

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of **MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Meeting

Held

MARCH 3,

2008

Chairman Spanovich called the Regular Staff Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. with Mr. Angelou, Mrs. Stewart and the Fiscal Officer, Nancy White, present.

Also present were:

Jim DeConnick	Fire Chief
Fred Kauser	Deputy Fire chief
Michael Pocock	Police Chief
Calvin McKnight	Service Director
Steve Blake	Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Spanovich asked to dispense with the Pledge and Prayer.

Res. 66-08: Approve Minutes of February 4, 2008

Mr. Angelou moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2008 meeting. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Fiscal Officer presented the following correspondence to the Board:

1. Franklin County Board of Health invitation to their annual Franklin County District Advisory Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow at the Makoy Center in Hilliard. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, March 11, 2008. She mentioned as a reminder that the Franklin County Engineer's dinner meeting will be on Thursday, March 13, 2008.
2. Board of Elections notice to Managers of Facilities used as voting locations that no matter the weather or road conditions, Ohio law requires the polls to open at 6:30 a.m. on Election Day. Calvin McKnight was given a copy of this notice.

The Fiscal Officer said that she and Mr. McKnight met with Wilma Yoder of MORPC and Ted Beidler from the County Engineer's Office to update our application for funding under the Ohio Public Works Commission's (OPWC) Small Government Program for Road Improvements. The Trustees were given an updated copy.

3. Notice of Filing Petition for Annexation of 4.2 +/- Acres from Mifflin Township to the City of Columbus. The petitioners are two property owners at 2673 Johnstown Rd. and 2693 Johnstown Rd. This is a "Type Two" expedited proceeding so there is probably nothing we can do. The hearing on this is on March 18, 2008. Mrs. Stewart asked Steve Blake if he could attend this hearing and report back to the Board. The Fiscal Officer said she was given some advice on some options to try to stop some of these annexation requests before they go to the County Commissioners.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT – The Fiscal Officer said she has the 2007 Bank Reconciliations for Mr. Spanovich and Mr. Angelou to review and sign off on. She said that if the Trustees prefer, she will bring them monthly as they occur as part of their packets.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS (NEW BUSINESS)

ADMIN

Workers' Comp Issue – The Fiscal Officer said she met with the Department Heads about the Workers' Comp rating, etc. She said we needed more information so she contacted CareWorks and Frank Gates agencies to hopefully have a report for the next meeting.

K-9 Project Insurance Information – The Fiscal Officer gave the Trustees a copy of K-9 information from the insurance risk control people for their review. There was a Sample Policy and Procedures for Canine Units and information on the Implementation of a K-9 Unit. Steve Blake who is training a dog for this purpose said he has some additional information to present under his Code Enforcement report.

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SERVICE – Calvin McKnight said he received proposals from three lawn care companies for landscaping at the Township Building. The Trustees asked if the Service Department could do some of the work but Calvin McKnight said that due to his limited manpower, it would not be possible. He said he is recommending Jim Klamfoth Lawn Service which is the company that has done it for the past few years and their cost is considerably lower than the other proposals.

Res. 67-08: Approve Lawn Care Proposal and Contract of Jim Klamfoth Lawn Service for the Township Building for the 2008 Season at a Total Cost of \$3910.00

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve the Lawn Care Proposal and Contract of Jim Klamfoth Lawn Service for the Township Building for the 2008 season at a total cost of \$3910.00 as recommended by Calvin McKnight. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Calvin McKnight made the Trustees aware that emergency repairs are needed for the storm water drop at Fire Sta. 134. He gave them a picture showing the problem and the cracked concrete around it. He doesn't have a price for repairs as yet but should have it for the next meeting.

POLICE – Chief Pocock had no report at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Township Clean-up – Steve Blake said he cancelled the clean-up scheduled for 3/1/08 due to weather and will reschedule it.

K-9 Training Program – Steve Blake requested the Board's approval of Phase 1 of the Mifflin Township K-9 Unit as proposed in the information packet he prepared for their review (See Referral File). He said that Phase 1 involves training only. Mr. Angelou said that he felt a trained dog would be helpful in controlling the drug problem in Mifflin Township. Mrs. Stewart said that if the dog is taken to public places such as a mall in the process of training, she doesn't feel that it should be stated that he is representing Mifflin Township. Chief Pocock said that we have to disclose that information and the dog is only taken to public places to get accustomed to people. It is made clear that Mifflin Township does not own the dog and is Mr. Blake's personal dog but when it is properly certified, it will be used in Mifflin Township. Steve Blake explained that he addresses in the packet some of the concerns of the Trustees such as a legal opinion as to township and handler immunity, liability coverage and the need for a K-9 Narcotics Unit. He said he is assuming all of the expenses for the training of his personal dog and he has personal liability insurance of \$500,000. Mr. Blake said that keeping records of the training is key and he will be keeping Chief Pocock advised in writing of the training of the dog monthly and the Trustees every three months or at any other time information is requested. He said that the Township will assume no expenses for the dog except liability insurance coverage but a K-9 Unit can be funded by communities, corporations, businesses, etc. and any donations are tax deductible.

Mr. Spanovich said he will make a motion that the Township will not incur any expenses regarding the training of Mr. Blake's dog for a K-9 Unit. Mr. Angelou said that first we need to move to allow the dog to be trained for a K-9 Unit and the Township would need to carry liability coverage from OTARMA for approximately \$250/year. Steve Blake said he is only asking for approval of Phase 1 for training only and he would at no time use the dog in the field until she was fully certified and has the approval of Chief Pocock and the Board.

Mr. Spanovich asked for a short recess at 11:07 a.m. The Trustees came out of recess and asked for an executive session.

Res. 68-08: Move Into Executive Session

Mr. Spanovich moved to go into executive session at 11:11 a.m. for a personnel issue. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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Res. 69-08: Move Back Into Regular Session

Mr. Spanovich moved to go back into regular session at 11:31 a.m. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Mr. Spanovich made a motion that Mifflin Township should not enter into a Canine Unit as proposed by Steve Blake. Due to lack of a second, the motion died.

Res. 70-08: Approve Allowing Steve Blake to Proceed with Phase #1 of Training His Dog for a K-9 Unit as Proposed with Mifflin Township Paying the Mandatory Insurance Cost Only and Revisiting the Matter After the Training Phase in 6 Months

Mr. Angelou moved to approve allowing Steve Blake to proceed with Phase #1 of training his personal dog for a K-9 Unit as he proposed with Mifflin Township paying the mandatory insurance cost only and revisiting the matter after the Training Phase in 6 months. Mrs. Stewart seconded. Mr. Angelou and Mrs. Stewart voted yea. Mr. Spanovich voted no. Motion carried.

Mr. Spanovich said for the record he has nothing against Mr. Blake or his dog but does not feel Mifflin Township needs a K-9 Unit. He also said he didn't approve of the method in which this proposal was brought to the Trustees. It should have happened before the fact, not after the plan to create a K-9 Unit was in motion.

FIRE – Chief DeConnick presented the Trustees with the following requests for approval:

Res. 71-08: Approve Updating Intercom System for Ladder 131 by Pierce Manufacturing for a Cost of \$2,604.00

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve Purchase Request No. 03.01.08 for updating the intercom system for Ladder 131 by Pierce Manufacturing while they are rehabbing the Ladder as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Res. 72-08: Approve 2008 Emergency Services Insurance Program Renewal from Allen & Hartzell for a Total of \$1,524.00

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve Purchase Request No. 03.02.08 for 2008 Emergency Services Insurance Program renewal from Allen & Hartzell for a total cost of \$1,524.00. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Chief DeConnick gave the Trustees a memo inquiring as to when they would like to discuss his proposal of a 2008 pay increase of 3.75% for the Division of Fire. He said that typically these increases are established in March of each year. Mr. Spanovich asked that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chief DeConnick gave the Trustees a copy of the January 10, 2008 MECC Chief Meeting minutes that was held at Jefferson Township. The Fiscal Officer reminded the Trustees that a meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. for the MECC Trustees to discuss the new lease agreement drawn up by the attorneys.

Chief DeConnick said that the request to send Firefighter Robert Gault to California for PDSI training to be the Systems Administrator for the TeleStaff program was put on hold from the last meeting. After discussion, the Trustees agreed that it is necessary to have a person properly educated to handle the tasks needed to make any adjustments and additions needed in the program to keep it running properly.

Res. 73-08: Approve Sending Firefighter Robert Gault to California to Attend the 5-Day Training Session from PDSI to be the Systems Administrator for the TeleStaff Program for a Cost of \$6,282.50

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve Purchase Request No. 02.09.08 tabled from the last meeting to send Firefighter Robert Gault to California to attend the 5-day training session from PDSI to be the Systems Administrator for the TeleStaff program for a cost of \$6,282.50 as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

Fire Dept. Building Improvements – Chief DeConnick referred the Trustees to the Division of Fire 2008 Proposed Budget Goals information which was given to them to review. The Capital Projects 2008 list the projects that need to be done and the funding options. Chief DeConnick turned this over to Deputy Chief Kauser to explain further. He said that the Fire Department wanted to take funds that they are already using and push all of those funds into one big note. It gets all the projects done at one time and are funds that we already have set aside so we know we can handle it. Mrs. Stewart said that by moving the leases we have now into one bond, we need to make sure we will not be paying the interest on them twice. The Fiscal Officer said she will check, but she is fairly certain that will not be the case. Deputy Chief Kauser said the best payment schedule is the Ohio CAF which was explained by the Fiscal Officer at a previous meeting. He said he feels it best to move all the lease payments and new construction projects into one bond. He said the bond interest is considerably less with Ohio CAF. Deputy Chief Kauser said that the concept of the bond would not only save money but mainly, let us complete the proposed building projects at one time. Chief DeConnick said they are planning a meeting with the bond people and will advise the Board when it is set as they would like to have at least one Trustee present at that time.

The Fiscal Officer said that regarding leases, she learned from the State Auditor who just completed our audit that the Township is permitted to do a regular lease and can turn a piece of equipment back at the end of the lease if we do not have another use for it. This makes the lease less expensive and the equipment is usually ready to be replaced at the end of the lease. She said she is scheduled to look at a new copier for the Administration Office on a lease program.

ID Cards – Mr. Spanovich said that he noticed in the MECC meeting minutes that ID cards were going to be issued for Fire Department personnel and after they are completed the offer will be extended to other governmental bodies within the six MECC agencies. The Fiscal Officer said that she felt that it would be a good practice for every employee to have ID cards and not just the Fire Department.

Station 132 Medic Issues – Mrs. Stewart asked Chief DeConnick if he had any additional information from Dolly Hanning regarding the two medic runs she mentioned in the last meeting. She said it took Columbus Medics a long time to respond to emergency calls from Mifflin residents. Chief DeConnick said he will call her for more information so he can research the time frame of the calls. Mrs. Stewart said we owe the people who signed the petitions that Mrs. Hanning brought to the last meeting requesting to bring back the Medic to Sta. 132 an explanation of the true facts. If after research, it is found the response times have been long, we need to address the situation and if we find that is not true, then we need to make them aware of the facts. Deputy Chief Kauser did have charts to show Mrs. Stewart on the number of 2007 automatic response runs made and received by Station District. The chart shows Sta. 132 made 4 to 1 more EMS runs to Columbus than in Mifflin. He said that by taking Medic 132 out of Sta. 132, we actually increase service because the same crew is now on the Engine and they can do everything but transport. Mrs. Stewart said we still need to know the actual time it took Columbus to respond to the incidents mentioned by Dolly Hanning. After much discussion, it was agreed that we want to give the best service to all our residents as resources allow.

PENDING ITEMS

Fitness Incentive Program – Chief DeConnick said he has a committee working on a program that will also include all Departments, but they are not ready to present anything at this time.

Chief DeConnick said that he was recently made aware that Jason Strohmeyer has applied for Family Medical Leave for 12 weeks to be with his wife after she gives birth. The Fiscal Officer said he wishes to be paid by using his sick leave time for his time off.

