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REGULAR MEETING March 12, 2024

Mr. Mayfield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Also Present:

Fiscal Officer – Michele Nowakowski
Township Administrator - Leo Brittson
Department Heads Present:

Fire – Chief Bailey
Police – Chief Kaiser
Roads/Parks Manager – Ryan Breininger

Announcements from Trustees and Department Heads:

Mr. Schuster – Trustee

Introduced former Township trustee John Henry to give an opening prayer.

Mr. Barto – Trustee

Thank you to Ryan, from the roads department, for salting the roads.
Thank you to Jody and Mandy, from the fire department, for helping his son.

Mrs. Nowakowski – Fiscal Officer

Expressed her thanks for the opening prayer. Would like to say that her term is ending this month and her new one will begin April 1, 2024. She would like to thank all the people that took an Oath and volunteered this past year. Letters will be sent to volunteers asking them to continue if they are willing and able.

Mr. Brittson- Township Administrator/Zoning

Will be having a meeting next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. to meet with the baseball people to work out a schedule for diamond times. Girls travel softball league is also interested in using our fields. Will have all the insurance items in place as well. Parking will also be discussed so we don't have any problems this year. Practice will start in April and games will start in May. Ryan will have fields ready.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance

MOTION: Approve supplemental appropriations, blanket certificates, purchase orders and checks numbered 50566 to 50611 & electronic payments numbered 182 to 296 totaling \$122,247.28; \$56,093.17 for accounting, \$66,154.11 for Payroll.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Fire

- Discussion regarding officer promotions.
- Accept/Approve resignations of Wendy Waisner and Michael Roberts.
- Hire Nishanth Siva to the Washington Township Fire Department as a Probationary EMT.

Mr. Mayfield states that Michael Roberts is going on to become a police officer; Wendy Waisner just chose to leave.

MOTION: Accept resignation of Wendy Waisner from the Washington Township Fire Department effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

MOTION: Accept resignation of Michael Roberts from the Washington Township Fire Department effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

MOTION: Hire Nishanth Siva to the Washington Township Fire Department as probationary EMT effective March 12, 2024. Pay rate of \$15.75 an hour.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Enter into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. under Ohio Revised Code 121.22G1 to discuss employment, promotion, demotion, termination of a public employee.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Returned from Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Trustee Barto states there are some change of status forms to go through and Motions to make for promotions within the Washington Township Fire Department.

MOTION: Promote William Long from Captain to Assistant Chief. Pay rate \$15.75/hour and a monthly stipend of \$500.00 effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

MOTION: Promote David Hartford from Firefighter/EMT to Captain for the Washington Township Fire Department. Pay rate \$15.75/hour and a monthly stipend of \$250.00 effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

MOTION: Promote Chad Klavinger from Firefighter/EMT, Inspector to Lieutenant for the Washington Township Fire Department. Pay rate \$15.75/hour and a monthly stipend of \$125.00 effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

MOTION: Promote Jody Gruesbeck from Paramedic to Lieutenant for the Washington Township Fire Department. Pay rate \$15.75/hour and a monthly stipend of \$125.00 effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Roads

Discuss contracts/bids for repaving of Fuller Creekside Glens.

Mr. Mayfield states we received contracts/bids for repaving of Fuller Creekside Glens from several companies. The lowest bid received was from Gerken Paving Company which was \$514,944.66.

Other bids received were from: Bowers Asphalt and Paving, \$529,289.16; Henry Bergman, \$549,203.76; and Shelly Company, \$612,516.66.

We normally go with the lowest and best price which is \$514,944.66 through Gerken Paving Company so, we will go with this company. Shelly received their bond and their financial statement so we have everything to move forward. Mr. Mayfield states we have everything else from them that we required as well.

RESOLUTION #07:24: TO CONTRACT WITH GERKEN PAVING COMPANY FOR THE FULLER CREEKSIDE GLEN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$514,944.66.

Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield second.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

RESOLUTION #08:24: TO USE THE REMAINDER OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,530.98.

Mr. Barto moved: Mr. Mayfield second.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Police

Approve Motion to allow Police to sell unclaimed vehicles on GovDeals for 2024.

Motion: Approve the Washington Township Police Department to sell unclaimed vehicles on GovDeals for 2024.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Barto seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Trustees

Approve minutes from Regular Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024.

Motion: Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024.

Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes.

Discuss repairs to Blessing Building.

Mr. Mayfield states that last month the Trustees voted to move forward with clearing the title on the Blessing Building. Lucas County Prosecutor John Borell has been in contact with the Blessing Family Attorney. They are going to move forward with that.

Part of Mr. Mayfield's conversation with Mr. Borell was about the ongoing argument that we do not own the building; he has confirmed that we do own the building it does have a deed restriction. There are other questions about a reverter clause in the deed that states if we quit using it for the fire department, it could have reverted back to the Blessing family. The problem is that the window of opportunity to do that was 54 years ago, when the building was no longer being used as a fire department.

John Borell agreed to put in writing that we own the building and we have a right to start maintaining and taking care of it. We would like to put a new roof on and stabilize it. We are not going to make any decisions right now

Mr. Mayfield asks Mr. Schuster to follow up on the roofing quotes he received a few years ago. Mr. Schuster will ask for updated prices since they have all the information from the first quotes. If the quotes come in over \$75,000.00, we will have to put out for bids.

Mr. Mayfield said that, about a month or two ago, with about \$100.00 in labor and materials, they stopped the two big leaks for now. He said it's a shame how the building has been allowed to deteriorate for the last four years and now it does need mold remediation. The building needs to get a roof on it and it needs to be dried out.

Meanwhile, the title clearance is going to take about six, to eight months. For now, the plan is to stabilize the building, clean it up, kill the mold, and get it ready for the whatever its next purpose is. Mr. Mayfield states none of the trustees want to get rid of it; it's a great place for storage – of which we can never have enough. He'd like to get the building cleaned up and looking good for the neighbors.

Mr. Barto is not comfortable with Ryan going in the building because of the mold; he doesn't feel it is safe and doesn't want anyone in there without proper equipment. A month ago, Ryan started cleaning each room with the UV light that does kill mold. Discussion was shared on other methods to deal with mold and airing out the building.

Discuss Insurance Settlement from Hail Damage from June 2023

Mr. Britton states that they did get a quote for the garage door from Overhead Door and it was \$4,130.00. The park buildings are 100% done: for the roof and siding are done and paid for.

The roof for the fire station/administration building is still not done but the job was awarded to Manchester. There was a motion made at a previous meeting and there is a signed contract for the job. The quote is \$124,641.00.

Fiscal Officer Mrs. Nowakowski states that money for the roof has been received from the insurance company and is waiting in the general fund.

Mr. Mayfield asks about the siding on the storage building on Shoreland. Mr. Britton states half a dozen people came out to look at it, but everyone was so busy at the time. We received one quote and that was for \$180,00.00; the insurance company quoted \$53,000.00 on it. Mr. Britton spoke to Mr. Barto and Mrs. Schlachter and they decided to put it on hold till the spring.

Mr. Britton reached out a week and a half ago to the Sedgwick representative and they offered to help locate vendors to do the work. The rep is in the process of doing that.

There was hail damage on two sides, the back and the roof. Mr. Mayfield states that's what we need to decide: Do we want to repair a damaged building in the back that no one sees? Can we take that money and apply to something else? Mr. Britton states that, legally, once the money comes into the general fund and do whatever you see fit. The issue is if you would have more hail damage, or another wind storm will come through and damage that building, the insurance could fight us and say it happened because we never had the initial repairs done and could possibly turn us down. They will audit us and ask what we used the money for; we had to give them all the receipts. If the insurance company feels that we didn't use the money as it was intended, they could drop us and that's the other risk.

Mr. Mayfield wants to get an updated price from Manchester to make sure the price is still good. Mr. Britton is to reach out to Manchester about the siding and have an update at next meeting.

Mr. Mayfield asked about the hose tower on the fire station building. It's no longer being used and, if we are going to do a roof, should it be removed? He will climb up the structure and see what shape it's in. Discussion about hose tower and structure.

Assistant Fire Chief Bill Long said "This building is a fire station, first and foremost, and this station is the biggest asset this township has. When we start changing the structure and taking away what makes this place a fire station, it's no longer a fire station and will be just an administration building." He said that he wouldn't mind hearing the siren blow when a call came in. The volunteer fire service has modern technology, but traditions stick around. Traditions are what people like and what people enjoy. Resident and former fire chief Matt Hart said he fully agrees with Bill; "Tradition is deep-seeded. There is a lot involved the brotherhood and sisterhood of being a firefighter, and it's the little things that add up. Taking a little bit here and little bit there breaks the whole system down."

Delegations/Public Comment

Kellie Schlachter

Would like to keep the tower; and feels it is historic. Regarding the siren: she recalled there were several complaints from neighbors across the street about how loud it was, and we have the technology that handles that [alerting firefighters to calls].

She would like to know where the money is coming from for Blessing Building roof?

Mr. Mayfield replies that has not been figured that out yet. The capital improvement fund has \$45,000.00 in it right now, and they'll have to look at the budget.

Mrs. Schlachter would like to know what changed with John Borell because she has a lot of documentation that was sent through emails, and paper, stating do not spend a dime on it or they would be personally held responsible.

Mr. Mayfield replies that Mr. Borrell had a legal opinion early on, that a law passed in 1965 said if a deed restriction was in place and wasn't renewed every forty years, it went off the deed. Then he dropped that argument because the Blessing Building would have been grandfathered. Because we're not trying to sell the building, ownership of the building has never been in doubt.

Mrs. Schlachter said she feels strongly it is our building; she just wants proof that it is the township's building before we start putting tax payers' money into it. Mr. Mayfield said "Mr. Borell said he would put it in writing and give us permission to start repairing the building, and he understands the need to do that." Mrs. Schlachter replied, "If we have the money, because I know there's a lot of other things we need too."

The other thing she signed up to speak about is police chases. She expressed concern about a recent chase, involving one of our officers, and the resulting crash that was not in the township.

Mr. Mayfield said he talked with Chief Kaiser about it and it is part of an ongoing investigation, it's being discussed, and a solution will be found.

She asked if officers have been given the policies; are they signing off on it? Mr. Barto states he is looking into this: he will be meeting with Eric to review the video. If policies need to be changed, we will take it into consideration and look into that. If there's disciplinary action that's needed, we will also look into that. He states it's still early and this just happened over the weekend, and we are actively working on it.

Don Barto asked Chief Bailey for his thoughts about the siren. Chief responded that he cannot speak to it being too loud, but he thinks that we can come to an understanding. Probably, the biggest complaint was it being sounded at 3 o'clock in the morning; no one likes to be woke up.

Chief Bailey mentioned how many fire apparatus have been run into, or run into others while responding to calls. It's happened to Toledo Fire twice recently – it's a BIG red truck with flashing lights and sirens.

It's good for kids in the neighborhood to get to know it, when they're riding their bikes – they pull to the side and look for the fire engines and apparatus. Same as cars.

We can share that with Facebook posts, social media, with articles that say, "When you hear that [siren], be aware. Turn down the radio, take a look at the volunteers that may be coming in your rear view." We're trying to be responsible and let people know we are coming; we are asking them to move out of the way. It should be understood by all: You cannot just take the road away with lights and sirens - whether it's a personal vehicle or fire engine – we're asking for permission, in a very controlled manner, that makes it safe for everyone in the roadway, to pass and get there more quickly. A siren reinforces that.

Mr. Britton said, as a resident, the siren is free advertisement that the fire department is doing something. Every time the siren goes off, people are aware of how busy the department is.

Chief Bailey likes to look at it from both perspectives: There are plenty of accidents where people will say there was no need to run lights and sirens and it only makes a difference in the outcomes of patients a certain number of times. But on the other side of that, there's plenty of data that shows that the sound of the siren coming to an emergency actually lowers heart levels and makes people feel comfortable because they know help is coming.

Mr. Mayfield asked Chief Bailey to talk with Lucas County and see if they still do sirens and if they are capable of turning it on and off, and report back at the next meeting.

Chief Kaiser added that people here may agree with the siren, but there are a lot of people, who are not at this meeting, who may not want the sirens.

Chris Thompson

Spoke in favor of the siren and keeping the hose tower.

Laura Wishart

Spoke about notifying residents if the sirens are used again so they don't panic.

Barb Kingsley

Invited people to an upcoming band and orchestra concert by State Line Christian School on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., where they will honor first responders, veterans, and members of the Armed Forces.

The concert will be held in the Lewis Avenue Baptist Church Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. They would like honored guests to arrive at 7:00 - 7:15 p.m. so they can enter just before the band is playing "Marches of the Armed Forces". Others are welcome to just come to attend the show.

Mr. Mayfield asked for any last announcements from anyone at the table. Mr. Schuster said that he thinks it's important that they allow the residents they represent to give their two cents. Mr. Mayfield agreed the trustees definitely want input but don't want it interrupting the middle of business. Mr. Barto added that they know when there's something on the agenda that the residents want to say something about. If there's something they know will be an issue and people have questions, it will be at the end of the agenda to allow for questions and answers.

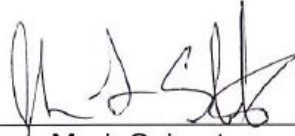
Mrs. Nowakowski mention how the Sick Policy 620 and Leave Policy 623 do not address the hours earned or the accrual limit. Discussion was held about how to interpret the policies and accrual of sick leave.


Mr. Mayfield suggested that Mrs. Nowakowski write something up for the next meeting so they can talk about it then.

With no additional business or comments, Mr. Mayfield adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.


Jerry Mayfield


Don Barto, Sr.


Mark Schuster


Kimberly Kay