

**MINUTES OF THE WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
HELD NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

Mr. Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll call: Mr. Patrick – present; Ms. Colvin -present; Mr. Jacobs - present.

**The following staff were present:** Donald Edwards, Administrator; Scott Camery, Roads Supervisor; Stacey Lowing, Zoning Inspector; and Darrell Coffman, Fiscal Officer.

The following guests/residents were present: Dale Edwards, and a gentleman that was at the wrong location for a meeting

Mr. Patrick led all present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Patrick asked for a motion to approve the November 1, 2022, minutes. Mr. Jacobs motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Colvin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**ADDITIONS, REMOVALS OR DISCLOSURES FROM THE POSTED AGENDA:** none

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** none

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

Scott Camery, Road Superintendent, provided the following report:

Work on the trucks to get them ready for the winter season is underway. The recall work on his truck has been completed. Also, he is about ready to decide on internet for the shop. Most likely he will be utilizing a mobile hot spot from Verizon.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Gus Edwards, for Paul Scherer, Fire Chief, provided the following report:

Mr. Edwards stated the Fire Department is still out on injury. Hopefully by Thanksgiving there will be a plan for him in terms of treatment.

The new squad is back, and a new exhaust pipe connector was installed. There are still several things that need to be addressed before the unit is accepted.

Mr. Salas is working on the schedule. Tom Carter and Tanner Patterson are filling the voids to make sure everything is getting done as needed.

Mr. Edwards recommends that employee be put on salary continuation while he is off. If he is paid through the township, it becomes only a medical claim and reduces the cost of the claim for the township. If at any time this is not beneficial to any party, it can be changed. Being paid by the township allows him to work as he is able on light duty, but if BWC pays him, he would be unable to work at all.

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The fire department has been very busy and have had several grass fires.

**ZONING DEPARTMENT:**

Stacey Lowing, Zoning Inspector, provided the following report:

I have been meeting and working with Construction Managers of Ohio, the Warren County master plans examiner, Warren County building inspector Gary Hubbs, Paul Scherer, and David Brixey who has a pending contract on a 30.2-acre parcel on Route 73 (Hice property). The plan is for a 28,000 square foot dog kennel, boarding, training, and grooming facility.

Further information is included with your packet.

A draft copy of the site plan is also included with your packet.

**Credit Card System:**

I would like to discuss the use of debit cards on our system. I have been unable to process debit cards due to the surcharge. Today I found out that debit cards cannot be surcharged, which is why these payments were denied.

The board indicated that they did not want to accept debit cards, since it would not be fair for those individuals to not have to pay the extra fee to help recoup our costs like credit card customers. The policy will be to state that we do not accept debit cards.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:**

I wanted to provide a copy of the attendance record for 2022 for the BZA. This information could be useful whenever decisions are being made regarding applications for new members to the BZA.

The attendance record is included with your packet.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Donald Edwards, Administrator, provided the following report:

**Evaluations:**

Employee evaluations are in process during this month to meet the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Fire Dept.:**

We had a Fire Department employee get injured during a fire call on the morning of November 4<sup>th</sup> and are working to process the claim and get our employee back through a recovery process.

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We will deal with this loss as best we can. There undoubtedly will be some delays in response and shortfalls in processes.

**Fire Levy:**

The General Election on November 8<sup>th</sup> was quite a Bitter-Sweet day. I am very grateful for our residents coming out in record numbers and showing a consistent 70% YES vote for our normal reoccurring Fire and EMS levies. However, the bitterness lies in the denial of additional 2 mills we were seeking for 2024 to help fill the voids in our staffing issues.

Ironically on that election day, we were inundated with eight runs, with severe medical emergencies to working fires that overlapped each other and required calling additional departments in on Mutual Aid to assist. This continued into Wednesday with another day of multiple severe calls that required services from neighboring departments. This brings to light how critical our needs are for providing these services. It also reinforced that what we presented to the residents on election day was a quantifiable need.

These two days also brought to light why we are here. To provide those services to our community in a time of need. When we dial 9-1-1 we expect someone to answer and respond for our call for help.

We put on the Ballot a request for what we need. I feel great that we asked our residents to Help Us / Help Them.

I believe through the articles in our last magazine we demonstrated our needs, and every resident received a copy of it.

We live in a great community, and I have confidence we can work through this.

Its time all of us, as residents, give our Time-Talents-Treasures back to the community to make this a great place to live and raise a family.

Thank you to all of our loyal supporters.

**Washington Twp. Contract:**

Starting on the 2023 contract renewal. May not be able to get an increase for 2023 due to Auditor reducing their tax collection.

**2023 Calendar:**

In legislation, we have the 2023 Open Meeting Schedule for all of our meetings to be approved and posted for our constituents.

There was a discussion about fire hydrants in the Village of Waynesville. It is not clear whether the Village is servicing the hydrants or not at this time. Some of the hydrants have not been painted in a long time and are difficult to see. Chief Copeland states that they are working on the hydrants.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. BZA & Zoning applicants needed.

B. Other: none

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Questions or Concerns Regarding the Bills:** NONE

**B. Legislation:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-68 RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING DATES FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Mr. Jacobs motioned to adopt the resolution. Ms. Colvin seconded the motion and upon call of the roll thereon the vote resulted as follows: Ms. Colvin – yea; Mr. Jacobs – yea; Mr. Patrick – yea. The resolution was therefore adopted the 15th of November 2022.

**C. Other:** Washington Township fire contract renewal

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Darrell Coffman had a notice from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for policy renewal and premium amounts.

Mr. Edwards had a letter from the Warren County Engineer's office about participation in 2023 resurfacing and striping projects. He also had a letter from the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce to vote on a slate of board members.

**ELECTED OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Patrick said he felt very defeated as a trustee on election night, as he thought the township did a good job of explaining the need for the new levy funds. He wonders if there should have been more outreach or events to explain the need for the money. He asks for the community members to come out and volunteer, and to understand what the township can do better.

Ms. Colvin stated that high school graduating students would be a good fit for the department, and helpful to the community.

Mr. Jacobs said that we need to take it up a notch in explaining the need for the levy. Also, he attended the Duke Energy storm school. They reviewed how they report outages, explained their assessment teams, and have meteorologists on staff. This would be a good session for local officials, and fire department members. He said spectrum is starting to move into the southern section of the township. Mr. Jacobs also explained the property fraud alert that is being promoted by the county auditor's office.

**WORK SESSION:** To discuss the status of ARPA funds. The funds must be appropriated by 2024 and spent by 2025. Scott Camery expressed that the garage would need a new roof, and a metal roof would be ideal. In addition, there may be a need for a new tractor in a few years. Also, the snowplow truck will need replaced as it is a 2000 model year.

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Ms. Colvin started a discussion about how to advertise for fire department volunteers. She wondered if a consulting company would be beneficial in this effort. Mr. Edwards said that if we could get ten people, a class could be started for training. EMS training is 160 hours of training, while fire fighter one is 120 hours. Classes would be two to two and a half months, with classes two evenings each week and every other Saturday. They would like a work session December 6 to discuss ideas for recruitment.

Funds could be used to have dinners at the fire house to explain volunteering. There could also be focus groups.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made at 8:13 pm by Mr. Patrick and seconded by Ms. Colvin to enter an executive session for personnel matters per ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official. If a public body holds an executive session pursuant to division (G)(1) of this section, the motion and vote to hold that executive session shall state which one or more of the approved purposes listed in division (G)(1) of this section are the purposes for which the executive session is to be held but need not include the name of any person to be considered at the meeting. The roll call was as follows: Mr. Jacobs-yea; Mr. Patrick-yea; Ms. Colvin-yea.

A motion was made by Mr. Patrick at 9:46 pm to leave the executive session, and it was seconded by Ms. Colvin. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2022-69 A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE ANNUAL PAY ROLL ADJUSTMENTS AND MERIT PAY BASED ON PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF ALL EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Patrick motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion and upon call of the roll thereon the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Patrick – yea; Mr. Jacobs – yea; Ms. Colvin – yea. The resolution was therefore adopted the 15th of November 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, at 9:48 pm Mr. Patrick motioned to adjourn. Ms. Colvin seconded the motion, and all were in favor.