

Monday, January 22,

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The Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at the Bainbridge Town Hall on January 22, 2018. Those present were Trustees Mrs. Lorrie Benza, Mr. Jeffrey Markley, and Mrs. Kristina O'Brien. Fiscal Officer Mrs. Janice S. Sugarman was absent. Mr. Markley presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Benza made a motion to go into executive session for the Employment and Compensation of Public Employees per Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) and for JEDD Discussion (ORC 121.22(G)(8)).

The trustees returned from executive session, after considering the Employment and Compensation of Public Employees, as well as pertinent factors regarding a request for economic assistance with another community, specifically the previously mentioned JEDD for the Meijer proposal, and reconvened their meeting at 7:03 P.M.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

MINUTES

Mrs. Benza moved to approve the minutes of the trustees' January 9, 2018 regular meeting as submitted.

Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Vote: Mrs. Benza, aye; Mr. Markley, aye; Mrs. O'Brien, aye. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY GUEST

Mr. Brian Feliciano of Oswald Companies presented the HealthCare renewal proposal for the township. The township has moved to the "over 50 employees" category, which means there are a few differences. However, the coverage has no major changes. The biggest change comes in the tier breakdowns of individual and family coverage. There are no longer eight tiers, only four. Medical Mutual is also offering the township a two-year renewal with a rate lock. There will be 23 payments, with no payment due on the 24th month, a premium holiday. No changes or increases will happen for two years, which is a benefit to the township.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Karen Endres presented the zoning department report for the month of December 2017 and the year 2017. In December, she issued one new residence permit and collected receipts of \$2,200.00. For the year 2017, there were 35 new housing starts, the most in many years, and \$52,384.00 in receipts. There are two plans in the mixed use district. Discount Tire is still trying to get sewer and water from the City of Aurora, but they are getting more cooperation. Meijer is still interested in land, but they have not submitted a complete zoning application yet. Mr. Gil Myers of Bainbridge Township asked about the procedure for adding to your property. Mrs. Endres said that there needs to be a permit acquired from her office. The complete zoning report is attached to and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Lou Ann Metz presented the fire department report for the month of December 2017 and the year 2017. In December, there were 184 calls. 148 were EMS and 37 were fire calls. They responded to 99 residents and 41 non-residents. 111 of those were transports and 33 were non-transport. The Weils had 19 calls, and the Urgent Care had 11 calls. For the year, the fire department only used mutual aid twice. The department is doing ice rescue training in Pilgrim Village in February. BTFD will be a training center for the Ohio Fire Academy in March with an emergency driving simulator will be at the department and open to other departments. The complete fire report is attached to and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jon Bokovitz presented the police department report for the month of December 2017. He started by explaining and apologizing for his comments in the Chagrin Valley Times article last week. The article was written about graffiti that was racially charged found in a bathroom stall at Kenston High School. He used the word "silly" to describe the actions of whoever vandalized the stall. He regrets using that word as he views this incident as ignorant, despicable, and pathetic. The department is continuing to investigate this act. They do take these incidents very seriously. Unfortunately, this is not the type of crime that lends itself to being resolved. But that doesn't mean they dismiss it. Officers are up at the high school every day. He apologized for having used a poor choice of words to describe the behavior.

Chief Bokovitz also reported that there was a significant jump in calls in 2017 over the previous year. Citizen's academy starts February 21, 2018 on Wednesday nights for eight weeks. The complete police report is attached to and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following Chief Bokovitz' report, there were questions and interaction by Mrs. Lindsay Pollock, Attorney Kimberly Corral, and Mrs. Shelly Lewis. A summary of that interaction is attached to these minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – NEW BUSINESSCell Phone Stipend Request

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the request for a monthly cell phone stipend in the amount of \$50.00 for the EMS Coordinator, Pete Anders, due to the nature of his position effective immediately and including the month of January per the recommendation of the fire chief.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Items to be Declared Obsolete

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to declare the seven items listed below obsolete and no longer needed by the township pursuant to ORC 505.10, per the recommendation of the fire chief.

- Sony Television KV27S42
- Curtis Mathis Television CMC 13003
- Zenith Television C19A21D
- RCA Television F36670BC
- Kodak Slide Projector Carousel 4600 S/N: 01059
- 3M 9100 Slide Projector 9000AJB S/N: 862997
- RCA Video Recorder CC311 S/N: 938361088

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

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Request to Dispose of Obsolete Items

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to allow the disposal of the seven obsolete items pursuant to ORC 505.10 per the recommendation of the fire chief.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

Training Request – Chief Metz

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the training request for Chief Lou Ann Metz to attend the Partners for Life Conference as an instructor receiving continuing education credits in Sandusky, OH at no cost but with the use of a township vehicle from February 7 – 9, 2018.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Request for Leave of Absence

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the leave of absence for C.W. Hudson from the Bainbridge Township Fire Department from January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018 for personal reasons per his request.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion. Vote: Mrs. Benza, no; Mr. Markley, no; Mrs. O'Brien, no. Motion denied.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – NEW BUSINESSLiquor License Hearing – Chagrin Cinemas

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to table this item until they gather more information from Chagrin Cinemas and the police chief.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT – OLD BUSINESSAurora Co-op Lease Extension

The trustees discussed allowing the Aurora Co-op to stay in the building for another year, ending in June of 2019. Mr. Markley suggested revising the lease agreement to make it non-exclusive. The building could be available for public use in the evenings, on weekends, and in the summer. The co-op is discussing these options with their board. No decision was made by the trustees at this time. The suggestion to make the building available for public use raises a number of other issues, including potential renovations to the building, the accompanying effect on Bainbridge Township taxpayers, who could then be responsible for real estate taxes instead of the tenant, as well as other practical considerations. Mrs. Benza expressed opposition to the suggestion given the potential ramifications, absent full consideration of these other issues. The matter will be addressed at a future meeting.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT – NEW BUSINESSCell Phone Stipend Request

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the request for a monthly cell phone stipend in the amount of \$50.00 for the Lead Mechanic, Russ Simms, due to the nature of his position effective immediately and including the month of January per the recommendation of the service director.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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Lakeside Gas Agreement

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to allow the fiscal officer to sign and execute the Gas Installation and Use Agreement between Bainbridge Township and Diversified Gas and Oil enabling gas use at the Lakeside Building in Centerville Mills Park per the recommendation of the properties supervisor.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Request for Rental Fee Waiver – Friends of WomenSafe, Inc.

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the rental fee waiver request from the Friends of WomenSafe, Inc. for the Bainbridge Town Hall on April 22, 2018 in the amount of \$175.00, which is 50% off of the regular fee per the recommendation of the service director. A building attendant fee of \$105.00 will also be paid.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Request for Rental Fee Waiver – Peppermill Chase HOA

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the rental fee waiver request from the Peppermill Chase HOA for the Bainbridge Town Hall on April 17, 2018 in the amount of \$70.00 per the recommendation of the service director. A building attendant fee of \$30.00 will be paid.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Request for Rental Fee Waiver – Bainbridge Township Historical Society

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the rental fee waiver request from the Bainbridge Township Historical Society for the Burns-Lindow Building on the second Wednesdays and fourth Tuesdays of every month in 2018 in the amount of \$2,760.00 per the recommendation of the service director. We are asking that the Historical Society inform the township within 24 hours if they will be cancelling any meetings so that the building can be rented out to others.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Request to Transfer Vehicle

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the transfer of the 2005 Dodge Dakota pickup maintenance vehicle from the Roads Department to the Parks Department effective immediately per the recommendation of the road superintendent. There will be a value established with the transfer.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

TOWN HALL – OLD BUSINESSTransient Vendor Resolution and Policy

The trustees are continuing to work on the resolution and policies regarding transient vendors and a "do not knock" registry. This item will be on the agenda again for the next meeting.

Cell Tower

The trustees discussed the lease possibilities for the cell tower location on Bainbridge Road. Mr. Markley is working with the prosecutor's office and the potential lessee to try to work out a contract. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

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TOWN HALL – NEW BUSINESSHealth Care Proposal

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the 9.9% renewal increase with Medical Mutual for 2018 and 2019 based on the presentation by Mr. Brian Feliciano of Oswald Companies. There is a premium holiday on the 24th month which equates to a 3.2% increase over the two-year period for the township. The premium holiday will extend to the township employees, as well. The Health Care Committee will meet on Thursday, January 25, 2018 to go over the proposal.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

FISCAL OFFICE - NEW BUSINESSPurchase Order Approvals

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the purchase order list (Items 1-10) as submitted by the Fiscal Officer.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Since the trustees approved the purchase order for American Fireworks, Mr. Markley mentioned that he will be meeting with the Auburn Township Trustees to renegotiate how much they contribute to the fireworks event each year.

Purchase Order Request List

1. Chagrin River Watershed Partners – 2018 Membership Dues - \$4,594.00 (General)
2. Hall Public Safety – Three New Cruisers - \$32,973.82 (Police)
3. American Fireworks – 2018 Display - \$12,750.00 (Parks)
4. Winter Equipment – Five Cutting Edges for Plow Trucks - \$11,445.00 (Roads)
5. R&R Truck Sales, Inc. – Mack Cab and Chassis - \$109,426.00 (Roads)
6. Henderson Truck Equipment – Outfitting Mack Cab/Chassis - \$74,455.00 (Roads)
7. Southeastern Equipment Co, Inc. – Gradall - \$324,528.81 (Roads)
8. Junction Buick GMC – 2018 GMC sierra Pickup Truck - \$30,678.16 (Roads)
9. Gutoskey & Associates – Misc. Plan Preparations - \$10,000.00 (Parks)
10. Illuminating Company – December 2017 Invoices - \$7,810.71 (General, Roads, Cemetery, Fire)

Invoice Approvals

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the invoice list (Items 1-3) below as submitted by the Fiscal Officer.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Invoice Approvals

1. Geauga County Treasurer – 02-717300 Real Estate Tax 1st Half 2018 - \$1,370.26 (General)
2. Clemans – Nelson – Vacation Policy Review - \$1,341.19 (General)
3. Cargill Incorporated – Salt Fill Up - \$9,520.49 (PO 315-2017)

Blanket Certificate Renewals/Approvals

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to approve the blanket certificates (1-3) as submitted by the Fiscal Officer.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Blanket Certificates

1. Police - Other Expenses – K9 Unit - \$2,000.00
2. Roads – Training - \$5,000.00

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- 3. General – Refund Deposit - \$10,000.00

Checks Dated January 9, 2018 through January 22, 2018

The trustees examined and signed checks and invoices dated January 9, 2018 through January 22, 2018 consisting of warrants #28899 through #28993 in the amount of \$132,139.38.

NOTE: A register of said checks is attached to, and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

PUBLIC INTERACTION

Mr. Greg Marous asked if we had a date yet for the fireworks. It will be held on July 3rd this year. Mr. Gil Myers commented on how the township responded and interacted with the residents who commented earlier in the meeting. He appreciates the township's openness and willingness to have these discussions.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. NEFCO – Wastewater Management Facilities Planning
- 2. Cleveland MetroParks – Deer Management Program
- 3. Geauga Growth Partnership – Wellness Program on January 26th
- 4. Board of Commissioners approved the name change for Clayton Drive
- 5. SWCD - January 30th – Groundwater Program

Since there was no further business to come before this regular meeting of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice S. Sugarman,
Fiscal Officer, Bainbridge Township

Date

Date

Date

Minutes Read: _____

Minutes Approved: _____

Addendum to January 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Following Chief Bokovitz's comments concerning the December vandalism incident that was racially derogatory, the following discussion occurred. Mrs. Kimberly Corral, Mrs. Lindsay Pollack, and Mrs. Shelly Lewis attended the Trustees' meeting and wished to discuss the Chief's comments.

Mrs. Kimberly Kendall Corral, 17634 Walnut Trail, asked how incidents are defined in law enforcement. Chief Bokovitz explained anything the department does is catalogued as an incident, including traffic stops, house checks, etc.

Mrs. Corral referred to an incident in December that was referred to in a local newspaper article, asking the chief who reported it. Chief explained that nobody reported the matter. They never had a report. Rather he got a call after the fact and they are looking into it without a report right now. He said they can make one up and put in the date and time it was discovered but right now they are trying to find people to tell us something.

Mrs. Corral indicated her primary concern that the statements made in the newspaper article of 1/18/18 went out to the community generally. But the Chief's clarification and apology made tonight won't reach such a wide audience. No minorities are present at this meeting and they are the people most affected by the comment.

Mr. Markley said we never have an audience of any sizeable number. We have two reporters tonight, and the most people we have had in probably four meetings. Mrs. Corral asked how an apology made in this setting would be shared, because being offered here, it doesn't go as far. Mr. Markley said it will be in the papers, it will probably be in two papers now. Mrs. Benza said it was only in one last time.

Mrs. Corral suggested that there is a larger issue. Chief Bokovitz hasn't seen issues of racism at sporting events and other school functions, so may view this as less serious. She believes we exhibit white privilege because we don't personally experience the harm that it does to our community. She said her experience speaking with community members is that there is racism at the Kenston School District. Not one student reported this incident, which means the students are afraid to come forward or they are concerned that they are not going to be treated seriously, and this is not a serious offense.

Mr. Markley said he is not going to be argumentative. His kids have been in the Kenston school system for a long time. His wife is Filipino so his kids are mixed race and one of his daughter's best friends is African American. Never once has she ever come home upset, frustrated, sad that her friends were getting picked on ever and this is through 10 – 11 years of being at Kenston, it has not been an issue ever for her at the school.

Mrs. Corral replied that because it has not been an issue you've seen doesn't mean that it is not an issue. Mr. Markley indicated that we should all be careful. We should not make this something that it really isn't. He's not trying to marginalize it or minimize it, merely wondering if this is not a significant issue in that it doesn't happen every day all of the time. It's not rampant as you described it.

Mrs. Corral asked if the chief was aware of another incident that was reported in Auburn that someone used the N word slur at a fourth grade girl. Chief Bokovitz advised he had heard of the incident, and thought it had occurred in Chagrin Falls, not Auburn.

The trustees and the Chief proceeded to discuss the various steps the township has taken through the years to lift up our community as a whole, and minimize demarcations that used to be more recognized regarding minorities. Chagrin Falls Park for example has a large minority population. They explained that there used to be more isolation, but significant steps have been taken to erase that.

Mrs. Corral acknowledged the efforts of the township, but still contends that the Chief's quote from the newspaper might have done harm to the community and not one student reported this so obviously students don't feel comfortable. Mrs. O'Brien believes that often times students don't report items.

Mrs. Corral pressed on whether the township would change its approach in dealing with racial slurs going forward. Mr. Markley hopes the school will be more aware and if there are issues that the township should address, report them. Chief Bokovitz was quite clear, that if problems are reported, we respond. Period. Mrs. Benza reiterated that nobody filed a report on this, and the fact remains that the act occurred a month and a half ago.

Mr. Markley emphasized again, that this is not going to be marginalized and not going to be minimized. We respond, and acts like this one are not accepted and not tolerated. But we need to know about them, timely. Mrs. O'Brien continued that respect starts at home: we all have to respect each other, we all have to appreciate where we come from and our respective backgrounds.

Shelly Lewis, 10700 Robert Lane (Auburn Twp) asked whether since the school did not report the incident, it meant that the administration determined that this wasn't important enough. Mrs. Benza suggested Mrs. Lewis should take that up with the Board of Education and the administration.

Mrs. Lewis continued that she has greater concerns. On a regional level, she has been keeping track of different incidents that have taken place in the nearby communities; one was at a bowling alley in Solon, and another incident at West Geauga with a family that had the racial slurs yelled at them. She believes incidents in nearby communities deserve more attention, and suggested a regional taskforce or something that deals with racism. Chief Bokovitz doesn't know of any taskforce for the school. He can ask or suggest at a VEG meeting or perhaps a Geauga County law enforcement department meeting.

Mrs. Lewis maintained that the community is looking to our institutions to provide reassurance that racist activities are not acceptable. They are looking for our institutions, our law enforcement agencies, our schools, to lead. She doesn't think the township is indicating that it cares, and won't tolerate this kind of racist activity.

The trustees proceeded to delineate again the various programs that Bainbridge Township has committed to, administered, and successfully implemented to serve the entire community: not just a predominantly "white area" or "minority area." They discussed the Moving Ohio Forward program, the township's Land Bank program, Mr. Markley's commitment to GMHA, and other activities.

Mrs. Benza asked if the ladies who attended this evening were aware of those steps. Mrs. Lewis said they were not. Mrs. Corral offered that she came tonight because she thinks that hard line has not gone public, and Mrs. Lewis urged the township leaders to be careful.

Mr. Markley summarized Bainbridge Township's stance. We have acted consistently, and we will continue to do so. They thanked the three ladies for coming in. Chief Bokovitz echoed that sentiment and urged them to come to see him with any questions they might have that have not been answered.