

WABASH TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
November 17, 2020

Minutes

Attendees: Chair Michelle Wietbrock, Secretary Brendan Betz, Board Member Angel Valentin, Chief Ed Ward, Deputy Chief Lewis, Tricia Fultz, Deb Johnson, Susan Walker

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - a. Secretary Betz moved to approve the minutes, Member Valentin seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. Salary Resolution
  - a. The Chair notes that initially we received a resolution with salaries that did not reflect the funding provided by the budget as they had raises across the board. The resolution presented tonight takes those raises and moves that money to part-time firefighters so that we have flexibility to add folks to staff as needed.
  - b. Secretary Betz notes that this does reflect the budget we passed and changes therein.
  - c. Angel notes that this helps but we need to do more moving forward.
  - d. Ed Ward notes that we are using the money wisely and in a constructive way.
  - e. The Chair moves to pass, Member Valetin seconds.
    - i. The board votes unanimously to adopt the salary resolution.
4. Township Update
  - a. No one available for the update
5. Fire Department Update
  - a. The 2019 SAFER Grant we applied for has closed up. The 2020 grant cycle will open in a few weeks. We are reapplying.

- i. The feedback we received was that they wanted us to be closer to the national standards for firefighters/apparatus. With the staff additions we are much closer to that target which helps our chances.
  - b. We have moved to 24/hr shifts.
  - c. We have a resident in the evening and The chief is there during the day.
  - d. Covid Update:
    - i. We are operating on a three tier system.
    - ii. On general calls we are staging nearby and waiting for an ambulance.
    - iii. We have locked our station down to firefighters and immediate family only, masks in the station.
    - iv. We are not allowing folks to respond with their personal vehicles.
    - v. Secretary Betz asks if the money to pay for the PPE is coming from CARES Act Funding.
      - 1. The Trustee reached out to Commissioner Murtaugh for guidance.
      - 2. The county is providing PPE still for the townships and units in the county.
      - 3. We have a list for reimbursements but that money has not come through.
  - e. We have a date set for the swearing in ceremony for the new guys, Chief will follow up with that information.
  - f. We are starting the process for part-time firefighters interviews. We want to create a pool of people to pull from. This will help us develop people and relationships that we can hire from in the future.
  - g. The chiefs are working on the actual agreement for the MOU, and the Chief will give us a copy.
  - h. The guys converted an old meeting room into a gym/workout area, given they had received some equipment donations.
- 6. Public Comment

- a. Deb Johnson- Question about Sand Ridge Cemetery, curious what to expect for the maintenance moving forward into the future.
    - 1. We have a lot of family in the cemetery and would like to know the plan moving forward.
    - ii. Chair Wietbrock notes that we are coming to the end of an agreement for the first year of caring for the cemetery and saving plants. The board is reconsidering that agreement and what that looks like in the future. We have heard those concerns in the past and share the concerns. We would aim to improve that agreement as we move forward. We are working on the agreement this winter.
    - iii. Secretary Betz echoes Michelle's comments and adds that we are seeing results from the conservation and have been able to amend things throughout the season.
    - iv. Deb notes that they did go out into the cemetery and it had been cared for at the end of the season and the trustee has her contact information.
  - b. Chief Ward notes that we might start doing our own snow removal by purchasing our own equipment. (cost from cum fire)
7. Close of Meeting
- a. Chair Wietbrock moves to close the meeting at 6:31 PM. Secretary Betz seconds, unanimously approved.