

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
Special Meeting/Workshop (Fire Dept. Funding)
January 11, 2010
6:00 PM

Chairman Oiler called the special meeting/workshop (Fire Dept. Funding) to order at 6:00 pm. Trustee Oiler made the statement that the meeting was not advertised in the Gazette but it had been e-mailed more than 24 hours in advance and didn't get in print. A copy of the e-mail is on file.

ATTENDANCE: Trustees Ronald Oiler, James Likley, and Gary Harris. Assistant Prosecutor, Wm. L. Thorne and Fiscal Officer Martha Evans were also present.

The fiscal officer distributed the following reports:

1. Revenue received by the township for Fire Department funding (\$124,585)
2. Actual expenses spent by the Fire Department less capital expenditures (\$219,059)
3. A spreadsheet offering various scenarios of operation and the millage for the Fire Dept.
4. A report of actual expenditures by the Village Fiscal Officer, Sue Ewers (217,652)
5. A spreadsheet stating the amount that could be generated per mill for each entity.

A copy of the reports is attached to the minutes.

Martha reviewed the reports and answered questions concerning income & expenditures. Martha also reported that Sue Ewers mentioned there is a possibility that the day-time staffing may go to 12 hour shifts. Bill Thorne also stated the fire department may state they want to go to 12 hour shifts but they do not have authority to do so until both entities have approved such a change. Trustee Likley stated they should be operating with a 2 day-time staff with 8 hrs per day 5 days a week. 3 day-time staff was for the purpose of training of the third individual. If the chief is there, he is not part of the day-time staffing. He may choose to go out on a call as the third person but is compensated just for the time of the run. Martha asked was the third person at a minimal cost? Trustee Likley replied it should be.

Martha questioned that there seems to be only one person as a township resident that was soft billed since June. Sue thought that to be not the case either. Martha must get with the fire chief and request a run report and a report of the individuals that have been billed. The township has not received any checks from Life Force to date. The fire chief said he had changed the address. Everything has been co-mingled with the Village. We can't understand it either.

Trustee Likley explained that the amounts on #5 spreadsheet for the station, fire truck, and squad was from the TG Fire Recommendation to be saved each year to maintain the rotation of a fire apparatus every 20 yr and a squad every 10 years.

Martha made a comment that the township is very limited to what they can commit to with \$124,585 as income.

The trustees and Wm. Thorne had a discussion on the possible funding scenarios. There were 3 possible options.

1. A joint fire district
2. An unincorporated fire district
3. Contract

Please note that the discussion held many different scenarios, ideas, possible drawbacks, repayment back to the township and soft billing. All of that dialogue is not in this set of minutes but the final agreement was recorded in the next paragraph.

The trustees all agreed the lead option for consideration is a joint fire district. Wm. Thorne pointed out it would give:

- a. Each entity control
- b. Tax with representation
- c. Each entity could have equal members on the governing board

The township cannot continue to support the expenses that the fire department generates with what they are receiving in revenue.

Wm. Thorne: First the entities that want to participate would pass a resolution to put a levy on the ballot for a joint fire district. If a levy passes to fund a fire district, the entities involved would then be responsible for setting up the district, such as a governing board, fiscal officer and other elements & procedures of the district.

Chairman Oiler stated he has a special meeting/workshop scheduled with Village of Westfield Center, Village of Gloria Glens and Westfield Township to discuss the funding of the fire department Monday, January 25, 2010 @ 6:00 PM at the Westfield Township Municipal Complex.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved February 1, 2010