

Lawrence Township Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday August 25, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Morris Settles Township Center

Elisha Reddick Community Room

4455 McCoy Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46226

Republican Caucus at 5:30 p.m.

Democrat Caucus at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from June 23, 2015 meeting of the Lawrence Township Advisory Board.
2. Public hearing on resolutions:

Resolution 2015-12 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Other Services & Charges

Digest: Resolution seeks an additional appropriation of \$115,000.00 for various expenses of the Small Claims Court

Resolution 2015-13 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Supplies

Digest: Resolution seeks an additional appropriation of \$9,500.00 for supplies for the Small Claims Court

Resolution 2015-14 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Other Services & Charges

Digest: Resolution seeks an additional appropriation of \$35,000.00 for various expenses of the Small Claims Court

3. Action on Resolutions

**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
4455 McCoy Street Indianapolis, IN 46226**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Time Called to Order: 6:02 P.M.

Time Adjourned: 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Healy, Emmajean Hines, Fred Freeman, Jesse Dotson, Dino Batalis, Mary Harrison, Tony Widgery

TRUSTEE: Steve Talley

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Judge Kim Bacon, Constable Terry Burns

Meeting Called to Order:

Ms. Hines called the Lawrence Township Board meeting to order on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, at 6:02 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from June 23, 2015 meeting of the Lawrence Township Advisory Board.

Mr. Batalis made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2015 meeting of the Lawrence Township Advisory Board. Mr. Freeman seconded. Motion agreed to 7-0.

2. Public hearing on resolutions:

- a. Resolution 2015-12 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Other Services & Charges
- b. Resolution 2015-13 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Supplies
- c. Resolution 2015-14 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Other Services & Charges.

Ms. Hine called upon the public for any comments about the resolutions.

3. Action on Resolutions

Ms. Healy asked why the additional appropriation was split up into three resolutions. Judge Bacon explained that there the resolutions reflected the different funds that the additional appropriation would go towards. The Judge then asked that Resolution 2015-14 be removed from the agenda. Ms. Hines then asked the judge to explain Resolution 2015-12 which requests \$115,000.00. Judge Bacon explained that there were various start-up costs as a part of the new administration. Some of those costs were legal fees associated with resolving the CD-COM situation and the costs for accounting and reconciling the records for State Board of Accounts and JTAC. Ms. Hines asked if there were invoices, bills, etc. to show the expenses that have been incurred. The Judge said she did. Mr. Batalis asked what the legal expenses were going to be for the CD-COM situation. The Judge said that the case was to be settled for \$18,300.00 and the legal expenses would be under \$5,000. Mr. Freeman said he didn't think that anything should be paid to CD-COM. The Judge said the costs of litigation and taking it to the court would significantly increase the cost and would probably exceed the agreed upon settlement. Mr. Healy asked about

the remaining money that was being requested and the accounting fees. The Judge said that the cost to Crowe Horwath was around \$52,000. The judge also said there were additional costs for new equipment and unexpected things like a printer in a court room, additional technology and additional personnel. Mr. Freeman asked about Ice Miller's fees which the judge said is around \$3,200, which she believed was very reasonable. Mr. Batalis asked about Resolution 2015-13 which asked for an additional \$9,500. The Judge said that included in that number was the need to purchase file folders for the cases. Ms. Hines said she would like to get an itemized breakdown of what the Judge was seeking and asked about additional positions. The Judge said that there was currently an open part-time spot that she choosing not to fill. The Judge also gave the breakdown of her current staffing levels. She said that there were start-up costs involved with the new employees in the form of computers and those types of equipment. The Judge said that interpreter fees also went up and it is utilized 2-3 times a month. At the cost of \$500 an hour. Mr. Freeman said that the resolution for \$9,500 would cover the costs that were incurred due to the need to order new letterhead, envelopes and things of that nature that come with a new administration. The Judge said that a lot of these costs are items that will not have to be worried about next year. Mr. Batalis said that after doing some rough math he said there was still a \$30,000 gap from what had been stated. Amanda Mack, supervisor for the Small Claims Court, explained further some of the expenses that had been accrued that required the additional appropriation. Mr. Widgery asked if there any future expenses that were coming. Mr. Healy explained some additions that he made that only added up to \$80,000.00. The Judge gave a rundown of some of the other costs. Ms. Hines asked for a spreadsheet of the expenses she was reading. The spreadsheet was disbursed to the board. Mr. Healy said there was a discrepancy between the what the Judge said would be the attorney costs and what was being requested. The Judge said that there was a little bit of cushion built in to make sure there would be enough to cover the expenses. Mr. Freeman asked the judge if she wanted to build in a safety net into the request. The Judge said that was correct. The Judge said that their cases are continuing to grow. She said that depending on what the caseload is like there will be need for additional judges. If they are one of the judges from the low caseload courts they will not cost the township any money. If pro tems are needed then it will cost \$100 per session. The two low caseload court judges have to each have 5 days available a month to help out at other courts. Mr. Batalis said that he made a suggestion that the township should pay what needs to be paid and if additional is needed then another additional appropriation can be done in a few months. Mr. Batalis said that he thinks that lowering the \$115,000.00 appropriation should be lowered. Mr. Healy said he didn't have any problems with the \$9,500 for supplies. The Judge said that the additional \$30,000.00 also includes pro tems and contracted employees who are putting away files in the basement. Mr. Healy said he agreed with Mr. Batalis' statement about lowering the appropriation. Mr. Widgery discussed the procedure for amending the resolution.

Ms. Freeman made a motion and Mr. Batalis seconded. Mr. Widgery moved to amend resolution 2015-12 to \$80,000.00. Mr. Batalis seconded the amendment. The amended resolution was approved 7-0. The original amendment was defeated 0-7.

Mr. Healy moved to approve Resolution 2015-13 Resolution Approving an Additional Appropriation – Supplies. Mr. Freeman seconded. The resolution was approved 7-0.

Deputy Trustee Jason Tomcsi printed out amended resolutions for the board to sign

Mr. Freeman asked that the court keep the board updated about where things are for funding and the caseload numbers. He also encouraged board members to come by and see firsthand the work being done in the Court and Trustee's Office

Trustee Talley encouraged board members to come by

Ms. Hine said that the numbers for the court and the trustee's office are both increasing and growing.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 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.

Fred Freeman, 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.