

Pike Township
Legislative Board Minutes
May 19, 2020

Members Present: Dave Willis, Steve Anderson, Marcia Lomax, and Peggy Simmons and Claudette Peterson

Staff Present: Annette Johnson, Nabeela Virjee and Chief Chris Tragesser

Members Absent: None

Minutes Taken By: Claudette Peterson (Secretary)

WELCOME

Chair Dave Willis called the meeting to order at 5:59pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Willis called for a motion to approve meeting minutes of February 25, 2020. Motion was made by Member Anderson, second by Member Simmons, minutes approved with one change regarding Fire Department graduates' class of 2019 (3 African Americans, 1 Hispanic and 2 Women), minutes approved by unanimous vote by the board.

TOWNSHIP FINANCAIL UPDATE – Beth Marsh

Township Accountant Beth March reported the following:
Presented highlights of the 2020 budget first quarter spending, stated the Trustee's office is in line with the budget as appropriated.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CUMULATIVE FUND – Beth Marsh

No presentation given during the meeting, Chief Deputy Trustee Virjee stated further details would be provided at the next board meeting regarding reestablishment of the cumulative fund.

PTFD UPDATE – Chief Tragesser

Chief presented highlights for the first quarter of the year and stated that 90 percent of the challenges were due to COVID 19. He reported there were a couple of officers out sick due to the virus but have recovered and have returned to work. The Chief shared with the board that the department is in fairly good shape as it pertains to PPE (mask). Member Anderson asked the Chief will he having a problem receiving funds to offset his budget for equipment purchase due to the virus. Chief stated the funding is yet to be seen but that the department has come up with ways to reuse some of the equipment which is helping with addressing their need with PPE.

Chief presented an update regarding completion of EMT school and fire recruit school is almost complete. Chair Willis asked Chief about recruitment to address personnel

retirement in the next 4 to 5 years. Chief shared with the board his recruitment strategy to address this issue and that his plan is to work with High Schools offering credit as a recruitment tool and with the Black Firefighters Association to address the recruitment effort. Chief also stated he is committed to diversity and has established a diversity team (6 members) to address the concerns of the board members pertaining to contract opportunities with Pike Township Fire Department. Pike resident Mike Wolley suggested to Chief Tragesser that he should reach out to the Indianapolis Black Chambers for help with this effort.

TRUSTEES UPDATES

Trustee's office stated there were no increase in request for assistance year to date and that its probably due to people receiving the \$1200.00 stimulus money, but that they anticipate an upswing in June.

Trustee's office has partnered with community-based organizations assisting with a food pantry for residences of Pike Township, those in need must receive a referral from the office caseworkers. Pantry operating hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11a to 2p, additional information can be found on the Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pastor Alexander asked if anyone know about when schools will reopen? Trustee stated that they are waiting for a decision from the state on school openings.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Willis reminded everyone the next board meeting is June 16, 2020 at 5:30p

Chair Wills motioned for adjournment and meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Minutes approved by the Board on June 16, 2020.



Claudette Peterson, Secretary

Attested by: 
Annette M. Johnson