

Minutes of the Bloomington Township Board

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on September 12, 2019, at 2111 W. Fountain Drive.

Board members present were Barbara E. McKinney, Lorraine Merriman Farrell, and Marty Spechler. Also present were Trustee Kim Alexander, Chief Joel Bomgardner, and Deputy Trustee Lisa Myers.

AGENDA

Marty moved to accept the agenda as presented. Lorraine seconded, motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Lorraine moved to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2019, board meeting as presented. Marty seconded, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Monroe Fire District Merger Update: Kim recapped the District merger informational meetings that were held in early August. The remonstrance hearing was held on September 11, 2019, but there were no remonstrators. The Commissioners will hear additional comments and possibly vote on the merger at the next meeting which will be held on September 18, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Kim reported that 540 post cards were returned by Bloomington Township residents and only 37 of those were not in favor of the merger.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing – 2020 Budget: Lisa explained the current handouts which include a minor change to the salary line for the administrative clerk position. This change is due to a staff reduction and reassignment in anticipation of the changing work load when the fire department merges with the Fire District. The budget total, overall and for each fund, did not change.

Kim stated that Washington Township and the Executive Committee both recommended approval of the proposed 2020 budget for all fire related funds.

2020 Benton Township Contract: Kim explained there are no major changes to the services being provided and the annual contract amount will remain at \$265,000. Kim highlighted the proposed edits and discussion ensued. Marty moved to approve the 2020 Benton Township Contract as presented. Lorraine seconded, motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Fire Territory Executive Committee: Lorraine reported that Geoff McKim questioned whether the Territory or the Fire District pays higher salary amounts. Joel and Kim confirmed that the Fire District pays higher salaries than the Territory.

Lorraine reported that legal counsel, Eric Koch, noted a change in statute which alters the effective dissolution date of a fire territory from July 1 of a given year to January 1 of the following year.

The August Chief's report contained a summation of runs through the end of July and the call volume is still less than in 2019. However, the gap is lessening.

Washington Township is still exploring acquiring land from the State of Indiana. The property which is located on Chambers Pike, is now 1.7 acres, and land use assessments are in progress.

A diesel fuel tank has been placed at Station 15 to alleviate the amount of time the station is out of service for fuel runs.

Eric Koch was represented by his colleague, Brian Bailey, at the September Executive Committee meeting. Brian was formerly the budget director for the State of Indiana.

The September Chief's report confirmed that run numbers for the year are now higher than the previous year and it appears we will surpass the 2019 total number of runs.

The training opportunity was a demonstration of the new pump house.

It was reported that no progress has been made toward an automatic aid agreement with the City, yet the City continues to use our facilities for training.

Trustee: Kim reported that the lease has been signed for the new office location. The target occupancy date is February 1, 2020. Per statute, the public notice regarding the lease execution will be posted in the Herald Times on September 15, 2019.

The public notice for the sale of the Township property has been posted in the Herald Times twice, on August 25, 2019, and September 1, 2019. Bids may be submitted until October 25, 2019. To date, no inquiries have been received. The minimum bid amount is \$370,000.

Kim has appointed Lorraine to serve as the Deputy Trustee while she and Lisa attend the Indiana Township Association educational conference in Indianapolis, from September 22 – 25, 2019.

Board: Marty asked for clarification on the Township's policy for providing housing to Township residents. Discussion followed.

Additional topics of conversation included trends in types of assistance requested, and the procedures involving burials and cremations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENT

There was no board comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2019.



Lorraine Merriman Farrell, Secretary