

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF PIKE TOWNSHIP,
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

June 18, 2019

Attendance: Peggy Simmons, Marcia Lomax, David Willis, Steve Anderson, and Claudette Peterson. **Present:** Trustee Annette Johnson.

- 1) **Approval of April 16, 2019 minutes.** Ms. Claudette was displeased with the meeting minutes and felt revisions were necessary. The Board tabled the approval of the minutes until the next meeting, giving Ms. Claudette an opportunity to circulate her proposed revisions to the Board for consideration.
- 2) **Approval of May 1, 2019 minutes.** It was moved by Peggy Simmons to approve the minutes. Claudette Peterson seconded the Motion. Motion carried without opposition.
- 3) **Informational presentation by Steve Buschmann:**
 - Buschmann has been general counsel of the Indiana Township Association for 31 years and gave a presentation regarding the role of the Township Board.
 - A good case that explains the role of the Board is *Calumet Township v. Mary Eldrin*. In that case, the Township Board passed a resolution requiring the Township Trustee to allow the Board to review every contract over a certain amount. The Court ruled the Board's resolution was invalid. Buschmann used this case to explain the distinction between duties of an executive board and township board.
 - The Township Board has limited authority.
 - Township Trustee appoints a lawyer for Township, not the Board members.
 - Board is responsible for approving the Township budget
 - Township board cannot pass ordinances, impose fines, or impose service charges, except for operating an ambulance service.
 - Townships are very different from cities and towns where a council approval is required on a broad array of items.
 - Township Board is responsible for reviewing and approving the annual report.
 - Bushmann then took questions from the Board.
 - Ms. Simmons: Can anyone come to meetings? Yes. Also, anyone can go to ITA convention, which is in September.
 - Ms. Peterson: Who pays for the session? Township.
 - Mr. Anderson: Under open door law, can we not discuss issues? Marion County is the exception to the general rule because the Board size is larger (5 v. 3). In Marion County, two Township Board members are allowed to discuss Township issues together.
 - Ms. Peterson: As legislative a body, can we call caucus? A political caucus is permitted, but must be posted and limited to partisan issues only.

4) **RHIF Addendum – Funding.** Deputy Trustee explained to the Township Board that under the previous administration, the Trustee and Board agreed in writing to make a cash infusion of \$200,000 into the Retiree Health Insurance Fund, which supplements health insurance premiums for retired firefighters. The previous Trustee failed to allocate money in the 2019 budget to fulfill this promise. To make good on the promise made by Trustee Patton, Trustee Johnson will need to seek an additional appropriation from the Board and wanted to put the Board on notice.

5) **Update from PTFD.** See written report from PTFD administration.

6) **Trustee Updates**

- a. FedEx Job Fair will be held on July 15 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Trustee’s office. Trustee Johnson has been passing out information about the job fair to clients that come into office.
- b. Coalition Update – The most recent coalition meeting was hosted by Pastor Michael Bryant at Westside Baptist and had over 20 attendees. The various churches represented shared information of the various services they provide to the community.
- c. Coffee with a cop – Trustee attended Coffee with a Cop. She did receive questions about the dive team and received positive feedback from the Pike residents she spoke with.
- d. Grand Opening of PTFD – Saturday, June 22nd. Kroger is donating food/drinks.

7) **Items from Board Member Peterson**

- a. Trustee Vehicle – Ms. Peterson received purchase document from Trustee. Peterson is expressing her concern about Trustee “being all over the place.” In Ms. Peterson’s opinion, the perception of the Trustee driving a Township vehicle doesn’t look good.
 - President Willis asked Buschmann whether Trustee was permitted to a Township vehicle. Bushmann explained the statute allows the Trustee to drive a pool vehicle and because it is a pool vehicle, she is not required to keep a log.
- b. Dive Team/Swift Water Rescue. Trustee confirmed that the dive portion of the water rescue team has been dismantled as of June 15. Ms. Peterson asked when the Department would be ready to implement the swift water rescue program. Trustee responded that PTFD is still making plans and will announce date when they are able.
- c. Upper Management Complaint – Ms. Peterson raised issue with an off comment made by the Deputy Chief of Administration to a Pike resident. Trustee explained that the issue has been addressed by management, the Deputy Chief has been verbally counseled and the Fire Chief issued an apology to the Pike resident.
- d. Budget – Ms. Peterson requested a YTD Report. Deputy Trustee invited Ms. Peterson to the office anytime to review any documents she would like to see.
- e. EMT Services – Ambulance Staffing Changes.
- f. Discussion of township mailers and marketing efforts.

Meeting was called to adjournment.

Secretary of the Board Mankerrap
Attested by Anette M. Johnson
