

Lawrence Township Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday April 24, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Morris Settles Township Center

Community Room

4455 McCoy Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46226

Republican Caucus at 6:00 p.m.

Democrat Caucus at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda:

- 1.** Approval of minutes from January 17, 2012 of the Lawrence Township Advisory Board
- 2.** **Resolution 2012-5** Change to Lawrence Township Assistance Guidelines.
- 3.** Presentation of the Township financials for first quarter of 2012
- 4.** Presentation of Township assistance numbers for first quarter of 2012
- 5.** Presentation of Court filing info for first quarter 2012
- 6.** Discussion of Redistricting Plans

Next Scheduled Meeting: July 31, 2012, 6:00 P.M.

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Time Called to Order: 6:30 P.M.

Time Adjourned: 6:59 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Healy, Emmajean Hines, Dino Batalis, Fred Freeman, Steven Rose, Christie Wilmoth

TRUSTEE: Russell Brown

Meeting Called to Order:

Mr. Healy called the Lawrence Township Board meeting to order on Tuesday, April 24, 2012, at 6:30 P.M. He stated that there was a quorum present and asked that Emmajean Hines lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from January 17, 2012 of the Lawrence Township Advisory Board

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2012, Lawrence Township Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Rose seconded. Motion agreed to 6-0.

2. Resolution 2012-5 Change to Lawrence Township Assistance Guidelines

Trustee Brown said that it had been brought to his attention during a Lawrence Apartment Managers Meeting about the office paying late fees. There are a number of apartment communities in the township that do not accept the office's vouchers for rent assistance because the office does not pay any late fee. The goal of the change is to help increase the number of communities that would work with the Trustee's office. The consensus of the managers that were attending meeting was that the more of them would be willing to accept township funds if up to \$50 of late fees were paid and be willing to wave the remaining late fees. Ms. Hines made a motion that the resolution be adopted. Mr. Freeman seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

3. Presentation of the Township financials for first quarter of 2012

Trustee Brown reviewed the financials for township assistance as well as appropriations and revenue breakdown for the first quarter of 2012 as compared to previous years.

4. Presentation of Township assistance numbers for first quarter of 2012

Trustee Brown reviewed the Township assistance numbers when compared to previous years. There is a drastic drop in requests for assistance. Several other Trustees across the county have seen similar drops in assistance. It's hard to pinpoint the exact reason for the drop, but some of it could possibly be due to a milder winter and improving economy. The good news is that those who have requested assistance are overwhelmingly receiving it. Currently there is a 92% approval rating. In 2009 the approval rate was 25%. Mr. Rose asked about the partnerships with food pantries. The Trustee said that the Township is getting good numbers and data from the partners.

5. Presentation of Court filing info for first quarter 2012

Judge Clark Rehme reviewed the number of case filings that the court has seen in the first quarter. In the first quarter there were 1,741 cases filed which was down 175 cases when compared to 2011, but that the number of cases are on track to be higher than they were in 2009 and 2010. Judge Rehme discussed the Indiana Supreme Court's review of the small claims courts in Marion County. The report was scheduled for a May 1st release. The task force obtained information from a variety of sources connected to the court, including judges, lawyers and staff. Mr. Freeman asked that if case numbers were down, why were the members of the court staff having to work to catch up. Judge Rehme believes that has to do because the court is busy. The staff is dedicated and work hard and he praised them for their dedication. Thinks the court has a great working relationship with Trustee Brown and Constable Terry Burns. Trustee Brown complimented the Judge and his staff for being flexible during the construction process. Trustee Brown also mentioned that there had been a flood in the basement that damaged many documents, but it was covered by insurance.

6. Discussion of Redistricting Plans

Trustee Brown suggested that for the scheduled meeting in July that there be some definitive plans put in place about how the process should be done. The board has a statutory obligation to adopt new districts after Election Day before the new year.

Additional Discussion and Announcements:

Constable Burns echoed Judge Rehme's sentiment that the Trustee's Office and Small Claims Court work very well together.

Mr. Healey also praised the Trustee for shepherding the construction and renovation project

Next anticipated meeting will be July 31, 2012.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:59 P.M.

I hereby certify that the forgoing minutes are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and have been approved by a majority of the Lawrence Township Board.



Christie Wilmoth, Board Secretary

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, with the exception of the motions. An audiotape is made which provides a detailed record.