



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

1030 NORTH LINCOLN STREET SUITE 1400

GREENSBURG, IN 47240

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

January 7, 2025, 5:00 p.m.



Attendance: Bev Rivera- Trustee

Randy Hoeing- Advisory Board President

James Stewart – Advisory Board Member – via telephone

Angie Morrow- Advisory Board Member - via telephone

Lori Garringer, Clerk

Randy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Since Angie and Jim were attending the meeting via phone, roll call votes will be taken. They will stop in the township office and sign any documents from this meeting needing signature.

Election of 2025 Officers

Randy asked for nominations for President for the 2025 year. Jim Stewart nominated Randy Hoeing for President of the board and this was seconded by Angie Morrow. There were no other nominations. Randy accepted. Roll call vote: Angie – yes, Jim – yes, Randy – yes. Bev stated she is happy that Randy accepted President for 2025 since he is a former firefighter and we will be having a lot of discussions with the fire department regarding trucks, business, contracts, etc. this year.

Randy asked for nominations for Secretary and Jim nominated Angie. Randy, seconded. There were no other nominations. Angie accepted. Roll call vote: Jim – yes; Angie – yes; Randy – yes.

2025 Officers

Randy Hoeing, Advisory Board President

Angie Morrow, Advisory Board Secretary

Jim Stewart, Advisory Board Member

Minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes. Angie, seconded. Randy – yes, Angie – yes, Jim – yes. Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Fire Equipment:

Bev received an Invoice # 510642 in the amount of \$16,578.00 from Fire Chief Stoermer for ERS Wireless for 2 setcom 4 position wireless systems installed the last week of December 2024. The board had approved this purchase in September, 2024. Bev will date and pay the invoice from the 2024 budget since that is where it was approved. This is the last purchase for 2024 budget approved for the Greensburg Fire Department equipment.

New Business:

Winter Warming Stations

Bev said she sent letters to all the main churches in town to ask for help with winter warming stations.

We had a response from the First Baptist Church who offered to help the week school was out. They cannot have warming stations when they have kids on premises for the safety of kids.

The United Methodist Church is planning a long-term commitment on Tuesday mornings for the entire year. This will start in a couple of weeks once the new flooring is put in. Showers will be available if needed as long as there is appropriate staff at the time. Snacks will also be provided. Bev has a lead on some mats from the YMCA camp at St. Paul that are in good shape but are being replaced.

The First Christian Church has committed to January 19th through January 25th. They also offered to be open on Sunday, January 12th through Monday, January 13th. Bev talked to EMA, the mayor, etc. The warming station was not advertised because if the travel advisory changed to red it could not be used because volunteers would not be on the roads. It was decided it would only be used if there was a wide-spread power outage. There was only 1 person who called and needed care during that time so the Township and Board of Health worked with her to provide care.

The Board of Health will be opening if the windchills are 20 degrees or below. They will be open during the day during their normal business hours. We as a township are not set up for long-term homeless care and cannot expect the churches to set up every night. Last year when we opened overnight and there were only 2 people who came.

Investment Statement

Bev emailed the investment statement for 2024 to the board. This shows the balance in each bank account. The Trust Indiana Account will have a transfer of \$135,000 out on January 3rd to cover the fire truck payment. The fire truck payment was made today. Trust Indiana interest rate is 4.456% and the truck loan interest is a rate of 2.25%. We have 2 full payments + a 70% payment left on the trucks.

Cemetery – 2025 Lawn Care and Memorial Benches

John Hughes has submitted a bid for the 2025 Lawn Care. Bev asked the board what they thought about accepting John's bid since he has been the lowest bid and done the lawn care for several years. He does a great job and last year we had only 2 other bidders, one of which asked Bev what the winning bid was the previous year. The other was not willing to do snow removal. We know John, he accepts our payment plan, he doesn't damage anything and is very reliable. John's bid is under the limit of the amount we are required to advertise. His bid is \$10,500.00 to do both Springer and Sandcreek with \$25.00 per hour to do the other 3 small cemeteries. The board agreed this was reasonable. Jim made a motion to accept John's bid of \$10,500 for 2025 lawn care for both Springer and Sandcreek. Angie seconded the motion. Vote: Jim – yes; Angie – yes; Randy – yes. Motion passed. Bev will get the contracts signed.

The memorial benches were installed at Sandcreek and Springer Cemeteries. We did a dedication ceremony December 19th with several veterans and family members of veterans in attendance. There are pictures posted on our Facebook page. The benches turned out to be very nice and the ceremony was appreciated by those who attended. We will have the Avenue of Flags place flags on the holidays and we can still buy a few wreaths from Wreaths Across America if we so choose.

First Look at Year-End 2024

Bev sent the preliminary report of 2024 income and expenses. The only additional charges will be the payment for the fire equipment mentioned earlier in this meeting and possibly a small invoice from Lora Williams for the paperwork from the recent sale of the 2 Lake McCoy properties. There will also be

approximately \$400 coming out for food purchased in December on the credit card for Agape and Bread of Life as well as the food for the cooking class we held in December.

IRS now requires any entity with more than 10 W-2's and 1099's cumulative, they must be filed electronically. The only way we can file them is to set up and ID me. However; when Bev leaves office the next person would not be able to file online with her ID. You cannot set it up for the office, it is per person. Bev checked with RBSK and they will file our 1099's, W-2's electronically as well as print for the recipients for a total of \$150.00. They will set up an account for us so future trustees would have access to the account. The board agreed this was reasonable. This will be billed in the 2025 budget.

Bev mentioned the only other change she was making on the 2024 budget was she needed to move \$1,000 from township clerk salaries to employer share social security. We did not have enough in the budget for employer share social security, but had an extra \$2,000 in the township clerk salaries since we did not need to hire additional help this year. It is in the same category.

- Rainy Day we had \$5,000 and spent \$2,256 (for Lake McCoy)
- Township General budget was \$221,560 and we still have \$49,700
- Fire – Budget \$250,000 and we have \$40,000 left less \$16,578 for the headsets
- Township Assistance - \$2,175 Budget; remaining -0-
- Cum Fire – entire budget was spent and some from Fire General to pay fire trucks was also used.
- We are close to \$130,000 under budget for the year less the \$16,578.

2025 Budget Approved

We were approved for the full amount of budget request for 2025.

2025 Fire Contract and 2025 Equipment – Brush Truck

We looked at the brush truck when we took the tour of the fire station and did not think it needed to be replaced. Randy said most of the time it is not taken on the interstate.

The brush truck is a Navistar Diesel engine. It pulls ok and it only has 12,000 miles on it so the engine should not be worn out. The truck is a 1990, so it is 34 years old. It is a 4-speed ton truck but does not have overdrive in it. It does have 300 gallons of water and equipment on the truck so that may slow the power down. The tailgate for the old truck is in the loft storage at the old station and would need to be retrieved and put back on the truck should we move forward with a new unit.

The firemen are still wanting us to replace the brush truck for the following reasons:

- Cannot get gear into cab and not enough room to wear gear and drive truck.
- Stick Shift – many do not know how to drive. The clutch will wear out and repairs will be more often.
- Cannot get up to interstate speed, not powerful enough for some circumstances they have been in. (Randy commented it really shouldn't be on the interstate much.)

They are willing to keep the slide and all the equipment on it and only replace the truck. However; it will need extra plumbing because of the length of the truck. They are looking at a club cab, not dual cab. Randy explained how the pump works and why additional plumbing may be needed.

The fire department submitted 3 quotes from Fleetwood Chevrolet, Hubler Ford and Acra Automotive ranging from \$45,000 to \$55,000 for a ton truck (3500). Bev will email the quotes to the board so they can

start thinking about what we should do. If we replace the truck this will have to come out of the fire fighting budget line. The budget for 2025 for Cum Fire all has to go to pay for the current trucks. The Fire Fighting Equipment line is \$70,000. If we buy a truck, we have to save something toward future trucks. We need to decide if the fire department gets to pick the truck or the board wants to choose. Jim said Randy will need to talk with the fire department since he understands the firefighting side. It is ok to spend more to get what is needed, because this truck has to last a while. We should also be able to sell the old truck.

Bev said we need to give the fire department some direction on how to start using our equipment. When she became trustee the Mayor and Fire Chief asked if we had any rules about the use of our trucks. Bev told them they need to take the truck they need and if that was our truck then yes, it is fine. However; we feel they have overstepped that privilege and are using our trucks more than their own trucks in addition to selling one of the trucks that was supposed to be alternated with ours.

As we look into the contract for next year we need to have a discussion on the use of our trucks. Bev sent a report to the board from the fire chief on runs made. Randy was reviewing them.

Chief Stoermer has now sold their fire fighting engine to New Point Fire Department leaving them only 1 piece of equipment left than can pump water and fight fires. They also got rid of their ladder platform a year ago. They won't have another new ladder platform truck until 2026. The only thing they have is a Quint with a pump, water, ladder, hose and an aerial device. An engine has all of those same things except an aerial device.

The city currently only has 1 truck they own that can fight fires and the township owns three firefighting apparatus with pumps; although the brush truck would not fight a large fire. The city's rescue truck has no fire fighting capabilities except extinguishers. They have some pickup trucks, command vehicles and an investigation unit.

The used ratio of the trucks is not in the ratio or the population of the city versus township outside of the city. The city is taking the township trucks to nearly every fire in the city. The board agrees this is going to cause additional wear and tear on our township vehicles and the city will want them replaced sooner rather than later. We are carrying 1,000 gallons of water on the engine and the tanker holds 3,000 gallons of water. Tankers are made to shuttle water and fight fires but do not have ladders. Our current engine is setting at station 2 because the city's Quint will not fit in that station. Our truck is being used every time to cover the south part of the city and other runs because the city sold their engine that was supposed to be alternated with our engine to keep both trucks running longer. Not only, did they sell the truck but sold all the equipment that was on it. We are unsure if the equipment was some we had bought for the fire department. New Point fire also questioned the Chief to ask if they really wanted to sell that truck and equipment. Some of the firefighters also did not agree with selling it but it was the Chief's decision with approval from the Board of Works.

Because of this we are very concerned about how much are trucks are being used. As we talk to the city about our fire contract, we need to have a discussion about the amount of the fire contract in relation to the amount of apparatus we are providing. They had also asked us to help purchase a rescue truck. Randy does not know if the rescue truck will have a pump or not, but typically there is so much equipment on it there is not room for a pump.

Bev got a run report from 2020 through 2024. There were 38 runs in 2020 but 32 of those runs were in the city limits. The same ratio applies to 2021 through 2024. A brush truck that is supposed to be used for grass fires is being used in the city for nuisance fires and outside rubbish fires. Randy explained the different types of fire trucks on the report. Bev make sure Jim and Angie get copies of the reports so they can make some decisions regarding how we need to approach the city with the new fire contract.

Randy will follow up with the firefighters on the brush truck to get a better understanding of how they are using it.

We need to be fair to the citizens of Washington Township. We should only own 1/3 of the equipment not the same amount or more than the city owns.

There being no further business at this time Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded.

Vote: Jim – yes; Angie – yes; Randy – yes. The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting February 18th, 2025 at 5 pm

_____ Randy Hoeing, President

_____ Angie Morrow, Secretary

_____ Jim Stewart

_____ Date of Approval