

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Meeting called to order: 3:03 p.m.

Members Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Martin Warchola, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey.

Others Present: Steve Kile, Dave Young, April Winter, Michael Savetski, Brad Winter, Tim Holzman, Bill McDonald, Ed McCall

The trustees reviewed two employment applications submitted by Chief Hall.

Mr. Costello made a motion the Lafayette Township Fire Department approves the hiring of Mr. Alexander Thomas and Mr. Mark Jonscher subject to completion of the probationary period within one year. Mr. Warchola seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Ms. Bowers informed Assistant Chief Winters and Chief Hall a policy notice will be sent stating effective today all fire department applications submitted are to immediately be forwarded to the trustees, understanding the recommendation of employment will come later.

Mr. Costello stated the past few weeks have been productive in getting approvals, edits and finalizing an architecture agreement with Mr. Ed McCall with McCall Sharp Architecture based out of Springfield, Ohio.

Several individuals, including fire department staff, drove to and toured Johnson St. Parish Fire Department, a department designed by McCall Sharp. Mr. McCall showed photos of the Johnson St. Parish department to all present. Mr. Costello explained this is a station that is very similar to Lafayette Township regarding the number of personnel, the number of runs per year, as well as the number of apparatus owned. This station started with daytime staffing, similar to Lafayette, with an increasing service community, same as Lafayette. They currently staff two people twenty-four hours day. Mr. Costello stated it is important to the trustees that when designing and building a new station, it is not only important to build for today's demands but the needs and demands for the future of the township.

Ms. Bowers received a question from a resident inquiring if the township has considered contracting with a neighboring community for fire service. Ms. Bowers explained that dialogue has been initiated several times with the biggest backlash coming from Lafayette residents. Medina, Montville and Medina City are all served by a private ambulance service and district for fire. Those three entities have strong commercial and industrial tax bases to support the higher cost of the private service while Lafayette is predominantly rural residential. For that reason, most district discussion has been with similar areas like York, Chatham, Westfield, Guilford and even Lodi. Different possibilities are explored regularly but the roadblocks have been mostly financial and political will. Districting for fire service may serve Lafayette well, allowing the township to focus more resources on maintaining its high quality, cost effective ambulance service, but residents have not expressed any support for districting when it has been discussed and Ms. Bowers agrees. She stated it is a matter of Lafayette's reputation of good response time and competency.

Assistant Chief Winter informed everyone that at one time Ms. Bowers, Mr. Thorne and he attended a meeting exploring and discussing this possibility and there was no political will and many were intimidated by the idea and it never came to fruition. The City of Medina doesn't offer Emergency Medical Services, (EMS), protection and Assistant Chief Winter said with the amount of money needed to be charged for fire protection, Lafayette would not be able to afford EMS protection. If the township is considering districting with another entity a lot of the services that our community relies and depend on would no longer be able to be offered.

Assistant Chief Winters explained the changes they are requesting with the design of the fire station along with reasons for the changes.

Mr. McCall stated the building can be designed to have additions added in future, if need be, providing the property lines can accommodate.

Concern was expressed that the floor plan be designed so staff be confined to the "dirty" area while wearing turn out gear.

Discussion took place regarding the gender and number of restrooms the design of the kitchen along with placement of appliances

The trustees confirmed the timeline of events that will need to take place to proceed with breaking ground for the new station.

Ms. Bowers will forward Mr. McCall a topo graph of the land tomorrow.

Ms. Bowers explained that under statute the township has the ability to advertise for Request for Proposals for certain services for unidentified projects less than \$50,000.00. This will allow for a list to be comprised.

Assistant Chief Winter asked Ms. Bailey to meet and review the fire department pay increases that were effective as of January 29, 2017 but not yet reflected in the employees' pay check.

Based on a recommendation of Assistant Fire Chief Winter, Emergency Reporting is at least the same or better technology than what is currently being used for department reporting and approximately \$1,000.00 per year less expensive. Asst. Chief Winter said Fire Programs renewal isn't until December and the department will still be utilizing their services during this period of transfer.

Ms. Bowers made a motion that we change over to the Emergency Reporting system for the Fire Department with Ms. Bowers and Ms. Bailey authorized to sign all documentation necessary to make the transfer. Mr. Warchola seconded the motion. Mr. Costello abstains.

Mr. Costello moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Warchola.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Approved: _____

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Martin Warchola, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer