

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
June 16, 2020 @ 3:00pm
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Call to Order:

- A. The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Establishment of a Quorum:

- A. Board members Shane Sommers, Amanda Babinec and Steve Blacketer were present.
- B. Also present were Trustee Don Hodson, Deputy Trustee Britt Woodard, Human Resources Specialist Tracy Justice, Parks Director Lora Helmick, Fire Chief Dan Smith, and representatives from HWC, the firm designing Murphy Park.

Public Comment:

- A. There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Blacketer motioned to approve the minutes of the May 12 Board Meeting and the May 2020 credit card statements and check register as presented. Babinec seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Department Reports

- A. Township Assistance – Presented by Deputy Trustee Britt Woodard
 - a. Sommers asked about pledged funds versus granted.
 - i. Woodard explained that granted funds are checks written during the month and pledged funds are approvals made during the month. Sometimes, pledges do not go through because a vendor does not accept them, and often pledges will roll to the next month before a check is cut, so will not show up on a granted report. She stated that pledges show a more accurate picture of the work done by the department during the month.
- B. Human Resources – Presented by HR Specialist Tracy Justice
 - a. Justice stated that she had been working hard on recruiting for a new Park Naturalist and the Fire Department. She had also been onboarding new hires.
 - b. Babinec requested that Justice prepare an average tenure report for Township General without the Board on it.
- C. Parks – Presented by Director Lora Helmick
 - a. Helmick announced that staff was back in the office and camp had just started. She said there were seventy kids enrolled this week and noted that summer camp was on track to match 2019 attendance. She also noted that Assistant Parks Director Massa had been conducting lots of tours of the Pavilion and the Nature Center. Finally, she mentioned that the Park Naturalist was moving to Oregon and they were actively looking for a replacement.

- b. Babinec recognized the Park for getting donations. Helmick stated that the Hendricks County Park Foundation had provided a donation for hosting the Summer Fun Run series and was providing funds for a 50-tree trail at Pecar Park that would include 50 different types of trees and an accompanying brochure.
- D. Fire – Presented by Fire Chief Dan Smith
- a. Smith noted that crews were working on an active burn training at the house on the Murphy property. He also stated that the department had received over 165 applications for the open firefighter positions and that roughly half had already paid their application fee. Lastly, he recognized crew members Caldwell, Coffman, and Merryman for helping a resident install a new CO detector at her home.
 - b. Sommers asked if the department was still short on gloves and other types of PPE.
 - i. Smith responded that ordering restrictions had been lifted, so the department had been able to acquire the PPE they needed. Smith also noted that there had been an uptick in COVID cases in the county, and crews were trying to emphasize social distancing over mask wearing because round-the-clock mask wearing is so restrictive.
 - c. Babinec asked why one shift had recorded zero training hours.
 - i. Smith responded that it must have been a system glitch. Trainings are required for firefighters and failing to complete them leads to discipline. Smith had not seen any training related discipline reports, so he assumed this was a reporting glitch instead of a training failure.

Trustee Report

- A. Hodson noted that Governor Holcomb had moved the state to Stage 4 on June 12.
- B. He also stated that the Township had presented its first ever key to the township to retiring Superintendent Dr. Hoernemann at the June 8 school board meeting.
- C. Lastly, he mentioned that at the July board meeting, HR Specialist Justice would be presenting the 2020 pay comparison study and he would be presenting a quit claim deed for a Town of Avon sidewalk project on Township land near Avon Middle School South (the original township school building).

Old Business

- A. Station 141 remodel – Presented by Fire Chief Smith
 - a. Smith noted that the new construction manager was not as detail oriented as they would like. Some of his misses have led to delays in construction. Smith said that at this point in the project there was little to do but ride out the situation and choose not to work with that company in the future.
 - b. Smith also noted that the department sought three bids for all purchases, including furniture.
 - c. Smith said that there had been so many cuts into the east parking lot that they would need to repave it. He said there was money in the cumulative fund to cover this.

- d. Babinec asked if there would be a grand opening. Smith replied that there likely would be, but it would depend on the COVID situation. He also noted that, due to construction delays, there is no opening date set yet.
- B. Training Ground – Presented by Fire Chief Smith
 - a. Smith explained that the Township plans to use one of the existing buildings on the property for the Explorers program. He is getting quotes to upgrade the windows and is personally prepping the house for exterior painting. The department plans to do all painting themselves.
 - b. Smith stated that the department would begin bidding for training components next week and hopes to have the facility completed by late 2019.
- C. Murphy Park Project – Presented by Park Director Lora Helmick
 - a. Helmick announced that public meetings would be held to get input on the project on June 25 at 6pm and July 1 at 2pm. At the August 11, 2020 board meeting, she would be asking the Board to make decisions about the direction of the project.
 - b. Cory Whitesell and Jonathon Smith presented the master plan, phasing and budget for Murphy Park.
 - c. Babinec asked if the department had given any thought to including a Miracle Field on the mixed-use sports area. Helmick replied that it would be a good idea and that she would like to integrate it into future phases.
 - d. Sommers expressed concern about the expense of potential road upgrades to mitigate traffic problems. Helmick agreed that she believed that would be the number one question at the public meetings. She noted that HWC had included plans for road improvements in their plans to meet the current Town of Avon ordinances. She also planned to partner with the Avon Police Department to increase speed patrols on that stretch of 625 and to work with AJAA and the Town of Avon to find a solution to the traffic issue.

New Business

- A. Changes to the 2020 Salary Resolution (061620-01) – Presented by HR Specialist Tracy Justice
 - a. Justice noted that the aim of this update was to allow for an Interim Park Director during Helmick’s upcoming maternity leave. Hodson added that the Interim Park Director would be current Assistant Park Director Stephani Massa.
 - b. Blacketer motioned to approve the amended salary resolution. Babinec seconded the motion. The resolution passed 3-0.
- B. Surplus Property Resolution (061620-02) – Presented by Fire Chief Dan Smith
 - a. Smith explained that the department wanted to dispose of the double-wide trailer they had acquired from Hendricks Regional Health for the Station 141 remodel and another smaller trailer. He specified that any entity that offered to purchase the trailers would need to pay the moving expenses.
 - b. Babinec motioned to approve the resolution. Blacketer seconded the motion. The resolution passed 3-0.
- C. Fire Levy Increase – Presented by Trustee Don Hodson

- a. Hodson explained that the actual petition to increase the levy was not ready and noted that the Board would need to decide by July 31, 2020; therefore, the resolution would be presented at the July board meeting.
- b. He stated that data shows a 21 percent increase in population since 2010 so the Township should be eligible for the full 15 cent increase. He intended to pursue the 15 cent increase to allow for future growth, but planned to operate at and actually levy a much lower budget by way of editing the 1782.

Public Comment:

- A. There were no public comments.

Wishes to be heard:

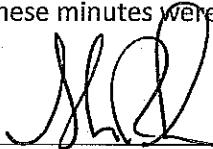
- A. None.

Adjournment:

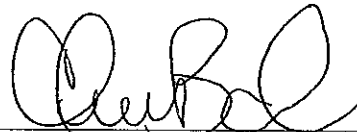
- A. Babinec motioned to adjourn at 4:53 pm. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn carried 3-0.

- B.

These minutes were approved July 6, 2020.



Shane Sommers,

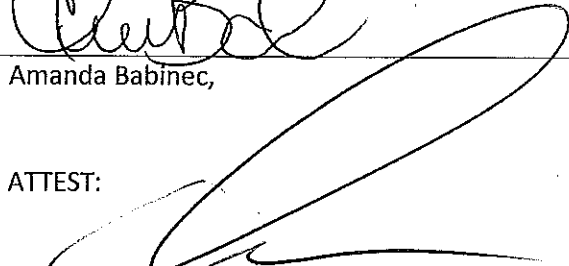


Amanda Babinec,



Steve Blacketer,

ATTEST:



Don Hodson, Trustee

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 6, 2020 at 3:00pm at the Washington Township Government Center: 311 Production Drive, Avon, IN 46123.