

Liberty Township, Porter County
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2019
6:00 PM

Present were board members Terry Dunn and Tim Cole. Also in attendance were Matt Keiser, Township Trustee; Michele Bollinger, Township Clerk; Michael Wineland, Assistant Fire Chief Jackie Sterling was unable to attend due to medical reasons.

Meeting Minutes: Michele read the minutes from the June 10th meeting. Tim made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Terry seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Fire Department Report:

Michael reported that the fire department responded to approximately 58 calls. He reported that they did complete negotiations with Jackson Township so they do have a 2020 contract in place. Matt introduced the representatives from DLZ who will be taking over Phase 2 of the study on the fire department.

Trustee Report:

Matt reported that both he and Tim had conversed with the Porter County Surveyor Kevin Breitzke on separate occasions regarding Gossett Cemetery. Kevin told Matt that he would be willing to write a legal description so that we could approach the owners regarding access since currently there is no way to legally access the cemetery. Matt is going to try to coordinate a meeting with either one or both of the adjacent property owners.

Matt also reported that the Cops for Kids program had asked us to submit 8 names of children who were in need of school supplies. We did submit 8 names, but we had not heard if all 8 had shown up for the event.

Matt introduced the monthly financial report and advised the board that our finances are in good shape so far for the year.

Matt informed that board that there would be a township training conference from September 22-24th in Indianapolis. The board was invited to attend if their schedules permitted. Tim may attend one day; Terry is unable to attend due to work schedule; Jackie had told Matt prior to the meeting that she would not be able to attend. Matt and Michele were planning to attend on behalf of the Township.

New Business:

Rainy Day Fund (Resolution 2019-08)- Matt explained that the purpose of this resolution was to establish a rainy day fund so that excess funds up to 10% can be added to the fund.

Tim made the motion to approve the resolution; Terry seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

2020 Budget Update- Budget form 1 had been given to the board prior to the meeting for their review regarding the proposed budget. The proposed budget will be amended to reflect the addition of the Rainy Day Fund since the resolution was adopted tonight.

Matt reported that the DLGF has assessed a value growth quotient of 3.5% which was reflected in the proposed budget. Various line items had been increased.

A special meeting will be held in September for a public hearing for the budget and it will then be adopted at the October meeting.

Old Business:

None

Public Comment:

Phillip Johnson asked about the mobile home parks and who pays the property taxes for these entities. Matt responded that the owner of the individual mobile home parks pays the taxes; occupants pay personal property taxes. Tim went on to add that there had been a moratorium placed on mobile home parks in Porter County.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim; Terry seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Terry Dunn, Township Board President

ATTEST:

Jacquelyn M. Sterling, Township Board

Matt Keiser, Township Trustee

Timothy Cole, Township Board