

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Held

JUNE 19,

2012

Chairman Spanovich called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. with Mr. Angelou, Mrs. Stewart and the Fiscal Officer, Nancy White, present.

Also present were:	Tim Lenihan	590 Uxbridge Ave.
	Ron Albers	991 Reece Ridge Drive
	Marla Kuhlman	Rocky Fork Enterprise
	Bob Weber	530 Meadowsweet Pl.
	Bill Dempsey	278 Adamson Dr.
	Dave Samuel	243 Caswell Dr.
	Jon Deshler	Key Bank, 88 E. Broad St.
	Fred Kauser	Deputy Fire Chief
	Michael Grossman	Asst. Fire Chief
	Michael Pocock	Police Chief
	D.J. Tharp	Service Director
	Tom Lee	Fire Lieutenant, Union V.P
	Andy Fey	Firefighter, Union President

Mr. Spanovich led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mr. Angelou offered a Prayer reflecting on the needs of others, making good decisions and protecting those who risk their lives for others.

CONSENT AGENDA

Res. 161-12: Approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2012 & June 8, 2012 Meetings

Mr. Angelou moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2012 and June 8, 2012 meetings. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Res. 162-12: Approve Warrants for July, 2012

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the warrants for payroll and bills for July, 2012. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Mr. Spanovich asked the Fiscal Officer to read the Resolution Honoring L. James DeConnick Upon His Retirement as Chief of Mifflin Township Division of Fire as follows:

WHEREAS, the Mifflin Township Board of Trustees, do hereby extend on behalf of Mifflin Township, his fellow employees and the residents of the City of Gahanna and Mifflin Township, their highest praise and commendation to L. James DeConnick upon his retirement after 43 years of dedicated and outstanding service in the Mifflin Township Division of Fire.

WHEREAS, his years of service have been marked by his willingness to assist and use his expertise in numerous projects for both the City and Township, to volunteer his services for the community good, and continually projecting a professional and personal touch. His relationship with all whom he has worked has promoted the reputation and standing of the Mifflin Township Division of Fire in the County and State, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP, THE FISCAL OFFICER and fellow employees wish to thank L. James DeConnick for his years of exemplary service and congratulate him and wish him well on his retirement.

Res. 163-12: Approve Resolution Honoring L. James DeConnick Upon His Retirement as Chief of Mifflin Township Division of Fire

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the Resolution Honoring L. James DeConnick upon his retirement as Chief of Mifflin Township Division of Fire as read above. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried. (See Referral File)

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CORRESPONDENCE – The Fiscal Officer said she has no correspondence at this time but has several items to discuss. She said that she has information on the AEP Ohio Gridsmart Express Program for all Township locations. She said the Fire Department also included this information for their stations as part of their presentation. This is a program where they bring the lighting up to the new regulations that will be in place. The Fiscal Officer said that a company did a survey of all of our buildings, they have done a projected cost and a recommendation for replacements as well as an incentive from the Federal Government. She said the Trustees should have a copy of the information and the spreadsheet she did showing the projected cost to the Township for all Fire Stations and the Fire Annex and the Police Station. The Township Administration building is already in compliance. The projected cost would be \$24,092.70 and with the incentive, the cost to the Township would be \$1,745.59. The Fiscal Officer said we would need to sign a Participation Agreement for each location to be a part of this program. (See Referral File)

Res. 164-12: Approve Participating in the AEP Ohio Gridsmart Express Program and Authorizing the Fiscal Officer to Sign the Participation Agreements

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve participating in the AEP Ohio Gridsmart Express Program and authorizing the Fiscal Officer to sign the Participation Agreements. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Fiscal Officer presented the Trustees with a memo requesting a temporary Police Fund Transfer of \$10,000 from the 9-A-1 Salary account to the 9-A-14 Other Expenses account until the Board of Elections can correct the election expenses deducted in error. She said this will not take place until the 2nd half settlement in early August and has placed a burden on the 9-A-14 account.

Res. 165-12: Approve Temporary Police Fund Transfer of \$10,000 From the 9-A-1 Salary Account to the 9-A-14 Other Expenses Account Until the Board of Elections Can Correct the Election Expenses Deducted in Error

Mr. Angelou moved to approve a temporary Police Fund Transfer of \$10,000 from the 9-A-1 Salary Account to the 9-A-14 Other Expenses Account until the Board of Elections can correct the election expenses deducted in error. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Fiscal Officer said the Fire Department submitted a request to the Board for the purchase of Motorola portable radio units for \$149,954.56. She said she has talked with and secured a commitment from Park National Bank for a loan for those at 2.65% for four years. They are ready to close on this after it has been approved.

Res. 166-12: Approve the Purchase of Portable Radio Units from Motorola Solutions for a Total Cost of \$149,954.56 to be Financed Through Park National Bank and to Amend the Appropriations for this Purchase

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the purchase of Req. #06.07.12 for Portable Radio Units from Motorola Solutions as quoted for a total cost of \$149,954.56 to be financed through Park National Bank and to amend the appropriations for this purchase. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Fiscal Officer said she talked with Chief Pocock earlier we we need to make an adjustment in Police appropriations as it relates to the part-time Police Officers. She said they are going to sit down and look through his appropriations to find the money to make that correction and present it at the next meeting. She reminded the Department Heads that as discussed at a previous meeting, their 2013 projected budgets are due to be presented at the next meeting.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS-CONSENT AGENDA (NEW BUSINESS):

ADMIN – Nothing at this time.

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IT – Mrs. Stewart said their IT Meeting is tomorrow at which time they will be addressing several items and will report back at the July 2, 2012 Staff Meeting.

SERVICE – D. J. Tharp said that EMH&T finished pinning Block 2 and that section can be opened up at any time now. He said that all the addresses given to him by the Code Enforcement Officer to have work done has been completed. (See Referral File). He said the fence project is about half completed and everyone agrees that it is looking very good. Mr. Tharp said that he and his crew have started cleaning trash from the alleys and will be continuing with that and clean up of the weeds and trees

D. J. Tharp said they had a lighting strike yesterday that took out the phones in the Cemetery Office but voice mail still works so he can return phone calls. Asst. Chief Grossman said the strike also took out a technology switch. He said they have vendors right now giving an assessment of what we need to replace and testing the equipment and hopefully by tomorrow's IT Meeting they will have a report on that. The Fiscal Officer said she contacted the insurance company and referred them to Asst. Chief Grossman to update them on the damages.

POLICE – Chief Pocock said that the Police Department was asked to re-inventory the move and that is a work in progress and should be ready by the next meeting. He said the \$10,000 transfer will be a big help in paying current bills and he will be meeting with the Fiscal Officer to talk about the budget. He said they have worked out plans for Code Enforcement and another officer with a K-9 was sent to Safety Town since Officer Blake was unavailable. He said the new computers are great and everything is working perfectly.

FIRE – Deputy Chief Kauser said there are a number of items before the Board from the Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Kauser referred to a memo he sent to the Trustees regarding the pending Fire Chief Vacancy. He said that due to circumstances, he has decided to withdraw as a candidate to serve as Mifflin Township's next Fire Chief at this time and requests an executive session at the end of the meeting. (See Referral File)

A Contingent (Part-time) MECC Dispatcher Hiring/Selection Process Briefing was done by Asst. Chief Grossman. He discussed the need for additional Contingent Dispatchers to fill vacancies and outlined the hiring process. The Trustees gave their approval to proceed. (See Referral File)

Deputy Chief Kauser said we have a Contract Agreement for Fire Prevention Education on the table and are seeking approval to proceed with that as the employee handling those duties is retiring. He said it is more cost efficient to hire an independent contractor than hire another full-time employee.

Res. 167-12: Approve Entering Into An Independent Contractor Agreement with Creative Safety Solutions for Fire Prevention Education Contingent on Approval of Legal Counsel, HR Director and Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Stewart moved to enter into an Independent Contractor Agreement with Creative Safety Solutions for Fire Prevention Education contingent on approval of legal counsel, HR Director and Fiscal Officer. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried. (See Referral File)

Deputy Chief Kauser presented the following items for approval:

Res. 168-12: Approve Purchase of Class A Foam to Replenish Stock at all Stations from Finley Fire Equipment for a Total Cost of \$3,840.00

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve Req. #06.11.12 for Class A Foam to replenish stock at all Stations from Finley Fire Equipment for a total cost of \$3,840.00. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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Res. 169-12: Approve Request to Declare Surplus and Disposal of Retired Fire Chief L. James DeConnick's Turnout Fire Gear Which is at End of Life and Does Not Meet Standards

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve the request to declare surplus and disposal of Retired Fire Chief L. James DeConnick's turnout fire gear which is at end of life and does not meet standards. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried. (See Referral File)

Res. 170-12: Approve Request for Up To 10 Hours of Legal Fees to Review Draft Foundation Documents for the Formation of a Division of Fire Foundation That Can be Used to Manage Donated Funds

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve request for up to 10 hours of legal fees to review draft foundation documents for the formation of a division of Fire Foundation that can be used to manage donated funds. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried. (See Referral File)

Deputy Chief Kauser said that the second Purchase Requisition for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that was placed on hold from the last meeting is also equipment that needs to be replaced. He said this will be held for the July 2nd meeting to check on financing.

Deputy Chief Kauser said that as discussed at the last meeting, our Innovation Grant was approved for funding and we should get the award letter in the mail very soon. He also gave the Trustees a copy of the Fire Division Strategic Plan designed to improve fire suppression and emergency medical services. The projected date to place Medic 133 and Engine 131 into full-time service is Monday June 25, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. The new recruits have finished training and begin full-time staffing effective June 25, 2012. Services to the community will be greatly enhanced and all of this was made possible with the passing of the levy.

Deputy Chief Kauser said there was a significant fire last week in the Royal Manor area but there were no injuries. He said the Creekside Event this year went well and there were no issues.

MECC – No Report at this time.

POLL PUBLIC FOR COMMENT

Tim Lenihan, a Gahanna resident, referenced the Sunshine Law. He said he has been unable to obtain Mifflin Township budgetary information. He said he is submitting a copy of the Model Public Records Policy that outlines the recommended solution for Mifflin Township.

Ron Albers, a Gahanna resident, said he pays more property taxes to Mifflin Township than to the City of Gahanna and he receives more services from the City of Gahanna. Mr. Albers said that the Trustees and Fiscal Officer make a lot more than what the City Council members make and have free benefits which are all paid for by the tax payers. He said the Trustees have no control over their salaries but they do their benefits and the tax payers are paying more for the benefits than salaries. Mr. Albers said there are more City Council meetings and their budget and appropriations information are available to the public in detail at any time on their website. He said Mifflin Township has one regular meeting a month at 3:30 p.m. when most people are working or are picking up their children from school and cannot attend. He said it is almost like we are trying to keep everything a secret. Mr. Albers said he feels Townships are not needed as everything could be handled by a City of County. He said he is bringing all of this to our attention on behalf of a lot of other people who are not happy with the way we are running the business of our Township.

Mrs. Stewart asked the Fiscal Officer to address the budget process which is much different for the Township in the time frame. Nancy White said the budgets for the Township are required to be completed by April 1 per the Ohio Revised Code and submitted to the Auditor's Office. She said the County does not require the budget to be submitted by line item so any budget request would be the same as what we submit to the County. Mrs. Stewart said if anyone would like to sit down and have the budget explained to them we will be glad to do so.

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Mr. Lenihan said we do a good job showing our expenses but he would like to know where we get our money. The Fiscal Officer said the money from the levies go to the Department it was levied for such as the Fire Department levy only goes to the Fire Department and does not pay the Trustees' salaries.

Dave Samuels, a Gahanna resident and Council Member, said we are not answering the questions that are being asked and he is not here to be questioned or singled out but would like to hear answers to questions the other gentlemen have asked.

Mrs. Stewart explained that we have our meetings at 3:30 p.m. mainly for the government students who came after school and were the ones that attended the most. There was an elderly lady who has now passed away but she was from the unincorporated area and came to every meeting for years and it was hard for her to drive after dark. There was very little attendance from Gahanna residents even when we had the meetings at a later time.

It was agreed that there was some misunderstanding that the elected officials were the only ones getting their benefits paid for. All Township employees get their benefits paid for which is a part of their pay package as it was found that it is more cost effective than a higher salary. Mr. Albers said he felt most of his questions have been answered. Mr. Lenihan was told the Records Policy was not a new document to us and the Sunshine Law Training is required by the officials every four years by law and we feel that we have been following it.

Mr. Spanovich said to feel free to come in to have the budget explained in more detail.

Res. 171-12: Move Into Executive Session

Mrs. Stewart moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 4:42 p.m. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Trustees came out of executive session at 5:13 p.m. and approved the following:

Res. 172-12: Approve Accepting Recommendation of Deputy Chief Kauser and the HR Director Regarding the First Personnel Matter Discussed in Executive Session

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept the recommendation of Deputy Chief Kauser and the HR Director regarding the first personnel matter discussed in executive session. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Res. 173-12: Approve Accepting the HR Director's Recommendation Regarding the Second Personnel Matter Discussed in Executive Session and the Addendum to the Investigation She Conducted

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve accepting the HR Director's recommendation regarding the second personnel matter discussed in executive session and the addendum to the investigation she conducted. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Mr. Spanovich said that after much work and evaluation, the Trustees are ready to name Battalion Chief Timothy Taylor as the new Fire Chief. He said they took the wishes of the Union into consideration but have agreed to appoint Timothy Taylor to that position.

Res. 174-12: Approve Appointing Battalion Chief Timothy Taylor as the New Fire Chief on a Six Month Probationary Period to be Evaluated After That Time and Considered as a Permanent Appointment

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve appointing Battalion Chief Timothy Taylor as the new Fire Chief on a six month probationary period to be evaluated after that time and considered as a permanent appointment. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Trustees agreed that everyone should get behind him to ensure his success. Mrs. Stewart said that this was a very hard decision but we are lucky to have along with Timothy Taylor such quality and expertise in Deputy Chief Kauser and Asst. Chief Grossman.

