

Pike Township
Legislative Board Minutes
November 17, 2020

Members Present: Dave Willis, Steve Anderson, Peggy Simmons, Marcia Lomax 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 5:35pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Willis called for a motion to approve meeting minutes of October 20, 2020. Motion was made by Member Lomax, second Member Anderson, minutes approved with no changes.

TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE YTD 2020 - Beth Marsh

- Year-to-Date spending is on target.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

- Chair Willis suspended meeting for public engagement
- PTFD requesting \$200,000.00 for items purchased and approved under the 2019 budget but not spent.
- Public Comment
 - Member Anderson asked about whether these are encumbered funds?
 - Member Peterson asked what items were purchased? Chief Tragesser response was 3 Medic units.
 - Beth Marsh stated when you encumber something, it is usually 45 days with the new year.
 - Chair Willis closed the public hearing comments.
 - Motion to appropriate the funds to paid for the units was made by Member Anderson, seconded by Member Peterson, all agreed and motioned passed.

RETIRED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND (RHIF) RESOLUTION

Attorney Bellamy presented the overall view of the fund but there was no clear understanding of how it was established and where the money came from.

Member Peterson – Has a few questions.

- Who funded the PNC account? Attorney Bellamy thinks it was funded by the prior Twp. budgets. The Fire Fighters aged out of the supplemental benefits. Attorney Bellamy thinks funds came from township levies.
- Attorney Bellamy, there is no proof it was from Employee contributions. Beth Marsh said we do not have records to prove exactly, but we do know the 1937 plan was properly funded.
- Did the union agree to this? Member Peterson remembers there was an agreement between the Trustee and the Union that the money would come from the annual PTFD budget.
- Trustee Johnson deferred to Union President Masters who was on the zoom board meeting. Mr. Masters said that he was not involved in any negotiations or how the money came about, the fire fighters were supposed to be involved in the negotiations per the union contract but that never happened. However, Mr. Masters is appreciative of the allocation to the RHIF.
- Member Peterson is concerned that the problem is being addressed with another band aid and there needs to be a permanent solution to this problem. Ryan Masters agrees that the fire fighters need more than sustainability the problem needs a permanent solution through the budget, not an infusion every few years.
- Member Peterson asked about the 3% PERF that the fire fighters gave back thinking it was going to contribute to the RHIF. Dep. Chief Hogwood response was the union worried more about the pension base and the way to address their concern was to give back 3% so that the fire fighters could get 5% increase.
- Member Peterson asked how much they contribute to RHIF each year? Dep. Chief Hogwood response was all fire fighters contribute \$500.00 each year.

Open discussion ended regarding the RHIF.

Chair Willis - called for a vote to approve the transferred sum of approximately \$400,000.00 from the PNC account to the RHIF. Motion was made by Member Anderson and seconded by Member Lomax, opposed by Member Peterson, Resolution passed 4 to 1.

Open Comments

Chief Tragesser - expressed his gratitude to the board for their support throughout the year and thanked the outgoing Member Lomax and Simmons for their service to Pike Township Fire Department.

Member Peterson - shared with the Chief and all fire fighters her appreciation for their service to the Pike Township community and that they will always have her support. The Board need to understand that we are that check and balance when it comes to spending and it is our job to ensure that tax dollars are spend responsibly. Chair Willis stated that we have never had a problem and everything we do is in the interest of the Department and the citizens. Member Anderson also stated that we have followers the rule and if anything were wrong State Board of Accountants would have told us.

Trustee Johnson - Her office will review the assistance guidelines for 2021, the last update was 2015. She wants to increase the assistance to the residents a little in 2021.

Judge Stevens – Small Claims Court has been open during the pandemic, but the court has made changes to the operation to ensure safety of the staff. Supreme Court Task Force is recommending that access is again restricted, court sessions will likely switch to telephonic hearings.

Trustee Johnson – Presentation to the outgoing Members Lomax and Simmons with an appreciation plaque for their service to Pike Township.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wills adjourned the meeting at 6:29p.

Approved by the Board on January 5, 2021.



Claudette Peterson, Secretary

Annette M. Johnson, Trustee

Attested by Annette Johnson, Trustee