

Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023

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

January 10, 2023

President David Willis called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

Also present were Trustee Annette Johnson, Phyllis Robinson, Township Attorney Jeffrey Bellamy, Abdul-Hakim Shabazz, Parliamentarian, Chief Jeffrey Beam and Deputy Chief of Operations Aaron Bell.

Meeting minutes were presented for review by Board members for October 18, December 12 and December 22. Cynthia Oda made a motion to approve minutes for October 18 and December 12, seconded by Burnice Head and accepted by all. For the December 22 minutes, Cynthia Oda moved that “Chairperson David Willis called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm”, first sentence, be stricken from minutes and 5:51 pm in the last sentence be changed to 10:51 a.m. Motion to approve the minutes with noted corrections was made by Cynthia Oda, seconded by Steve Anderson. Claudette Peterson, abstained, she was not in attendance for that meeting, all others accepted.

Trustee Johnson asked the newly appointed Fire Chief Jeff Beam to give introductions of himself and staff. Chief Beam acknowledged his employment in Pike from 4/1995 to 2010. Chief Beam said he worked in various capacities at the Zionsville Fire Department and returned to Pike as a fire trainer in 2022. Mike Goodrich, not in attendance, is the new Deputy Chief of Administration. Aaron Bell introduced himself and shared that he joined Pike Townships Fire Department in 9/1996 as a BC and now he is the Deputy Chief of Operations. The Board and Public attending applauded for their new appointments. President David Willis told Chief Jeff Beam that he had big shoes to fill.

President David Willis opened nominations for Township Board Elections for President. Steve Anderson nominated David Willis as President, Burnice Head seconded the motion. Cynthia Oda nominated Claudette Peterson, motion was seconded by Claudette Peterson. Nominations were closed for President. David Willis is President by a 3 to 2 count. Nominations for Secretary were opened. Burnice Head nominated Steve Anderson for Secretary, was seconded by David Willis. Steve Anderson agreed. Claudette Peterson nominated Rosemary Turentine,

the board responded that she was not on the board. Claudette wanted to know why the board had not been given the opportunity to vote (choose) the Parliamentarian. Township Attorney Jeffrey Bellamy shared that the Trustee was within her rights and entitled to choose any attorney to assist her with Trustee Business. It is not an issue to have a Parliamentarian to open meeting, or waiver for Chief Beam by Township attorney and other attorneys with Taft to work on Redistricting of maps.

Claudette Peterson then nominated Cynthia Oda for Secretary and was seconded by Cynthia Oda. President David Willis closed nominations. Steve Anderson remains Secretary by 3 to 2 count.

Claudette Peterson felt a lack of trust existed, she did not understand why the Parliamentarian had not introduced beforehand to the board to vote on for transparency purposes and that she is not against a Parliamentarian for orderly running of the meeting. Attorney Jeffrey Bellamy again shared that Trustee Johnson is within her rights to council or can delegate to various councils to assist her with Trustee business. Attorney Jeffrey Bellamy also mentioned that not every meeting is primed for comments from the public. Also that the public should only comment on agenda items only. Claudette Peterson wondered why the topic is not open for further discussion on Parliamentarian and why Mr. Bellamy cannot serve as the Parliamentarian since he provides Professional Services and attends board meeting.

Cynthia Oda, said the Parliamentarian should sit next to the President if providing support of the Parliamentary Process. President David Willis said he appreciates the Parliamentarian and thanked Abdul-Hakim Shabazz for his services.

President David Willis then asked for Public Comment.

Tony Davis introduced himself. He reviewed the website and said the Budgets for 2020 through 2023 were not there. Secondly, wanted to talk about problems with gun control. Trustee Johnson shared that the website will be updated to include the budget information.

Rosemary Turentine commented on the roles of the Trustee and Township Board and the authority of the Trustee to engage an independent Parliamentarian.

Claudette Peterson expressed that when the public voted for us (board members), the mindset should not weigh on the timeframe period of meetings. Only having 30 minutes can be insulting.

President David Willis motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Anderson. Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Next Board meeting – February 21, 2023, 5:30 pm – Presentation of Annual Report.