

Lawrence Township Board Meeting  
Tuesday November 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
Major General Ronald Brooks  
Lawrence Government Center  
Public Assembly Room  
9001 E 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Republican Caucus at 6:30 p.m.  
Democrat Caucus at 6:30 p.m.

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of the minutes from October 27, 2009 of the Lawrence Township Board.
2. Introduction of Resolution 2009-17 A resolution to approve the consolidation of the Lawrence Township Fire Department with the Indianapolis Fire Department on an effective date to be determined.

## LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Time Called to Order: 7:05 P.M.

Time Adjourned: 7:24 P.M.

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

TRUSTEE: Russell Brown

Mr. Healy called the Lawrence Township Board meeting to order on November 17, 2009, at 7:05 P.M. He stated that there was a quorum present and asked Mr. Rose to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 27, 2009, MEETING OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD.**

Ms. Hines made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2009, Lawrence Township Board meeting. Mr. Freeman seconded. Motion agreed to 7-0.

### **II. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION 2009-17. A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT ON AN EFFECTIVE DATE TO BE DETERMINED.**

Trustee Brown introduced Resolution 2009-17 regarding the consolidation of Lawrence Township Fire Department and Indianapolis Fire Department. He stated that they made some difficult choices last month regarding some on-going deficits and management decisions that had been made in the past.

Trustee Brown stated that there have also been some on-going changes in legislation that specifically apply to township government and make it necessary to look at every option that we have available to us to maintain a world class fire department including considering the consolidation of Lawrence Township Fire Department with Indianapolis Fire Department.

Trustee Brown stated that it is important that they explore a merger because it makes sense for tax payers, recipients of fire services, and firefighters. He stated that last month's budget adoption was the first step for us to be able to consider consolidation and the introduction of this resolution is the first step in a long journey.

Trustee Brown introduced Attorney Sarah Riordan who explained the consolidation process. She stated that tonight they introduced a resolution which if ultimately approved would consolidate the Lawrence Township Fire Department with the Indianapolis Fire Department. She stated that after the resolution is introduced the board must conduct a public hearing a minimum of 30 days or more from tonight.

Ms. Riordan stated that following the public hearing the resolution returns to the board at the next scheduled meeting for additional conversation, questions, and debate. If the board passes the resolution, it is forwarded to the Trustee. The Trustee will bring it back to the next scheduled meeting, and if it is the will of the board and the Trustee the resolution will be approved.

Ms. Riordan stated that it is then sent to the president of the City County Council and someone on the council will carry the merger resolution and introduce it there, but they do not take action on it. It is then referred to the Rules and Policy Committee of the City County Council who then conducts another public hearing. At that point it becomes an ordinance.

Ms. Riordan stated that the Rules and Policy Committee then gives it back to the City County Council with their recommendation. It is then voted on by the City County Council as a whole. If it passes then the next step is for it to go to the Mayor of Indianapolis who will then sign it and make it an effective ordinance.

Ms. Riordan stated that there is a period of time built in between the Mayor's final decision to make it official and the actual effective date of consolidation so it is possible for the workforce to have orientation and open enrollment for benefits.

Ms. Riordan stated that the overall goal of consolidation is to continue to provide the same level of excellent protection to the residents of Lawrence Township and the City of Indianapolis and to do that in the way that is most effective to tax payers. She stated that if at the end of this process the board determines that consolidation is the way to accomplish these goals then that is what they will do.

Ms. Riordan stated that there are a number of moving parts to the process and described them to the board. She stated that the most important moving part is the workforce including firefighters and civilian employees. She stated that they need to insure that all of their issues as employees transition smoothly over to the Indianapolis Fire Department such as benefits, seniority, and pension.

Ms. Riordan stated that the second moving part is the bricks and mortar which is the fire stations and ground that the township owns. The third moving part is other property including trucks and all the equipment that is used to provide fire protection. The fourth moving part is Lawrence Township's debt. The fifth moving part is the revenue that Lawrence Township takes in from property taxes and county option income tax.

Ms. Riordan stated that these are the things that they will begin working on in order to fill in the details of the resolution. The effective date is left blank and there are a number of dates that are contingent upon the effective date that are also left blank. A discussion followed.

Trustee Brown stated that this is a draft resolution and subject to amendment by the board and a reasonable goal date for the merger to actually occur is January 1, 2011. Chief Blackwell asked the board to allow them to enter into negotiations with the Indianapolis Fire Department. Wayne Smith, President of Firefighters Local 416, stated that they have consolidated the union as a whole and feel it is the right thing to do for Marion County and the firefighters.


Trustee Brown suggested that the board tentatively set a date for a public hearing for February 23, 2010. A discussion followed. Mr. Batalis made a motion to hold a public hearing on February 23, 2010. Ms. Hines seconded. Motion agreed to 7-0. Trustee Brown suggested December 15, 2009, for their next meeting to approve Form 17 and make modifications for cash flow purposes at the end of the year.

Trustee Brown introduced Keith Johnson who will take over the duties of Deputy Trustee effective January 1, 2010. Mr. Johnson is currently serving in a supervisory role in Emergency Assistance in the Trustee's office. He stated that Loren Heger will be leaving effective January 1, 2010, to explore new opportunities and recognized Mr. Heger for the work he has done for the township over the last three years.

Ms. Lightle stated that the date of their first meeting in January will be January 5, 2010, and the second one was tentatively set for January 26, 2010,

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Batalis made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Freeman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 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  
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.