

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

TRUSTEE
Don Hodson

HENDRICKS COUNTY
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TOWNSHIP BOARD
Suzanne X. Conger
Doug Elmore
Michael J. Lynch

Washington Township Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting August 15, 2012--7:00 PM

Held at: Washington Township Park Pavilion, 435 Whipple Lane, Avon, IN, 46123

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a quorum was established. Michael Lynch, Suzanne Conger, and Doug Elmore were present. Also present was Trustee Don Hodson, Pat Laughlin, and staff.

Public comment - None

Consent Agenda

Michael Lynch moved to accept the consent agenda as presented and Suzanne Conger 2nd. **Motion carries 3-0.**

Fire Department

Fire Chief Dan Smith presented the report. Total runs to date are higher than the previous year but still expect it to be able equal with last year's run load. Presented the revised five year plan to the board and this plan is what the Cumulative Fund purchases will be while the plan is active. Chief Smith pointed out that we plan to put a down payment on some purchases and then have a payment plan after the initial expense. Pat Laughlin asked for an amortization schedule on everything that Chief Smith planned to purchase that way as those figures would apply towards the debt limit the Township has.

Parks Department

Trustee Don Hodson presented the Parks Department report. Summer camp has officially ended and at next month's board meeting expenses should be presented. August 9th concert was postponed and the make-up date will have another rain date in case it should rain. The Pavilion does water it's grass however the water used comes from the pond behind the Pavilion Center building.

Township Assistance

Jennifer Thornell presented the Township Assistance report. Numbers are up from last month and we are watching the budget as we are currently \$20,000 higher than where we were last year.

Legal & Financial – none

Trustee Report

Park Director resigned on July 27th and those responsibilities have been split between 3 people until a replacement is found. We had an exit interview with State Board of Accounts but cannot release findings yet as they haven't posted the official audit to their site. We are watching their website and will update everyone when this becomes available. Reorganization committee should make it's

recommendation in November. Kiwanis had been told by that their catering fee would be waived and that should be a decision that the board makes. It is being presented so that the board can discuss and make a decision. Doug Elmore stated that once we start waiving for one event no matter the type of event being held that more will expect to have those fees waived. Suzanne Conger wants to know what the caterer will benefit from this. There was discussion about presenting a policy at a later date that would already have the determining factors for what events can have the fee waived. Discussion between the board about the agenda and transparency with the result that the board didn't want to make any determinations on this matter since it wasn't listed on the agenda. It should be presented next month so that it is on the agenda and a member of the Kiwanis should attend the meeting.

Old Business – NONE



New Business

Benefits Committee

The SEP/IRA retirement is being replaced as the current plan requires that employees only be 21 years of age and work for the company for 3 years to qualify regardless of part or full time status with the company.

Firefighter retiree medical insurance is being looked at by the merit employees. They have hit a snag and have only found 50% of the funding and need to find the other 50% before this idea is completely presented to the board. We are switching from the SEP/IRA to a 401A retirement account. A 457 was looked at but decided against as it was pretty expensive for fees. We also looked at switching to PERF, however, unless the Township considered buying back years it is not a feasible option. Average age is 40 years old and unless we can buy back years the employee would have to work 20 years from the start date of the PERF program to qualify for retirement. Michael Lynch asked if there was an option to have any new hires participate in the PERF program while the rest of the department remain with the 401A. Christopher Krahn answered that PERF is an all or nothing program with-in a group. If a few firefighters participated in PERF, then all firefighters would have to participate in the program. There is a difference between Firefighters and Administrative staff so the administrative could participate in PERF without forcing the firefighters to participate in the program or vice versa. Doug Elmore stated that he would like to see figures for the buy back and was told that it would be approximately \$12,000 per person per year for buy back. There was discussion about Short & Long Term Disability as that is the one big plus for going PERF. It was asked how long it would be before accurate proposals were presented and what the surrounding departments did for retirement. The answers were that the retiree medical insurance does not have to be decided this year and that all surrounding departments are participating in PERF.

Administration sat down as a group to discuss the retirement rate and feels that the rate should be across the board for the entire Township as everyone is a Township employee. Our group was under the impression that we had to switch to the 401A retirement plan. We also looked at potentially participating in the PERF program and it was decided that we didn't want to participate in that plan due to the ages of some administration members, years of work required to qualify for retirement, and that it is an all or nothing participation plan. It was stated that the administration group had comparison for Townships in Marion County as those in Hendricks with the exception of Guilford do not provide retirement due to staff size. The board stated that they wanted to see Towns, the County, School, and Library retirement rates included in the comparison.

REVISE FROM 1ST PERSON TO 3RD 


Julie Stone asked if the Township is required to bid out the plan for a plan administrator firm. Don Hodson stated that legal would clarify if we need to. Christopher Krahn asked how the Township was financially responsible and was stated that because we write the checks we are responsible for ensuring that the plan has a responsible and responsive administrator. Brian Perisho asked if it is cost effective to switch versus staying with the SEP/IRA plan and the answer was any employee that is 21 years of age and worked for the company for 3 years is eligible to receive retirement regardless of part or full time status with the company if we stay with the SEP/IRA plan. There was discussion from the board about rates received and how switching to 401A would help maintain financial responsibility. With the 401A, the Township will have the ability to monitor reports. Doug Elmore asked how many were cashing out their retirement every year and that is a question that we cannot answer. The board would like to have surrounding entity figures for retirement and fee structures for both SEP/IRA and 401A plans. The board asked the employees why it is so important for them to have flexibility. Several employees present stated that they have a working relationship and trust with their current advisor as well as having the option to choose where they want their funds to go. Eric Gibson asked how the board feels after hearing that firefighters are an uninsurable group in relation to disability insurance. Michael Lynch stated that it doesn't make him feel good as a board member to hear this. He would also like for our employees to have good benefits but Doug Elmore wants to remind all the staff to keep in mind who pays for the benefits.

Dispatch Contract

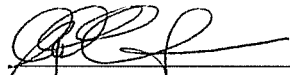
The updated Dispatch Contract was presented by Fire Chief Dan Smith. There were two or three funding options that had been discussed and it was decided that Fire would make up 20% of the budget while Police would be 80%. The figures were worked back from a starting figure of \$2 million. The previous amount we had seen as our price to pay was based on runs. This proposal for contributions from County Departments is based on populations within their jurisdictions. We are aware that we have the highest population in the county which results in a large contract payment. Chief Smith suggests that we continue to follow the plan he presented the board last year for our payment schedule. This won't pay the full amount that dispatch wants us to pay currently but it will allow us to work up to the full payment over a few years' time. Doug Elmore asked what is being done to prevent this and Don Hodson stated that we were vocal about all entities paying a fair share to dispatch. The Town Council of Plainfield has the final approval and we are trying to switch that final approving body to Hendricks County Commissioners. Chief Smith stated that the State was still looking at possibly making it a utility. Discussion from the board and Chief Smith that the Dispatch Center is being fiscally responsible and they are still trying to figure out the population adjustment in regards to the annexed areas.

Public comment - None

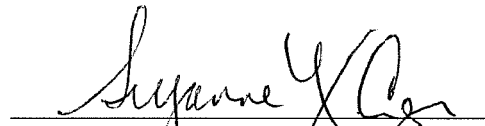
Wishes to be heard - None

Suzanne conger made a motion for adjournment. Michael Lynch seconds. **3-0 motion carries.** Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM. Next regularly scheduled board meeting and Public Hearing on September 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM held at Washington Township Pavilion Center, 435 Whipple Lane, Avon, IN 46123. In the event of flooding the meeting will be held at Washington Township Government Center, 311 Production Drive, Avon, IN 46123. Immediately following will be the budget workshop for proposed 2013 budget.

Minutes Approved September 19, 2012:

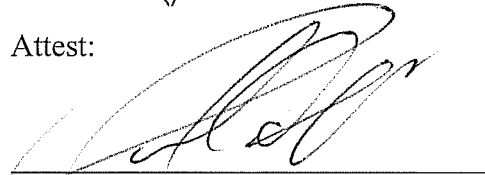


Doug Elmore, President

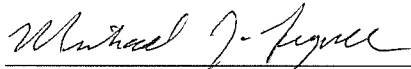


Suzanne X. Conger, Member

Attest:



Don Hodson, Trustee



Michael J. Lynch, Secretary