

Wabash Township Board Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2019

1. Oxenrider called meeting to order at 6:01pm and led the pledge.
2. Oxenrider announced that this was his last meeting because he is moving.
3. Tran read minutes. Minutes were accepted. All signed.
4. New Business:
 - a. Now in budget season. Upcoming deadlines:
 - i. Notice to taxpayers must be done by Oct 11, 2019. This does not need to be in the paper.
 - ii. Public hearing must be 10 days prior to budget adoption date. Oct 21 is the last possible date for a hearing.
 - iii. Last day for budget is November 1.
 - iv. Forms must be submitted to DLGF by November 6.
 - v. December 31 is the final deadline for the 2020 budget for township.
 - b. End of June reports:
 - i. Brenden asked about line 0840 township assistance and received clarification from trustee.
 - ii. Rainy day fund is 100%. \$50K.
 - iii. Budgeted \$117368.00. We've used 38% of the budget so far. YTD expenses are \$45,439.00.
 - iv. Brenden requested that we join the Indiana Township Association (ITA). Trustee acknowledged the request. Trustee said that ITA does a lot of lobbying of statehouse. Oxenrider suggested that we table the ITA membership for now until we can gather more information about its utility.
 - v. Direct Assistance section shows that most funds went to housing. Oxenrider asked if we have a shelter in West Lafayette and Trustee said that we do not.
 - vi. Fire equipment debt fund, 3A shows most of funds are principle payments. Totals are \$112,182.00. There was an unexpected \$1650.00 expense in may that we will have to do an additional appropriation to cover.
 - vii. Fire fighting fund, we have used 54% of fund.
 - viii. Cumulative fire fund is prior to payment for replacing a truck that was lost in an accident. This was a township vehicle.
 - ix. Oxenrider asked for public comment. No public comments.
 - c. Request for appropriation of funds
 - i. Trustee is requesting an additional \$10,000 for poverty assistance. Note that this is all that we have in the funds currently.
 - ii. Trustee informed board regarding resolution 2010-02, creation of rainy day fund. Resolution states that rainy day funds can be used for township assistance if necessary. Trustee says it is necessary currently.

- iii. Oxenrider asked how this is sustainable. Trustee said that will be a larger part of the 2020 budget discussion.
- iv. Trustee noted that at the time she started, we were getting 3-4 people a week. Now it is multiple calls a day for township assistance requests. Trustee says we likely do not have a complete understanding of the need for poverty assistance in our community.
- v. 2019 the budget was ~\$14,00.00 for poverty assistance. In the past, it has been up to \$30,000.
- vi. Betz clarified that we are at an increase for requests. Trustee agreed.
- vii. Public asked if we have standards that the public must meet for assistance. Trustee said that we do have standards and they are publically available in multiple places.
- viii. Public asked for information on the types of requests for assistance. Trustee gave example of single mother with multiple kids.
- ix. Trustee says we have received 32 applications and have approved 27 of them. The increase in requests has been because of community building.
- x. Betz asked if rainy day funds would be used. Trustee said this will come out of township funds. Trustee said that all funds will have to come from rainy day funds IF we don't get an appropriation.
- xi. Betz said that we would deplete the township funds and then he asked what the next steps would be. Trustee said that it is against code to deny assistance. Trustee said that we may have to use the rainy day fund. If that is depleted, we could get a loan or some other way to fund assistance (e.g., public safety tax). We are currently not in a TIF district so we are not receiving TIF funds. We could work with the city for this. We could also apply for grants. Mayor Dennis has been helpful with need regarding township.
- xii. Public question regarding TIFs and trustee explained TIFs and how they work. Lisa Dullum explained that TIFs are for building infrastructure and they do work well but can be controversial.
- xiii. Oxenrider asked for a vote on appropriation. All voted AYE and approved appropriation. Approval of appropriation form was signed.
- d. Trustee says she has now found hard copies of resolutions.
- e. Replacement truck (Chief Ward)
 - i. Chief Ward said the truck that was totaled was the primary EMS first responder truck.
 - ii. Truck was insured with an "agreed upon value" of \$40,000. Chief Ward looked into replacement trucks, looked at used vehicles (~\$28K) or get a new one for ~\$38K. \$40,000 does not replace lights, sirens, etc.. Will be ~\$45-47K. It will be an additional \$7K out of our budget but it will be new. It runs 80-90% of the calls. Requested a snow plow "prep" package.
 - iii. Betz asked about timeframe. Chief Ward says that it's already here. Chief Ward said that it will take 2-3 weeks to fully outfit the truck.

- f. Chief Ward gave fire update for the year.
 - i. Public thanked Chief Ward for the work done for the Lindberg fire.
 - ii. 653 runs for the year. Same as 2018.
 - iii. Township is rapidly expanding. A lot of new home construction and new businesses, including a new strip mall.
 - iv. Oxenrider asked about Francisian stand alone ER. Chief Ward said it's been back-burnered for now due to cost.
 - v. Lindberg fire update:
 - 1. Be wary of social media. A lot of misinformation.
 - 2. 8 min response time. The only reason it was that long was the traffic around the fire.
 - 3. 3 houses on fire when they arrived. West Lafayette took one side and Wabash took the other. 7 agencies responded in the end.
 - 4. Chief Ward said that the township has built better relationships with other agencies recently and that this contributed to the rapid joint efforts at the Lindberg fire.
 - 5. Chief Ward said that, the way these houses were constructed, this may be the "new normal". Poorer construction. Closer together.
 - 6. Betz asked if we have zero lot line communities in West Lafayette. Chief Ward said that we (township FD) have to approve the construction by saying that public roads need to be specific widths.
 - 7. Chief said gas didn't cause fire but it may have helped spread the fire. The poor construction and proximity of houses to each other was the issue. Houses across the street had siding melt. Eight houses were impacted in the end.
 - vi. Chief Ward said that Wabash Township FD is doing business much differently with other FD agencies now. This is helping the entire community.
 - vii. New rescue engine 602 is on the road. There are some issues. We should not have taken delivery the way that we did. This caused us to incur some additional expenses.
 - viii. New officers in the department. Are working on a new 5 year plan for the department.
 - ix. Two firefighters live at the township FD. Will get a new resident in August.
 - x. Need to consider how to get more funds for the fire department. Will consider ordinance on hydrant rental costs.
 - xi. Surplus equipment needs to be disposed of. Chief Ward gave a list of equipment to the board. We need to agree that it can be donated or sold. Board tabled the surplus list until we can get a form to approve.
- g. Public comment from Heather Maddox. Heather Maddox emphasized the importance of the census and how we all need to make sure that we get

everyone counted. She asked for assistance to remind people to complete the census. There are also jobs available for people to help with the census. \$14-20/hour.

Date 9/17/19

Brendan Betz _____

Cinnamon Gallatin _____

Elizabeth Tran _____