

WABASH TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING AGENDA

APRIL 14, 2020 6PM
Digital Meeting via Zoom

attendees:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Resolution to hold digital meetings during the pandemic
3. Review Meeting Minutes from 2/18/2020
 - a. moved to adopt by Board Member Brendan Betz, seconded by Board Member Gallatin
4. Gus Nyberg - NICHES Land Trust
 - a. NICHES would cover mowing South and East of the property and North and West would be allowed to grow, Cirsium Hillili would be allowed to bloom.
 - b. A new sign has been proposed to inform the public on the plant and the cemetery
 - c. Niches has two Field Stewards, one of whom lives one mile north of this particular historic cemetery
 - d. Board Chair Michelle Wietbrock moves to approve the agreement with Niche's, Betz seconds. The measure is approved unanimously
5. Chief Ward - Update
 - a. COVID 19 Update

- i. “As of last night there were 46 confirmed cases of COVID19 in the County.”
- ii. The State expects the peak of cases to become apparent in the next two weeks.
- iii. Regarding our Fire department’s PPE, we have “Enough”, every 10 days the county will parcel out PPE to different EMS entities.
- iv. Our department has had one confirmed exposure, Chief Ward.
- v. We are taking a number of steps (limiting the number of personnel on medical calls and no personal vehicles may directly respond) in our COVID19 Response Plan, which has been adopted by many in the county. (will forward to the board)
- vi. The Safety Grant was closed but due to circumstances has been reopened and will close again on 5-15-2020. The grant typical runs over four years of funding at the following levels: 100%-75%-50%-25%
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 2. This special version will run over three years at 75%-75%-35%.
- vii. Chief Ward contends that we will have to move toward a Fire Territory. (We will need to find a way to fund the programs/personnel the grants pays for)

1. Board Member Betz asks Why would we prefer to go it alone v. partnering with neighboring townships/entities?

a. Chief responds that other entities have expressed interest, but this would take the political will of many bodies.

viii. The Chief would like to add 4 firefighters, at minimum he would want 3.

6. Jennifer Teising - Trustee Update

a. If we do not get the loan we are in real trouble

i. If we had to fund 2020 with the cuts anticipated in lieu of the loan, we could sell a piece of equipment.

1. The truck is expensive

2. It sits unused most of the time

3. West Lafayette has one

4. It has been in an accident

5. It handles narrow roads really well (rural township)

6. It has certain rescue equipment

b. We should introduce the proposed health insurance expansion.

i. Financial advisors have advised that we not do so until we have secured the funding for the year

ii. We expect it to go through, if it does not we can sell the previously mentioned truck.

1. Board Member Gallatin asks if we sell the truck, where do those funds go?

- a. Trustee Teising states that the money can go into the Cum Fire Fund, Rainy Day, or the General Fund.
 2. Board Member Betz asks how many gallons the truck in question holds vs. the standard?
 - a. Chief Ward answers: the truck holds 250 gallons compared to our other trucks which carry 1000, and one of those trucks can handle the narrow roads in question.
 - c. With the expected budgetary shortfall for poor relief, we have imposed a \$250/household limit on aid.
 - i. Betz notes that Debbie Driscoll, ITA Director informed the township that the ITA is talking to the Governor about how to direct aid to the townships. The ITA is also working on a guide to aid townships and expect to release within a week.
 - ii. Chief Ward notes that in a conference call it was asserted that the Governor was weighing how to best fund townships.
 - d. Betz asks about staffing at the township.
 - i. Trustee Teising notes that we have a temp, Trisha, that was brought on for a 20 hours/week job and she is training Trisha on township aid.
7. Ivy Tech offering free courses for volunteer firefighters

- a. Chair Wietbrock was approached by Ivy Tech with the opportunity.
 - i. Chief says he is happy to share with firefighters and would like a program direct speak to the specifics with the guys, perhaps via conference call/zoom.
- 8. Old Business
 - a. No old business was called forward.
- 9. Public Comments
 - a. Kathy Parker, West Lafayette City Councillor, asks if we had considered partnering with the city of West Lafayette on their insurance.
 - i. Betz asks her to speak with the Mayor about the possibility.
- 10. Chair Wietbrock moves to adjourn the meeting, this was seconded by Betz and passed unanimously, closed at 7:28PM

Minutes Adopted June 16, 2020

Michelle Wietbrock (electronic signature)

Authorized Signature (chair)

Brendan Betz

Authorized Signature (secretary)

