

Pike Township
Legislative Board Minutes
January 5, 2021

Members Present: Dave Willis, Steve Anderson, Claudette Peterson, Bernie Head,
and Cynthia Oda

Staff Present: Annette Johnson, Nabeela Virjee, Chief Chris Tragesser, Assistant
Chief Hogwood

Members Absent: None

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Willis called for a motion to approve meeting minutes of November 12, 2020. Motion was made by Member Anderson, second Member Peterson, minutes approved with no changes.

2) INTRODUCTIONS

- A) **New Board Members** - Bernie Head and Cynthia Oda were introduced.
- B) **Chris Tragesser, Fire Chief** – Chief Trag introduced himself and welcomed the new board members. He appreciates the hard work of the Board of looking out for the best interest of the Township. Chief Trag explained that he usually hands out written reports, but he welcomes any questions via e-mail or phone call.
 - Member Peterson asked about a construction project that was being undertaken by the Department and its status. Chief Trag explained that the project went out for bid and a general contractor was selected. He further explained that the project was 50% complete and should be done end of February or early March.
 - Member Peterson asked about the cost of the project. Chief was unsure but said he would have that figure for her at the next meeting.
- C) **Jeff Bellamy, Township Counsel** – Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting. He represents the Indiana Township Association and three (3) of the major Townships in Marion County. Jeff prepared an introductory letter about Township government that was circulated to the Board.
- D) **Beth Marsh, Township Accountant** – Beth Marsh introduced herself to the Board and explained how she works closely with the Deputy Trustee on ensuring the Township financials are in good order. Beth has been in business for 20+ years and represents other Townships and municipal entities.

3) TOWNSHIP BOARD ELECTIONS

- A) **President** – Member Anderson nominated Member Willis for President. Member Head seconded the Motion. All approved.

B) **Secretary** – Member Head nominated Member Anderson for secretary. Member Peterson seconded the Motion. All approved.

4) TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Beth Marsh shared Nov. 2020 financials with the Board
- Member Willis asked about unspent cumulative fund money. Beth explained it was a timing issue with fire trucks that Department anticipated purchasing in 2020, but due to delivery schedules, won't happen until 2021.
- Member Anderson asked a question about burial expenses. Deputy Trustee explained that the Township needs to adjust its Township Assistance guidelines because many funeral homes won't accept our clients because the Township hasn't kept up with increased costs over the years.
- Member Peterson asked about Township Assistance spending for December 2020. Beth explained we would have those numbers at the next meeting. Member Peterson stressed the importance of spending down those funds and getting financial relief in the hands of the community. Member Peterson appreciates that there are other avenues for members of the community to get financial assistance, but she would like to see the Trustee's Office become the "first stop" for residents in need. Member Oda echoed Peterson's concerns.
- Member Peterson asked where unspent funds end up. Beth explained that the unspent funds stay with the Township and stay within the respective fund balance.

5) RESOLUTION FOR AUTO DEBIT OF HEALTH CARE COSTS

- Deputy Trustee explained that the Fire Chief and Trustee opted to switch insurance brokers and corresponding health care vendors. They made the decision to switch from Aetna (Meritain was third party administrator) to Anthem Blue Cross. Deputy Trustee further explained that per Trustee Johnson and Chief Trag, oversight of the health care plan and associated costs had been delegated to the Fire Department, despite its impact on all the whole Township.
- Member Anderson expressed concern about the switch to Anthem and its negative impact on Township employees. He has had bad experiences with Anthem rejecting claims and being difficult to work with.
- Chief Trag explained that the goal is cost savings, although he was unable to provide any information regarding cost analysis and expected savings.
- Member Peterson requested an analysis of what has historically been spent on annual health care costs and a projection of what Apex believes will be spent on health care costs for 2021. Member Willis echoed this request.
- The purpose of the Resolution before the Board was to auto-deduct health care claims and associated administrative fees from the appropriate bank account at Regions.
- Member Anderson moved to approve the resolution. Member Peterson Seconded the Motion. Motion carried without opposition.

6) RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2021 TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

- Deputy Trustee introduced the 2021 Township Assistance Guidelines, which increased the amount of assistance for rental assistance and utility assistance. The revised guidelines also increased the annual household income, which should allow more residents to obtain assistance. She explained that the updates were made after conducting a survey of rental rates in Pike and a thorough review of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Member Anderson moved to approve the 2021 Guidelines. Member Peterson seconded the Motion. Motion carried without opposition.

7) PTFD UPDATE – See Chief's Written Report.


8) TRUSTEE UPDATES

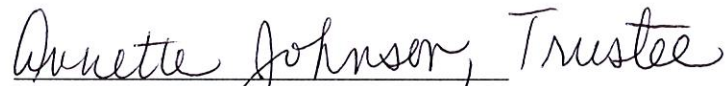
- **2020 RHIF Update**
 - \$393,614.72 was transferred from the dormant PNC account to the RHIF, which is housed at National Bank of Indianapolis on 12/15/20 in accordance with the Resolution previously signed by the Board
 - For end of 2020, 137 active firefighters contributed \$500/each per union contract, totaling \$68,500.00
 - Also in accordance with the Union Contract,
 - 75% of the remaining Perfect Attendance budget was deposited which totals \$13,725.00
 - 75% of the remaining Physical Fitness Evaluation budget was deposited which totals \$4,003.50
 - Total 2020 deposits = **\$479,843.22**
- **Maternity Leave Plan**
 - Deputy Trustee's due date is 3/18/21; she will take 12 weeks unpaid FMLA leave as the Township does not have a parental leave policy for civilians.
 - She will train an employee from Beth's team to handle her day-to-day financial responsibilities while she is on leave and the corresponding bill will go to the Fire Department.
- **2021 Union Contract**
 - Putting Board on notice that the Trustee and the Union President, Ryan Masters, will be engaging in contract negotiations during the summer of 2021. Nothing to report as of now, but wanted this to be on the Board's radar that this year is a contract year.
 - Trustee introduced Union President Ryan Masters to Board.

- 9) **MISC.** – Member Peterson wanted to thank Domino’s pizza for sponsoring a meal for the firefighters, especially in light of their services as front line essential workers. She also expressed gratitude to Union President Masters for his assistance in coordinating.

ADJOURNMENT

Approved by the Board on February 16, 2021.


Steve Anderson, Secretary


Attested by Annette Johnson, Trustee