated the township has tried for long time to get the railroad crossing on Chippewa Road repaired and CSX has not been cooperative. Ms. Bowers has been working with the rail improvement group and has been unsuccessful in getting the tracks repaired. She contacted the prosecutor's office and requested they prosecute. The prosecutor's office reached out to CSX and they said they weren't aware the improvement has not been done. CSX has cut a section of the road and Ms. Bowers is hopeful the project is underway and requested Mr. Evans keep watch on the project.

Mr. Costello made a motion to approve the purchase of a sign with an additional set of numbers and letters in an amount not to exceed \$600.00. Ms. Bowers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Evans said he believes the contract with Chippewa Lake for snow removal at a rate of \$33.50 is not adequate and recommends revisiting the fees charged. His concern is just for paying township personnel at a rate of time and a half we are over the fee charged and that doesn't include fuel or anything else. A resident stated that his company plowed for double that price and wasn't making any money. Ms. Bowers said to refigure/review pricing, keeping in mind that we cannot make a profit and forward her the figure.

Zoning Report:

Ms. Strogin reported that we are currently 3/4 million dollars over evaluation and considerably over in fees. Ms. Strogin confirmed the trustees received the communication from the prosecutor's office regarding the legalization of marijuana and feels the zoning board should be aware where the township stands regarding the issue. Mr. Macron said it was recommended by the prosecutor's office the township hold off until review of the laws take place. Ms. Bowers said the only thing the township can regulate would be a dispensary and the way the law is currently written a local dispensary cannot be done. Mr. Costello said regarding employee's marijuana is covered in the employee handbook.

Ms. Strogin intends on attending the APA on November 4th which requires registration by September 30th. Ms. Bowers will follow up with the zoning board to confirm who is interested in attending to secure the early bird rate.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Assistant Chief Winter announced the Friends of Lafayette Township Fire Department committee will be hosting a “donation only” pancake and sausage breakfast on Saturday, October 29th from 9am to 11am followed by a township Halloween Event from 11am to 1:00pm. The events will be held at Town Hall and station 1. There will be games and trick or treating at the Halloween Event. There are fliers with all the information available to take home this evening. Ms. Bowers said the chili cook off appeared to be a successful event and she was pleased to see the number of residents in attendance and having a good time. Asst. Chief Winter said they are considering making the chili cook off an annual event. Trustee Macron won the people’s choice award.

After discussing with Mr. Evans, the trustees were in agreement to offer the senior snow plow removal program following the same protocol as done in previous years.

Announcements:

None

Financial Report: Ms. Bailey reported:

Fund Balance: \$2,330,917.87

Pooled Investments: \$1,543,581.04

Available Checking Balance: \$787,336.83

Mr. Costello stated there was one requisition submitted by the fire department this evening for some public relation items for an amount not to exceed \$500.00

Ms. Bailey received notice from Auditor of State, Dave Yost’s office regarding accepting cash and credit cards and making withdrawals of cash using credit cards. He advises against public transactions utilizing cash and Ms. Bailey is in agreement with his recommendation and does not wish to accept cash. The state also feels this could encourage theft and robbery. The trustees have agreed to accept cash as payment for transactions at this time.

Ms. Bailey confirmed the trustees received the communication regarding the renewal of the health insurance. Ms. Bowers asked based on the employee usage which plan would suit the township best.

Ms. Bowers made a motion authorizing Fiscal Officer, Shirley Bailey to choose the Health Insurance renewal option that best suits the township. Mr. Macron seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Resident, Dave Hollish, questioned who dumped dirt on the baseball fields and whether or not they had permission to do so. Mr. Macron stated the Lafayette Township Baseball League dumped the dirt because they do the maintenance of the fields and this is part of field maintenance.

Resident, John Eureka, Carsten Road asked on average how much Narcan is used in Lafayette Township and who is responsible for paying for it. Mr. Macron stated that all medications are restocked by Summa Hospital. The amount of Narcan varies depending on the demand.

7:00pm Mr. Costello announced the proposed new Fire Station question and answer session will now take place. He explained that a concept design has been placed on the fire department website and the Friends of Lafayette Township Fire Department facebook pages and gave a brief background on how the township has reached this step. The trustees have independently toured a number of fire stations throughout the state of Ohio. Next, a private consultant was hired to conduct a study on variety of topics necessary to build an appropriate station. The trustees reviewed recommendations that were given in a study that was conducted in 2010. Ms. Bowers stated a \$25,000.00 needs assessment was done in 2010 that the township contracted for which evaluated several factors including what the township had, growth trends and how we fit within Medina County. At that time, it was recommended an 18,000 square foot structure at an approximate cost of \$4,000,000.00. A new, extensive, comprehensive needs assessment was conducted, specific to Lafayette Township, and the new recommendation was approximately 3,000 square foot less because consideration of the location and potential collaborative relationship with the both the University Center and surrounding fire departments.

Mr. Costello explained the process in choosing Mr. Fredericks and how it began approximately a year ago when the township sent out Request For Qualifications, RFQ's. The township received 13 RFQ's. The next step was meeting with the consultant that conducted the recent fire department needs assessment and reviewed all 13 RFQ's, establishing 6 for interviews. The trustees and the committee narrowed it to Mr. Frederick's after the 6 initial interviews.

Mr. Costello introduced Mr. Daniel Frederick's of Daniel Frederick's Architects. Mr. Fredericks explained the preliminary concept design. The concept design was done taking into consideration the needs assessment report, equipment, storage and various other items including the potential land where the station would be built. Mr. Fredericks reviewed the design with the audience giving a description of each aspect of the design and discussing building materials and costs. Potential future additions to the building were taken into consideration when designing. Mr. Fredericks stated the anticipated cost is slightly over 3 million dollars for the 15,000 square foot station. The cost per square foot will be a little higher for the administrative areas than the apparatus bays. Mr. Macron stated the land the potential new station would be built on is being donated by the county. Ms. Bowers said it is approximately a half million dollar piece of property. She said we won't have to pay "tie in" fees but will have to pay for permit fees. Water and sewer line and fiber optic is all currently available and were installed when Technology Park was developed utilizing a government grant from the Ohio Department of Development.

Resident, Dave Hollish asked about consideration of second story. Mr. Frederick stated the design does allow for a small second floor area. Ms. Bowers said we also need to be cognizant of ADA regulations with the building and we would be required to install an elevator if a second story is built to comply with government building regulations. A resident asked the reason for a residence quarters in the new station. Mr. Macron explained that we are building for the future and currently we staff 12 hours/day 7 days and in the future would like to staff 24 hours. He explained in hazardous weather conditions the firefighters & EMS come in on their own time and stay in the station to help reduce response times and in the current station they end up sleeping in trucks.

Mr. Stewart, Ballash Road, stated he has lived in the township for twenty-six years and is 100% against the levy. His reason is because not all areas of the township have fire hydrants including Ballash Road and he said no matter how much is spent on a new fire station, without fire hydrants

and without an adequate supply of water a fire cannot be extinguished. He is concerned that a number of barns have burnt to the ground they may have been saved if hydrants were installed throughout the township. Ms. Bowers explained that approximately 14 to 16 years ago the county engineers approached the township and “mapped out” future plans for sewer & water capability and she supported the plan but at the time the other trustees did not. Their concern was that if sewer and water were available it would push for development. Ms. Bowers confirmed that hydrants can only be placed where water lines exist or are capable of being expanded and then 51% of the residents would have to petition for the expansion of the water line to the county. Mr. Costello explained that fire hydrants are not installed by the township it is handled by the county. He also explained response times are also imperative in extinguishing a fire as well as what is inside a structure and what the structure is built of. Mr. Stewart agrees the current station is a “tight fit” but feels it is adequate for the township.

Assistant Chief Winter explained to Mr. Stewart that barns have a wide open floor plan and fires spread very rapidly. He explained the department has had success saving some barns when the department is staffed versus responding from home due to the quicker response times.

Mr. Macron stated the petition to place the levy on the November ballot was initiated by residents and firefighters. The trustees took several factors into consideration including the donation of the land that is currently being offered by County Commissioners saving the township additional money. He explained the current station is not up to code and our first responders return from calls with bodily fluids on them with no place to shower or clean up and they have to take their soiled clothes home.

Ms. Bowers said she feels a better job could’ve been done informing the residents about the August levy. She said station 1 was originally built for fires and it was years later when communities started taking over ambulance services. Ms. Bowers said response times for EMS and fire are imperative however, EMS calls save *lives*. Ms. Bowers said it is a fact that firefighters have a higher rate of cancer due to the environment and currently we do not provide a proper air handling system to reduce the chances.

Mr. Mark Albrecht questioned the cost difference of having pull through bays. Mr. Frederick responded the majority of the cost would be for the additional overhead door. The more important aspect is the functionality of the inside of the bay being able to house two pieces of equipment in one bay, strategically placing equipment in the bay for easy access without having to constantly shift around equipment. Mr. Costello said another benefit of pull through bays is the safety aspect. Mr. Albrecht asked if the equipment bays are designed to be added on to. Mr. Costello responded that the design allows for an additional bays which would allow for future growth.

Discussion took place regarding placement of the actual building on the land and concerns were voiced about building an “eye pleasing” building versus a “square and functional” building. Mr. Frederick announced part of the placement of the building was to allow for the equipment to enter and exit on a road with less traffic providing for additional safety. Another concern was tax payers paying for potential inefficient heating and air conditioning. Ms. Bowers said the trustees have and are working very diligently to ensure the greatest construction that will last and service Lafayette Township now and well into the future. She made note of what occurred to a fire station not far from Lafayette that utilized pole barn construction. A resident asked if proper signs would

be placed alerting drivers of the new fire station. Mr. Frederick stated that would be up to the county.

Ms. Bowers said the trustees have researched the options available to the township to continue the kinds of service they believe the residents want and the residents will make that decision by vote on November 8th. The trustees will then act accordingly. There are residents that feel passionately on both sides of the levy. Ms. Bowers discussed the reasons of placing a ballot on the August levy with the main reason of saving money. The difference between going to the ballot in August versus November was a potential savings of a 1/2 to 3/4 million dollars. Ms. Bowers said it would have required 283 Lafayette Township resident signatures to place the levy on the November ballot themselves by referendum without trustee approval. Residents and firefighters sought the necessary signatures.

Mr. Costello said that the trustees wish is to design a building that would sustain Lafayette Township now and in the future to avoid going to the residents and asking for more money. He explained the necessity of having the additional bays due to the fact that equipment is currently being stored in several locations.

Administrative and sleeping quarters are required to be separated from the equipment bays to allow for health and safety with proper air handling systems. Ms. Bowers said the trustees specifically chose Mr. Fredericks and a bid build so an individual will oversee the construction and bid every component of the building. The proposed figures may be less and it is the hope of the trustees. The levy has been placed on the ballot so it does not collect immediately and it doesn't start collecting until the township is required to make payment on it. The same way the police levy is rolled back and lowered that is what will occur with the fire levy because we only collect what is needed. There is an ambulance levy that hasn't been collected for approximately 15 years and are paid inside the fire levy and has been rolled back to zero. Ms. Bowers said the trustees do everything they can to keep the township taxes down.

Ms. Bowers said the township has \$25,000.00 invested in this project from an architect stand point for the design concept and have negotiated a contract that the \$25,000.00 will be included in the final contract. She said the trustees have done this as economically as possible. She said the trustees have done the best job putting everything together but not as good getting the information to the residents. There is a committee that has been formed to try and get information to the residents through mailings and have raised the money for postage. Ms. Bowers said it is challenging because we are not permitted to utilize any township resources to promote the information.

Explanation where equipment is currently being stored and the need to have it centrally located took place. Ms. Bowers explained how regionalization conversations took place several years ago and residents were not in favor. Talks occurred again approximately seven years ago with Westfield, Guilford, Lodi, Lafayette, Chatham and Medina and again residents were not in support. Many neighboring areas contract services and the contracts have gotten very expensive. Ms. Bowers said Lafayette is always willing to discuss possibilities of regionalization and we currently share service equipment with other townships and are always looking to do so. Mr. Macron said by having our own fire department, we control our costs, the costs for our residents and the ISO ratings are taken into considerations as well. Mr. Macron said Lafayette is truly about providing a service to our residents. Mr. Costello explained Lafayette does soft billing for EMS,

which means if a Lafayette resident calls for a squad and Lafayette responds, we accept what your insurance pays. The township does not seek the difference in the balance which can be significant.

Mr. Albrecht asked how feasible it is for the use of tankers. Assistant Chief Winter said the station has two engines that hold 750 gallons of water and one that holds 1,000 gallons. The tankers holds 1850 gallons. The most efficient tankers are the smaller ones because they deliver more gallons of water per minute and they can be filled and dumped faster and also less travel time. Asst. Chief Winter made a correction that over 60% of the township has hydrants. Further discussion of tankers, tenders and explanation of mutual aid took place. Mr. Albrecht said he feels the department does a great job and he is all for the levy if it can be conservatively done but some additional thought process needs to take place about having more water to fight fires is necessary in spending this amount of money.

Mr. Costello made a motion to pay the warrants of the township.

Mr. Costello moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bowers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Approved: _____

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Bryon Macron, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer