Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF PIKE TOWNSHIP,**

**MARION COUNTY, INDIANA**

**November 14, 2022**

Meeting was in person at the Pike Township Government Center and called to order at 5:43 pm.

**Board Members Present:** David Willis, Steve Anderson, Cynthia Oda, Claudette Peterson, and Burnice Head. Quorum confirmed.

Also present wereTrustee Annette Johnson, Phyllis Robinson and Kayla Moody-Grant from the law firm of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP.

Emergency meeting necessary to Adopt Redistricting Resolution for Township Trustee to work with Taft on the redistricting process.

Kayla Moody-Grant presented that before Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP could begin the engagement to draw new maps, the board will need to adopt the resolution to authorize Trustee to enter into an engagement with Taft and the letter outlining the Redistricting Engagement signed by the Trustee.

Kayla Moody-Grant further explained the process to the board. Tim Henderson, Engineer will be drawing the maps for Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP and will work with the Trustee. Tim Henderson, Engineer will draw the current districts and line up with the new precinct population from the Census. Indiana Code 36-6-6-2.5 requires the Township Board to adopt a resolution that divides the Township into legislative body districts that:

1. Are composed of contiguous territory;
2. Are reasonably compact;
3. Respect, as nearly as reasonably practicable, precinct boundary lines; and
4. Contain, as nearly as reasonably practicable, equal population

Claudette Peterson questioned and wanted to know more about the following:

1. Reasonably compact – not too large of an area
2. Proper representation due from census

Claudette Peterson also mentioned that she felt the public should be included in the process and not just the Trustee. Also that the Board was responsible for approving the maps. Cynthia Oda also agreed that there should be community involvement.

This triggered discussions from the public about community involvement and why considered an emergency now since we have known about redistricting since early in the year.

Trustee Johnson explained that all the surrounding townships are in the same situation and all are trying to work in meetings to get the redistricting complete by December 31, 2022. Trustees were only informed recently of the redistricting deadlines. Trustee Johnson said she was only trying to do what’s required by Indiana code to meet the due date like all the other townships.

Given all the discussions from the public and board members, Claudette Peterson made a motion to include Mr. Wolley and Pastor David Green to work with Tim Henderson, Engineer and Trustee before the next board meeting on December 12, 2002, seconded by Steve Anderson.

Cynthia Oda made motion to adopt Redistricting Resolution for Township Trustee to work with Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP on redistricting process, seconded by Steve Anderson

Kayla Moody-Grant from Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP said if Trustee is involved with the community in the process it will hold you up in the process with approving the maps. Kayla also thought having 2 maps to choose from was not efficient or feasible given the time constraints. She suggested having Tim Henderson, Engineer at one additional meeting for the public. The Board still wants community involvement prior to approving maps. Kayla Moody-Grant said proactive redistricting is politics and engaging the public are totally different. Kayla Moody-Grant also suggested calling a public board meeting. Trustee suggested three dates to have open public meeting based on Tim Henderson’s and the Boards availability: Tuesday 11/29, Thursday 12/1 or Monday 12/5. Kayla Moody-Grant will get back with Trustee after reaching out to Tim Henderson, Engineer for dates for public meeting. Claudette Peterson made a motion to rescind her previous motion to include Mr. Wolley and Pastor David Green with Trustee and Tim Henderson, Engineer to represent the public since the board will have an open public meeting for input to address the redistricting process.

Additional comments from the public. Mr. Wolley said he hoped we were taking minutes. He mentioned that the Board doesn’t ask question of the residents and that he doesn’t like to be attacked. Chair David Willis told him he needs to address the Chair and not the Trustee or Board members. Mr. Wolley followed up that he hopes that the board does not feel like he is attacking the Board when he ask questions. Rev. Antonio Alexander said that the big issue is that you need someone to represent you, we have all known about redistricting, so why the last minute.

1. There is a time factor
2. Reach out to State Legislators
3. Reach out to City Councilors in the district

Motion by Cynthia Oda to adjourn meeting, seconded by Burnice Head. Board President David Willis adjourned meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Next Board meeting – December 12, 2022, 5:30 pm – Approval of new maps drawn

Open Public Meeting – To Be Determined