

Minutes
LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Emergency Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Meeting called to order: 5:11 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Trustee Lynda Bowers, Trustee Michael Costello, Trustee Martin Warchola.

Others Present: Chief Jeff Hall, Asst. Chief Tim Holzman, Chris Blair, Mike Savetski, Shane Jenkins, Logan Costello, Rebecca Martin

Trustee Bowers offered background summarized as follows: A concern has arisen regarding paramedic certification. As trustees understand it, a Lafayette student was given the choice between termination or continuing the education if she would admit to purposely falsifying a document in concert with another person. The Lafayette member declined to make the admission stating that situation was an honest mistake, not purposeful. Trustees Bowers and Costello attended both the initial review hearing and the termination hearing as spectators. Between the hearings, in an effort to understand the allegation, Trustee Costello reviewed some of the student's documentation and asked the student some routine questions. The documentation and answers gave rise to concern that program requirements may have been certified that were not actually completed. When these questions were asked of others who attended the program, their answers reinforced the concern. After discussion with the township's legal counsel, the programs medical control, the owner of the school and our own medical control, the information has been sent to the State EMS Board for review. All documentation has been sent to the appropriate authorities encouraging them to take swift action to ensure no paramedic is vulnerable to have his or her certification questioned.

Trustee Bowers indicated that if any township paramedic knows their education is not properly documented, trustees need to be informed as soon as possible in order to help them have it corrected. The trustees encouraged all Lafayette Township members who attended the same program to request copies of all their paperwork and review it for accuracy.

Trustee Bowers indicated that because the trustees have reason to believe there could be a problem, they would have an obligation to disclose the information under certain circumstances and are taking appropriate proactive steps. She advised the board of Trustees is not requesting the staff to *not* operate as paramedics. But if a staff member is not comfortable operating as a paramedic until this situation is resolved, please inform trustees so the appropriate arrangements are made to protect the township residents, staff and township itself. Trustees assured they would support any decision of those members potentially affected.

Trustee Costello reported he has heard rumors from Lafayette's department member and even other counties and hoped with this meeting members can have a better understanding of the facts. Trustee Costello said after sitting through two hearings, it is clear there are two completely opposite stories of how the complaint against our student was brought. Trustee Costello stated for the record that the Board of Trustees would not tolerate any retaliation or retribution aimed at the

fire department member whose situation gave rise to the discovery now at issue and any such activity will result in disciplinary action.

After comments by several Lafayette members and trustees discussed the Cleveland Clinic Med Control letter which “strongly suggested” performance only as an EMT for any member with education in question. The Board of Trustees reiterated the purpose of the meeting was to inform all Lafayette Township’s current and past students of the facts known thus far and to ensure members know that “Whatever happens, the trustees will be here to do what, if anything is required to help you get to where you need to be. We have an obligation to support you and that’s what we will do. We want to make sure you know that and that we’ll be here”. Mr. Costello added, “And support you with whatever resources we can”. The trustees agreed to forward information as it becomes available.

Trustee Costello moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Warchola.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45p.m.

Approved:_____

Lynda Bowers, Trustee

Michael Costello, Trustee

Martin Warchola, Trustee

Shirley Bailey, Fiscal Officer