

# Board Meeting Minutes

## May 16, 2023

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

**May 16, 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, Jeffrey Bellamy, Township Attorney, Beth Marsh, CEO of Bookkeeping Plus and Chief of Administration Michael Goodrich.

Chairperson David Willis gave the Board members time to review the minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting. Claudette Peterson noted the following changes. Anthony Davis should be Tony Davis. Also remove that Tony Davis interrupted the February 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. The minutes referred to Tony Davis as Mr. Moore instead of Mr. Davis. Note to correct Page 2, paragraph 4 with those revisions to the minutes. Claudette Peterson mentioned also that the board's vote for increasing Township Assistance for shelter, food, household supplies and burial assistance motion passed unanimously 5 to 0, not 4 to 0. Claudette Peterson motioned to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes subject to the noted revisions. Burnice Head seconded the motion.

Beth Marsh, CEO of Bookkeeping Plus presented total spending per fund for January and February.

Fire Spent 24% benefits front loaded at the beginning of the year, Cumulative Fire 2%, Small Claims 13%, Township 15%, Welfare Administration 12% and Other Direct Poor Relief 22%, all on target.

Claudette Peterson to get a better understanding of spending being on target, the board had voted to have a written quarterly report reflecting spending numbers. Claudette Peterson also asked, "What does 16% of spending mean?" A report would help her ratify budget and Annual Financial Report in the Gateway at year-end if given throughout the year.

Discussion occurred from Claudette Peterson, Township Attorney Jeff Bellamy and Beth trying to determine information that Claudette is asking for. Cynthia Oda thought the information she would like to see would be if \$10,000 in assistance how many families did we help. Jeff Bellamy

said the information on numbers from the Small Claims Courts would be limited since the Judge is the Administrator of the funds, not the Trustee.

Jeffrey Bellamy, Township Attorney finally gave an example of what he thought Claudette Peterson was looking for. Jeff Bellamy asked Claudette Peterson if the records showed an amount in the budget say \$26,000 and \$2,600 spent on burials do you want to know how many burials and cremations there were. Claudette responded yes. It would be helpful. After much discussion, Steve Anderson asked Trustee Annette Johnson if feasible. Information for statistics on help within the township will be within the Township Assistance reporting and would be beneficial to have.

Trustee Annette Johnson said she would look into what other Townships provide and get back with the board at the next meeting. Trustee will take advisement from the Attorneys, but the AFR at year-end is the only required report.

Chief Michael Goodrich presented the February report to the board. Giving Statistics. Chief Goodrich also provided some numbers from the 2022 Annual report, number of runs, retirements, new recruitment classes and that Detox unit is 78% complete, with projected opening on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Chief Goodrich also shared activities that the firefighters have participated in including the Health Plex Community Health Fair, smoke alarms installed, fire school with 10 new recruits. Claudette Peterson wanted to know if recruits are covering retirees and if they are recruiting diverse employees. Trustee Johnson has set a goal for diversity with recruits. Wants the Fire Department to look like the community. Established a point system, to hire Pike Township residents would move you up on the hiring phase. In 2019, 16 recruits to cover retirees from previous years, 2020 there were 11, 2021 and 2022 there were eight recruits each. Pikes Fire Department does work with Black Fire Fighters.

Tony Davis inquired about the number of recruits that have been Pike Township residents. Trustee Johnson again stressed that she has been about diversity since 2019. Trustee Johnson said she would get those figures to Mr. Davis. Trustee Johnson also mentioned that two Firefighters did a segment on Fox 59 on Hiring Diversity and that both were Pike Township Residents.

Pastor Perkins added that he has engaged in conversation with the Chief for the last 5 years about recruiting within the Fire Department and thanked the fire department for that. Pastor Perkins also said the community can help by making referrals when new recruit classes come up, not just the Trustee and Fire Department.

Bryan Hardister, lives in Pike Township and is wanting a explanation of diversity and inclusion, is that just black and brown, or more encompassing. Cynthia Oda said diversity is not just black and white. There is a huge Hispanic population. Cynthia Oda also said this would be where data would be helpful.

Attorney Jeffrey Bellamy advised the board in the absence of Chief Jeffrey Beam that after they did a self-audit, approval of four employees for Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements

waivers. All are W-2 employees who also work for the Fire Department as a 1099 employee as well. These vendors have items that are specific for Pike Township Fire Department.

Those employees are:

Scott A. Matthews – Installations and repairs that the shop not able to complete

Craig Voight – Metal Fabrication and welding for the new building

Brandon Kreiger - Development of software applications, development of an on-site reporting system, 5/18/2022

Larry Gaston – Moulage Kits for services related to 911 training devices, training consultations and event preparation

Much discussion occurred in regards to conflict of interest, because they are employees.

Claudette Peterson is concerned that during the 24 hour, shift they should not be doing their 1099 work during the shift and how would we know if they did. Attorney Jeffrey Bellamy assured the board that is why the need for Conflict of Interest Disclosure will make sure that employees are not working as 1099 employee while on shift.

Cynthia Oda moved to accept the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements per Indiana Code 35-44.1-1-4 for Scott Matthews, Craig Voight, Brandon Kreiger and Larry Gaston. Seconded by Steve Anderson. Motion passes 4 to 0, Claudette Peterson abstained

Trustee Annette Johnson presented list of highlights of township. Trustee mentioned that out of 1000+ Trustees in Indiana she won Trustee of the Year, she is still the Trustee of the year all year. She was most proud of the sweep account with Regions Bank in which the Township netted \$384,120.10 in 2021. Keep the RHIF solvent. Job Fairs. Please review at your leisure. Trustee Johnson working alongside the Judge to help residents. A young man in attendance at the meeting will be working with the Trustee in the morning for assistance. Trustee Johnson said just keep all the good things going that started in Pike Township.

Trustee asked Dr. Carlos Perkins to stand as our new City Council representative for District 6. Dr. Carlos wanted to thank the residents of Pike Township for all their support and looks forward to representing Pike Township.

Someone in the public said they had a snapshot of website and Cynthia Oda, Burnice Head and Claudette Peterson were not on the Website. Trustee Johnson said Tod Parker, Fire Department Photographer and a Pike Township resident can do headshots if the board members go to headquarters or they can send a picture directly to Tod. Trustee will send his info to them.

Chairperson David Willis called for Public Comment.

Dr. Carlos Perkins is excited to represent District 6. Dr. Carlos wanted to thank the residents of Pike Township for all their support. Also thanks to Trustee Johnson and her team, Mike, John and his campaign manager, Debra. He does not like what he hears around the city regarding Pike Township politics. We turn out more than 85% of democrats. He feels that we should organize and unit together.

Pat Magnuson with Deer Creek HOA thanked Dr. Perkins from the Deer Creek Community and a big thank you to Monroe Gray for his support.

There was much heated discussion from Tony Davis and Rosemary Turentine regarding Dr. Perkins residency in Pike Township for representing District 6.

Claudette Peterson asked Tony Davis to stand. She apologized for what Mr. Davis went through at the previous meeting and what the board allowed to happen to him.

Chairperson David Willis adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Next Board meeting – TBD