

Washington Township Board Meeting
September 8th, 2015 — 7:00 PM
Held at: Washington Township Park Pavilion
435 Whipple Lane Avon, IN 46123

Call to Order and Pledge

Call to Order and Pledge to the American Flag was given at 7:00 PM.

Quorum

Quorum was established Doug Elmore, Suzanne X. Conger and Fred Palmer present. Also in attendance: Trustee Don Hodson, Deputy Trustee Pat Laughlin, and staff.

Public Comment

Michael Gilmore, who was representing the Parks of Prestwick, presented the idea of the quiet zone for the railroad crossings at 400 E and 525 E in Avon, IN. The proposed time for the quiet zone would be between 10PM and 7AM. He asked for the support of the Township Board in regards to this matter.

Public Hearing: 2016 Budget

Don Hodson presented the 2016 proposed Budget for the Township. The budget will be adopted at the October 28th board meeting. The public hearing was opened at 7:08 PM. No one had comments or concerns. The public hearing closed at 7:09 PM.

Consent Agenda

The minutes from the August 11th, 2015 budget workshop, August 11th, 2015 board meeting and the August claims were presented for approval. Fred Palmer moved to approve the minutes for the August 11th, 2015 budget workshop and the August 11th, 2015 board meeting as written. Seconded by Suzanne X Conger. **Motion carried 3-0.** Fred Palmer moved to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Suzanne X Conger. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Department Reports

1. The department reports can be found on the Township website. Each department presented their changes to the 2016 proposed budget. During this time, Chief Smith highlighted the hazmat division of the fire department.

Trustee's Report

Don Hodson presented the Trustee's Report which can be found on the Township website. A discussion was held in regards to holding a special meeting to discuss the Fire Headquarters/Government Building. This meeting will be held on November 3rd, 2015 at the Government Center, 311 Production Drive, at 6:30 PM.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Don Hodson presented the Amendment to the 2015 Salary Resolution which would cover the part-time human resources hire. Suzanne X Conger moved to accept 090815-01 Amending

Salaries of Township Officers and Employees for 2015. Seconded by Fred Palmer. **Motion carried 3-0.**

2. Don Hodson presented the 2016 Salary Resolution. This covers all township employees. Fred Palmer moved to approve Resolution 090815-02 Establishing Salaries of Township Officers and Employees for 2016. Seconded by Suzanne X Conger. **Motion carried 3-0.**

3. Fred Palmer presented the proposal for the Railroad Quiet Zone. There is concern from citizens of Washington Township in regards to horns from trains being used late at night and early in the morning and causing disturbances. The complaint has been presented to the County Engineer, but nothing has been done about the complaint. A discussion was held between the board members about the issue in regards to safety and noise disturbances. Statistics and stories in regards to Quiet Zones were presented at this time. It was suggested that the public go to the County Commissioners with the complaint. Fred Palmer made a motion to support the process for a Railroad Quiet Zone. Motion was not seconded.

Public Comment

Ellen Kloge wanted to know what the Indiana statistics were in regards to vehicle and train collisions. Those statistics were not available during this time. Marybelle Wyse distinguished the difference between hitting the horn and laying on the horn. Diane Lubbert presented that the train engineer is supposed to sounds the horn 4 times, 2 long and 2 short, but has counted upwards of 11. It was found at this time that the complaints have not been presented to the Federal Railroad Commission. Marty Tavis wanted to know who was in charge of the tree cover around one of the crossings. Don Hodson mentioned that if it is on railroad property then it would be the railroad's responsibility to maintain the trees. He also reiterated that they need to go to the Federal Railroad Commission and the County Commissioner with these complaints.

Wishes to be Heard

None.

Adjournment

Suzanne X Conger moved to adjourn the meeting and Fred Palmer seconded the motion. **3-0 motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM. The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on October 28th at 7:00 PM. Meeting to be held at Washington Township Pavilion, 435 Whipple Lane, in event of flooding meeting will be held at Washington Township Government Center, 311 Production Drive.

Minutes Approved October 28th, 2015:

Doug Elmore, Chairman

Fred Palmer, Member

Suzanne X. Conger, Secretary

Attest:

Don Hodson, Trustee