

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
March 10, 2020
HELD AT: WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT CENTER

Call to Order:

- A. The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Establishment of a Quorum:

- A. Board members Amanda Babinec and Steve Blacketer were present. Board President Shane Sommers sent his regrets.
- B. Trustee Don Hodson, various members of the township staff, and members of the Murphy Park design committee were also present

Consent Agenda:

- A. Steve Blacketer motioned to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Board Meeting and the February 2020 credit card statements and check register as presented. Amanda Babinec seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Public Comment:

- A. There were no public comments.

Oath of Office:

- A. Trustee Hodson administered the Oath of Office to Tracy Justice as Human Resources Specialist and Britt Woodard as Deputy Trustee.

Department Reports:

- A. Township Assistance
 - a. Deputy Trustee Woodard presented the February report. Babinec noted that February's numbers were down. She asked Woodard to confirm Director Sue Allen's explanation that tax refund season was causing fewer people to apply for assistance. Woodard agreed and added that Township Assistance would likely see an uptick soon as a result of parents staying home from work to care for children who are at home as a result of ACSC's decision to close for two weeks.
 - b. Babinec asked how the Township is reaching out to parents losing income during the COVID-19 shutdown. Woodard responded that the Township cannot assist clients until they have a past-due bill they cannot pay, but that they plan to start promoting their services on social media toward the end of March as bills come due.
- B. Human Resources
 - a. New Human Resources Specialist Tracy Justice asked the Board what they would like to see in their reports from her. Both Babinec and Blacketer noted that they liked the current report and would like to continue to see demographic and tenure data.
- C. Parks

- a. Parks Director Lora Helmick presented the February report. She highlighted the portion of her report about the food truck rally scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd. Helmick stated that the Parks Department planned to work with Fire, Police, and other local organizations to ensure a safe, well-planned event. She also noted that the event has Guinness World Record potential and will attract thousands to Washington Township!

D. Fire

- a. Assistant Fire Chief Gerald George presented the February report. He recognized Public Educator Karen Utley and Fire Administrative Assistant Courtney Snyder for their hard work putting together the Fire Awards Banquet.
- b. Fire Chief Dan Smith recognized Assistant Chief George, the fire staff, and Trustee Hodson for their great work in his absence.

Trustee Report:

- A. Trustee Hodson presented the report. He outlined the various measures he has taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Washington Township, including closing park buildings and cancelling part events and spring break camp. He emphasized that the Township aims to support the Avon School Corporation's decision to close schools to keep the spread of the virus at bay.
- B. Chief Smith took a moment to state that he had cancelled all fire station tours and the high school Explorers program. He mentioned that Utley will still do car seat inspections for expecting parents/guardians, but that she will do so while wearing personal protection equipment. Finally, he noted that his supply budget might see a sharp increase due to unplanned spending on personal protective equipment.
- C. Trustee Hodson added that he will be setting a date for an executive session to discuss upcoming capital projects.

Old Business:

A. Station 141

- a. Chief Smith presented the update. He pointed out that the line item for in-room alarms may end up being as much as \$30,000 over budget. Sleep deprivation is a major problem in the fire and emergency services. The in-room alarm system will allow personnel not being called out on a run to stay asleep. Because Station 141 will have 4 apparatuses, the original in-room alarm switch will not be sufficient (it only works for 3 apparatuses). Babinec voiced her support for the alarm system.

B. Training Ground

- a. Chief Smith presented the update. He noted that both properties have been secured for the project, but there was still some platting work to be done on the parcel purchased from ACSC.
- b. Chief Smith also mentioned that the renter at proposed Station 144 would like to stay in the property until work begins on 144. Both Babinec and Blacketer approved the idea of getting revenue from an otherwise vacant property.

C. Murphy Park

- a. HWC Engineering and other members of the Murphy Park planning team presented the master plan and the two phases for development of Murphy Park. They noted that certain elements of the master plan, such as the accessible playground and the trail connection to the Avon Junior Athletic Association, were broken out separately so that Washington Township could obtain independent financing for these projects.
- b. After Cory Whitesell (HWC) presented the proposed master plan, he said he was not looking for action from the board today, but rather input and direction. He outlined the design team's hope to go into full design mode in summer 2020 in order to allow for a full construction season before opening Memorial Day 2022.
- c. Trustee Hodson directed Helmick to outline the grant funding potentials for Murphy Park. Helmick walked the Board through the various grant opportunities and the application schedule. Helmick voiced her support for breaking out the playground element because she had heard that several local businesses were interested in funding an inclusive, accessible playground. She also noted that several parents of children with disabilities had approached her about the idea of forming a committee to seek out sponsorships and other funding. Babinec asked Helmick to put together a grant/sponsorship tracker.
- d. Blacketer asked whether 275 parking spaces would be sufficient. Whitesell explained that other aquatics centers, like the Monon, opened with about 275 spaces and then expanded later. He also pointed out an area designated for overflow parking.
- e. Blacketer also mentioned that he would like to move up the trail connection to the AJAA to Phase 1 for safety reasons. He doesn't want people walking along 625 without a safe place for pedestrians.

New Business:

- A. Surplus Property Resolution 031020-01
 - a. Woodard explained that the MDT units listed under the resolution were the old computers for the fire and emergency apparatuses.
 - b. Steve Blacketer motioned to approve the resolution. Amanda Babinec seconded the motion. The resolution passed 2-0.

Public Comment:

- A. There were no public comments.

Wishes to be heard:

- A. Trustee Hodson updated the board on the status of House Bill 1065 (fire levy increase). He said that it had passed the House and the Senate, but was going to conference committee because it had a lot of amendments. He said he hoped to have an update after session ended on 3/11/20.
- B. Assistant Chief George noted that the Board would need to find another room for the April meeting because the large classroom would be used for fire/EMS physicals.

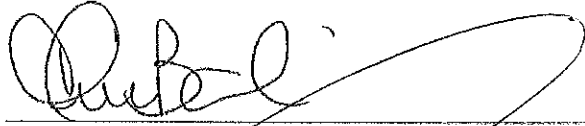
Adjournment:

A. Steve Blacketer motioned to adjourn at 3:29pm. Amanda Babinec seconded the motion.

These minutes were approved April 14, 2020.



Shane Sommers,

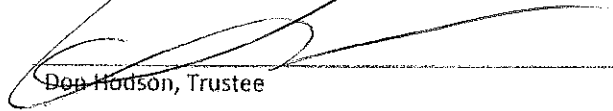


Amanda Babinec,



Steve Blacketer,

ATTEST:



Don Hodson, Trustee

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 3:00pm at the Washington Township Park Pavilion