

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Meeting called to order: 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Martin Warchola, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey, Legal Counsel William Thorne, Sheriff Miller, Captain Centner

Ms. Bowers explained the paperwork for the policing service levy has been received from the County Auditor and the township is preparing to file with the Board of Elections this week. It will be a renewal levy with a decrease. This decrease will decrease the amount Lafayette Township residents pay and does not affect the amount collected due to new construction, the millage collected is greater.

Ms. Bowers stated there have been serious issues with the policing service contract which has been discussed in the past with both Sheriff Miller and Captain Centner.

Ms. Bowers said she has been consternated about the Lafayette Township cruiser involved in an accident while “backing up” the sheriff’s department on a call even though Lafayette was not the closest entity to utilize as a backup, even in an emergency situation. The contract states the cars are to remain in Lafayette Township and that it is trustee’s responsibility to our residents to ensure this occurs. She doesn’t feel it is the township’s responsibility nor want to tell the residents we’re responsible for the deductible on the wrecked cruiser due to the contract being violated. She stated, “We have a contract and our residents pay for a service. We understand mutual aid if it is a life threatening or emergency situation”. She stated to Sheriff Miller, “Lafayette Township cars should never be removed from this township for any reason other than what you would call another agency for and I think that is fair. We can’t explain it to our residents, we got to stop it or we have to take the necessary steps. We have that responsibility to our residents, you know, you have a responsibility to your constituency”. Mr. Costello receives calls from residents informing him that they see the Lafayette cruisers out of the township regularly. Ms. Bowers requested when a township cruiser leaves the township, the deputy log out and back in which is as much of a benefit to the Sheriff’s department as the township.

Ms. Bowers explained in the past we had difficulty receiving pertinent information and since Deputy Harhay has been with Lafayette we have noticed a marked improvement and receive requested information in a timely fashion.

Mr. Costello has received a copy of the Lafayette Township deputy schedule for the month of May and stated there was a significant amount of hours without deputy coverage due to vacation and believes the bill reflects a 116 hours vacation for the month of May with no coverage to the township during those vacation hours. Captain Centner confirmed the deputies are rotated out of Lafayette every three months to which Mr. Costello responded, “If deputies are rotated out of the township every three months, theoretically we could be paying for vacation for four sets of officers every three months”. Sheriff Miller confirmed he will ensure that doesn’t happen. Ms. Bowers stated our contract doesn’t provide for it. The contracts reads, “The Sheriff shall be

reimbursed for the costs incurred for providing law enforcement services including but not limited to the salaries of full time deputy sheriffs as set forth above (and that is two) the current cost of funding their retirement, pensions and providing workers compensation. And while we didn't specifically identify vacation, for two full time officers for the year, that would be part of your costs but not two, then two, then two". The sheriff agreed. It appears Lafayette is being billed for part time deputy vacation hours to which Sheriff Miller agreed to look into the matter stating that should not occur. Captain Centner will meet with the human resource department and report back to the trustees regarding the vacation hours and payroll billing.

Ms. Bowers stated when a call is placed to the Sheriff's Department, we are told there is no one on duty for the township yet the bill reflects differently. Captain Centner will instruct Deputy Harhay to forward each month's schedule prior to the start of a new month allowing the trustees to be aware of who will be on duty. Mr. Costello thanked them and said this has been an ongoing request over the past three years to no avail.

Mr. Costello reminded Sheriff Miller the township has paid approximately a million dollars over the past three and a half years and he doesn't feel the township is receiving the dollar amount in service.

Ms. Bowers said, "With this levy on the ballot, we need to look our residents in the eye and say, we are getting the benefit of this service and we have to be able to believe it and we can't do that. I just can't right now".

Ms. Bowers informed Sheriff Miller and Captain Centner that the trustees voted at our last meeting to have GPS (Global Positioning System) with mapping installed on our cruisers so they can be informed of when the Lafayette cruisers are in and out of our township.

Ms. Bowers informed that she has quit calling the department for reports because of the unprofessional attitude when calling. Captain Centner said he will address this issue and recommends the trustees contact him directly. Ms. Bowers doesn't wish to have bad relations with the Sheriff's Deputies and doesn't wish to instigate issues but does want to resolve problems. She understands the department is busy and under pressure but still need to be professional and courteous and it doesn't do the department any good to have that reputation. Sheriff Miller and Captain Centner agreed.

The trustees are very pleased and have commended Deputy Harhay regarding his efficiency and dedication to the township over the past six months. Captain Centner thanked the trustees and equally agreed with Deputy Harhay's performance. Mr. Costello stated, "Deputy Harhay is our best advocate and out of all the deputies I have seen and interacted with both on the fire department and as trustee, I feel he is the most personable, the easiest to get along with and the most effective to work with". Mr. Warchola agreed. Ms. Bowers, said she wants the deputies covering Lafayette to loiter, stop and talk with the residents, shoot some hoops with kids for five minutes, and she feels Deputy Harhay would be comfortable doing those types of things". Ms. Buell said just having visible police presence in the community makes a big difference opposed to being parked somewhere.

Ms. Bowers again requested the Sheriff's Department release some sort of factual information to help alleviate some of the rumors circulating regarding Mr. Macron's case. Mr. Costello said there are rumors circulating not only from residents but law enforcement and other agencies in the county as well. It was noted that every press release the trustees have done has been approved by Sheriff Miller. The trustees will not be releasing any more because of accusations doing things they didn't do. Ms. Bowers addressed that Sheriff Miller never acknowledged the letter she sent to him regarding issues the township was experiencing regarding the case.

Mr. Costello questioned why comments were made by a detective regarding the Macron case. Captain Centner will address the comments and said he is not at liberty to comment any further regarding comments the detective has made.

Ms. Buell said she does not feel safe working in the office because there hasn't been any definitive answers in Mr. Macron's case and despite the sheriff's department saying there is nothing to worry about. She said she believes some of the rumors stem from the fact that DNA tests weren't performed for several months after Mr. Macron's disappearance and not *all* employees were tested. This entire situation has left her feeling very vulnerable. Sheriff Miller assured Trustee Warchola and Ms. Buell they are in no more danger than before this incident. .

Ms. Bowers asked if there was any reason Sheriff Miller can or cannot say the Macron case is or isn't work related or township related or anything like that would give our residents comfort". The character of the community has totally changed.

Ms. Bowers stated the people spreading rumors pretty much don't know anything and the people that do know things aren't speaking. She recommends the Sheriff Department provide good public relations, release a statement in regards to the Macron case to help prevent additional rumors and stated the rumors are damaging reputations. Ms. Bowers informed Sheriff Miller and Captain Centner of an acquaintance of hers who spent approximately ten years working as the Public Relations Director for the United States Department of Justice in Washington D.C. This woman has reached out to Ms. Bowers several times and offered her services. Sheriff Miller requested her information and said he has withdrawn a little and will talk soon. Ms. Bowers asked if the Sheriff's Department needs anything from the trustees and Sheriff Miller responded, "Not at this time".

Discussion took place on how deputies are scheduled for the township. Mr. Costello inquired whether or not the scheduling could be done on Google Calendar for all to view and Captain Centner replied, "Perhaps in the future but not at this time. Ms. Bowers stated all the fire departments in the county have online scheduling utilizing a company called Aladtec.

Discussion was held regarding Westfield Township resident, Greg Depew.

1:58 p.m. Ms. Bowers made a motion to recess the meeting until 3:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. Meeting reconvened.

Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Martin Warchola, Fiscal Officer Shirley Bailey, Legal Counsel William Thorne, Assistant Chief Winter, Chief Hall, Architect- Ed McCall, April Winter, Tim Holzman, Steve Kile, Becca Martin, Scott Oring, Mike Savetski, Residents- Curtis Perkins and Bill Palmer.

Building design and topo graphs were discussed and reviewed. Ms. Bowers will send the topo graph to Mr. McCall who will then forward to the civil engineer.

Ms. Bowers suggested a pond versus a retention basin which could also allow for training purposes as well. Mr. McCall feels that's a discussion that should take place with the civil engineer.

Assistant Chief Winter questioned the orientation of the building in regards to sunrise and sunset and the visual impairments. It was determined that no matter the orientation of the building the sun could potentially pose a problem due to the sun's constant motion.

Resident, Bill Palmer, voiced concern that this station should be built big enough now to prevent a future addition. He was assured the building is being built to accommodate future growth but if years from now additional expansion is needed the design of the building would easily accommodate the addition. It was noted the Chippewa Lake station is remaining open which allows for apparatus. Ms. Bowers explained when Chippewa Lake gave the Chippewa Fire Station to the township, agreements were put in place that run with the land and if Lafayette ever shut the station down we have to proportionately reimburse the Village of Chippewa Lake for the current value including equipment costs. She said the township has a responsibility to the residents to not build a Taj Mahal while making it something the community can be proud of having paid for.

Building, bay and equipment size were discussed. This current building design allows for eight bays with 14 x 14 foot bay doors.

Assistant Chief Winter questioned if a retention basin is required and if so he would like to utilize it for a dry hydrant. Ms. Bowers would like it to be placed in the front to look like a pond.

Mr. Costello suggested striping a helicopter landing pad which offers a place to land when needed noting the overall cost would be very minimal while offering a standard place for safe landing.

Mr. Palmer questioned whether an emergency community shelter has been considered in the plan to which Mr. Costello responded that hadn't been discussed. Mr. McCall said the new building is required to be built to higher standards which will withstand weather. Ms. Bowers informed there currently are two designated community shelters, the county home and the current town hall but that can be re-designated to utilize the University Center which already has below grade rooms and a much stronger building and is accessible twenty four hours a day with contact information always available.

Mr. Savetski was informed that Lafayette is charged to use the University Center for training. Ms. Bowers said in the future when scheduling the University Center go through her because it has been her experience the township doesn't get charged. She said a meeting took place with the

University Center, with Bill Thorne present, regarding a potential program coordinating training between the Center and our fire department and potentially offer it county wide. She said the University Center was excited to put that program together in a synergistic relationship with Lafayette Township. Ms. Bowers asked Mr. Savetski to be part of launching the program. She clarified the Medina County University Center is not the University of Akron, and contract for services with University of Akron. Mr. Costello conducted a survey and it was discovered thousands of training dollars are going out of the county.

Mr. McCall asked if the site plan could be forwarded to the soil engineers. Everyone was in agreement to forward the topo map.

Discussion about number, placement, size and gender of bathrooms took place, it was determined to have unisex bathrooms without urinals.

A separate private entrance to the clinic was established.

Bill Palmer recommended having an onsite certified liaison at the construction site daily to ensure quality materials are being used.

Mr. Warchola suggested enlarging the turn out gear room to accommodate the previously discussed 50 lockers. Chief Hall feels that 46 lockers are sufficient.

Ms. Bowers said it is important to build for what we need and if what we need comes in less, the levy will be rolled back.

Design development and building material discussion took place. Mr. McCall recommended with the availability of natural gas on site to use high efficiency natural gas furnaces. Utilizing geothermal could potentially add \$10 to \$20 per square foot to the building cost and Mr. McCall is uncertain the value is there and the quality of in floor heat is better. The radiant heat will heat to an even temperature and the heat doesn't escape as much when doors are opened. He estimates in floor heat at approximately an additional \$10 more per square foot but will confirm pricing later. Mr. Kile said the radiant heat benefits the workers, vehicles and equipment. There are studies that show vehicle maintenance costs are lower by up to 40 percent due to radiant heat. Mr. Costello requested Mr. McCall receive estimates for the in floor heat.

Led lighting will be used throughout the building with the windows on the bay doors allowing for natural light in the apparatus bays. Mr. McCall will research paint for the training areas so it is easily washable and minimize effects of water.

Mr. McCall suggested vinyl square or plank tile as they are the highest recommended for a reasonable price as well as ceramic tile. Assistant Chief Winter suggested polished concrete or epoxy in the kitchen area to allow for easy cleanup. Carpet tiles will be installed in the offices, bunk rooms, meeting room and day room. Corridors will have vinyl tile. Bathrooms will have ceramic tile. It was requested that the offices have side light and windows in the doors.

Mr. McCall will check pricing on the bottom crank out style window for the bunkroom only and report back.

Discussion will be held regarding the ordering and pricing of gear grids, once it has been confirmed how many will be moved to the new station.

McCall Sharp will work with the vendors Lafayette chooses for data, phone and security systems He requests the trustees start looking for vendors now for the purpose of coordination of design and installation.

Mr. McCall asked if a dedication plaque is desired and will confirm at next meeting.

Ms. Bowers would like specifications and quotes for an outdoor electronic sign. She explained state law has recently changed and townships are allowed to have paid advertising on signs and websites to help defer costs.

Mr. McCall suggested having an idea of where outlets, switches, etc. should be located as this will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. McCall will provide more detailed drawings at the next meeting including the changes discussed today.

The next meeting for discussing the safety services building design will take place on July 11, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Bowers moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Costello
Meeting adjourned 5:22 p.m.

Approved: _____

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Martin Warchola, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer