

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Vetter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. Trustees Bostdorff, Cromley and Vetter and Fiscal Officer Limes were in attendance. The sign-in sheet for employees and visitors is attached with the approved minutes.

Noted on the sign in sheet is a statement indicating the meeting may be recorded or streamed live to the internet by a visitor - not at the authority of the township trustees.

Mr. Bostdorff asked all in attendance to share a moment of silence in honor of Jeff Ford, township zoning inspector, who passed away that morning after a brief illness. It is respectfully stated that Mr. Ford was a valued member of the township staff and was respected by the those who worked with him in the community.

Mr. Vetter acknowledged a gift that had been provided to the Ford family by the Steve Asmus family. They coordinated an effort that introduced them to Brady Quinn and allow them an opportunity to talk with Mr. Quinn during Mr. Ford's illness.

OLD BUSINESS

The township provided gifts to the township area churches and elevators with items purchased with CARESACT dollars. In attendance were representatives from Christ's Bible Church in Dunbridge and Sugar Ridge Community Church. Green Guard Representative Nicole Asmus was in attendance to demonstrate use of the AED equipment, as well as speak to the other items donated – which include a digital thermometer and wall-mount first aid kits. Mrs. Limes spoke in regard to the community churches who were already in possession of the equipment (Haskins Community Church, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran) and noted that the Unitarian Church, Mid-Wood and Luckey Farmers would be contacted to make final arrangements for distribution of same. In addition, it was noted that the township made an \$11,000 donation to the Wood County Health District for the purchase of a large heated and lit tent for the purpose of providing large scale vaccination sites in the county.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Bostdorff moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve the February 17, 2021 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Bostdorff moved, Mr. Vetter seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- Mrs. Limes provided the following updates.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Asmus provided the monthly fire report to the trustees and reviewed same.
- An outside training for the fire department was discussed.
Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve rapid intervention training by "Squad 5 Training" at the cost of \$800.00. Motion approved.
This training will be held at the Sugar Ridge Road house that is being demolished. A tentative training schedule was provided for review. Chief Asmus indicated that 15 fire fighters, minimum, would be attending all or portions of the training. If openings were available, the department plans to open the session to local department personnel. Mr. Vetter reinforced the township's supportive stance on utilizing outside vendors to run training for department personnel.
- Discussion revolved around the purchase of new sirens in the township.
- A dedication plaque is being designed for the new fire truck honoring long-time fire fighter Captain Ronnie Asmus.
- Assistant Chief Brian Kotula updated the Trustees on the new fire truck and indicated the truck should be taking to Fire Marine at the middle of March. The truck will be outfitted with the loose equipment and it will take three to four weeks to complete the updates.
- Mr. Cromley questioned the air bag training and it was noted it was a success.
- Chief Asmus indicated that Eric Featzka has stepped down as an officer on the department, but will remain a fire fighter.
- Discussion revolved around the number of volunteers who have been attending fires, noting some concern with how many are able/willing to attend. The need to discuss how to bring on full-time paid personnel for daytime coverage was debated and noted that more discussion will be held in the future.
- Township resident Mike Moulton questioned the need for a recruitment meeting and the possibility of a spectator observation at a fire training.

- The response to the December 8 fire at the trucking company on St. Rt. 25 was reviewed. The fire was called in on a 2:00 am – 3:30 am dispatch. The Trustees heard from Assistant Chief Brian Kotula, Training Officer/Captain Tom Fowler, Chief Asmus and other department personnel. In summary, Mr. Fowler arrived at the scene and indicated to Mr. Kotula while driving Mr. Kotula to obtain the fire tanker, that he had consumed an alcoholic drink earlier that evening. Mr. Kotula requested that Mr. Fowler not return to the fire. Mr. Fowler indicated he did not consider himself to be actively responding, as he parked across the road and was not in gear. Mr. Fowler did return to the scene to provide radios and left after speaking with Chief Asmus. When questioned by the Trustees Mr. Fowler confirmed he had consumed a small amount of wine but did not intend to participate. Section of the township handbook were provided for review and continuing discussion was held with regard to discipline. Captain Ben Valis indicated he did not believe Mr. Fowler came to the scene with 'ill will' but that precedent is being set with this situation and the discipline to be enacted. Mr. Vetter reviewed the disciplinary steps listed in the handbook. Mr. Cromley questioned Mr. Fowler on whether he understood disciplinary action should be taken.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Bostdorff seconded a motion to approve an immediate 30-day suspension for Tom Fowler from the fire department, as well as a six-month suspension for Mr. Fowler's officer pay. Motion approved.

EMS DEPARTMENT

- Deputy Chief Jerry Saunders reviewed the run volume report with the Trustees.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Commission Chairman Mike Moulton reviewed a proposal from iWorkQ, a web-based zoning software application. Mr. Moulton and Dave Reid, past township zoning inspector, held a conference call with the representative from iWorQ. It was noted the proposal seems fair and the existing ZonePro software and data will be converted.

Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the proposal at the quoted price of \$5,800. Motion approved. Mr. Moulton and Mrs. Limes will serve as the contacts on the project until a new zoning inspector is hired. The goal is to have the data converted, or at a minimum reviewed for legitimacy, as soon as possible.
- The exterior lighting at the curling center needs to be discussed with the owner soon. The lighting is extremely bright and shrouds are being requested to avoid light pollution to surrounding neighbors.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals is holding a reorganizational meeting on Thursday, March 18.

OLD BUSINESS

- The township officials and department administrators discussed the need for a review of the township policies specifically in regard to random drug testing.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Bostdorff seconded a motion to approve a \$500 memorial contribution to the family of Jeff Ford. Motion approved.**

Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Bostdorff seconded adjournment of the meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion approved.

Fred E. Vetter, Chairman

Donald E. Cromley, Trustee

James F. Bostdorff, Vice Chairman

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer