

Lawrence Township Board Meeting
Tuesday September 23, 2008 6pm
Major General Ronald Brooks
Lawrence Government Center
9001 E 59th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Republican Caucus at 5:30pm
Democrat Caucus at 5:30pm

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes from September 9, 2008 of the Lawrence Township Advisory Board
2. Approval of the 2009 Township Budget

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Time Called to Order: 6:05 P.M.

Time Adjourned: 6:46 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Healy
Emmajean Hines
Charles McMahan
Paul Rogers
Dino Batalis
Tony Widgery

ABSENT: Christie Wilmoth

TRUSTEE: Mike C. Hobbs

CHIEF OF STAFF: Loren Heger

Mr. Healy called the Lawrence Township Board meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. He stated that there was a quorum present and asked Mr. Rogers to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Healy stated that board member Christie Wilmoth could not be there, but would be listening by speaker phone. She may comment and ask questions, but will not be allowed to vote.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2008, MEETING OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Batalis made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2008, Lawrence Township Advisory Board meeting. Mr. McMahan seconded. Motion agreed to 6-0.

II. APPROVAL OF THE 2009 LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BUDGET.

Mr. Heger presented the 2009 Lawrence Township Budget. Mr. Healy asked for questions and comments from the board.

Mr. Batalis asked about the increase in attorney fees and the five tax anticipation warrants this year. Ms. Paige Gregory with Umbaugh stated that the reason for so many tax anticipation warrants was an effort to save the township money on interest and because they did not know when the property tax disbursement would be received.

Mr. Healy asked about the Cumulative Fire Fund Capital Outlay Budget for Buildings of 2.3 million dollars. Mr. Heger stated that the funds can only be spent on the fire department for building repairs.

Mr. Healy asked when the budget had to be approved. Ms. Gregory stated that this year the DLGF has extended the deadline due to not have assessed values and other information from the state to December 1. She stated that the township has until December 31 to adopt a salary ordinance.

Ms. Gregory stated that if the board does not pass the budget at this meeting they will have to re-advertise, have another public hearing, and an adoption hearing.

Mr. Batalis asked about the money that was borrowed from the Cumulative Fire Fund to pay salaries. Ms. Gregory stated that if all of the money is paid back to the Cumulative Fire Fund by the end of this year there would be an ending balance of 2.8 million dollars in the Cumulative Fire Fund.

Ms. Gregory stated that if the board approves the 2.3 million budget for the Cumulative Fire Fund they would be providing authorization for the township to spend 2.3 million dollars providing the funds are available. When the 1.8 million dollars is paid back, it is included in the 2.3 million dollars budgeted.

Mr. Rogers asked if the 2.3 million dollars could be done in increments. Ms. Gregory stated that the board has the authority to approve whatever budget they deem necessary so they could approve part of that 2.3 million dollars, but then next year they would have to go through an additional appropriation process if they needed additional funds.

Ms. Gregory stated that the Additional Appropriation Process is completed different from the Emergency Loan. It is a matter of filing paperwork and showing sufficient funding. It is an administrative procedure laid out by the statute. It does not go through a hearing process. You file the paperwork and it is approved if you have the funding.

Mr. Widgery asked if it was prudent to do work on a building when we are uncertain of our funds. Ms. Gregory stated that the township Trustee and Chief of Staff have made it clear that no money will be spent on building improvements unless the funds are available. She stated that this is what is happening all over the state with the uncertainty, but we have to approve budgets incase we do have funding so that we can carry on the services of the township.

Mr. Batalis asked if they are planning on hiring in 2009. Chief Blackwell stated that they are putting together a list according to Merit Law. He stated they have no plans to hire additional personnel, but they may replace Lt. Castle who retired. Chief Blackwell stated that they will take the recommendations of Umbaugh. He stated that they will not hire at the risk of laying off firefighters.

Ms. Hines made a motion to approve the 2009 Lawrence Township Budget as presented. Mr. McMahan seconded. Motion denied 4-2. A discussion continued regarding the budget.

Ms. Gregory stated that there are special procedures that must be followed to reconvene and approve a budget. They have to make it clear what budget they want to advertise. Mr. Heger asked what they wanted to change in the budget. He stated that there is a process that the board must follow. They can change the budget and vote on a modified budget at this meeting, if they wish.

Attorney Bob Kuzman with Ice Miller stated that they have to actually have the budget that they are going to advertise prior to setting the meeting so what they need to do is figure out when the board will submit a modified budget to the Trustee's office, give them a reasonable amount of time to review it, and then set the date. If not, it will not be advertised right and there will be issues with the Open Door Law.

Ms. Gregory stated that when the board is giving the Trustee's office a modified budget the maximum amount that they can adopt is the advertised amount. They can go lower, but they cannot go higher than what is advertised. Ms. Hines stated for the record when they have the modified budget that it must be bipartisan.

Ms. Gregory explained the way the process should work. The board will provide to the Trustee's office a modified budget. She will work with the Trustee's office to come up with a new budget calendar as to when they can advertise, be able to have a public hearing, and after that the adoption hearing. It would be at least three to four weeks before they could meet to adopt the budget.

Mr. Healy stated that his concern is the 2.3 million dollars budgeted in the Cumulative Fire Fund Capital Outlays for Buildings. Chief Blackwell showed pictures of the roof at Station 331 and stated it needs to be replaced. He recommended changing the 2.3 million dollars to 1.8 million dollars, which was borrowed last December to pay salaries.

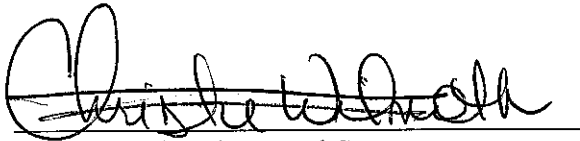
Mr. Batalis made a motion to approve the 2009 Lawrence Township Budget with a change made to Cumulative Fire Fund Capital Outlays for Buildings from 2.3 million dollars to 1.8 million dollars. Mr. Widgery seconded. Motion agreed to 6-0.

Mr. Healy asked if there was a date set to have the Todd Cemetery renovations completed. He stated an additional \$20,000 has been budgeted for cemetery maintenance. Mr. Healy stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of having a permanent cemetery committee to oversee the various cemeteries throughout the township at the next meeting. A discussion followed.

Ms. Hines asked who has the contract to take care of the cemeteries and what their responsibilities are. She stated that the Trustee and township should not be responsible for replacing headstones that are old and broken. Mr. Kuzman stated that the individual property owners are responsible for replacing the headstones. Mr. Healy stated that the concerns about the cemeteries will be addressed at the next board meeting.

There being no other business to discuss Mr. Widgery made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rogers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christie Wilmoth", written over a horizontal line.

Christie Wilmoth, Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Harty, CHAIRMAN".