

LWV Park Ridge Observer Report

Meeting: Maine Township Board – Town hall

Date: June 26, 2018

Observer: Judy Fregetto

Start/End Time: 7:30 – approximately
10:30 PM

Members Absent: All board members were in attendance

- A. Approval of minutes of May 15, 2018 and May 22, 2018 Board meetings (9 sets of minutes) – all approved after revisions related to resident comments – it was accepted to insert videos of meetings vs summary of resident comments.

Personnel issues – moved to discussion of new business.

B. Old Business

1. Motion to approve staff performance-based increases and/or Cost of Living increases – there was discussion regarding the consolidation of staff responsibilities during the past year which resulted in savings of approximately \$ 1,000,000 for township residents. This process and the resulting budget reductions were addressed in the most recent newsletter sent out to Maine Township residents. Members of the Board and residents commented that staff members should, however, be rewarded with pay increases. This could be accomplished with pay raises (although this method would have pension and long-term financial implications) vs bonuses for jobs well done (this would have a one time affect on the budget). The motion was carried to implement a bonus reward system for this fiscal year – there were two “no” votes.
2. Presentation/RFPs for Upgrade of Safety Measures Focused on Making Maine Township a Hard Target – this item was moved to the capital fund discussion/agenda item.
3. Procedures and Policies as submitted by Trustees Carabotta, McKenzie and Sweeney – There was a motion to discuss the nine (9) items at a separate meeting/workshop on July 10, 2018. The motion was passed. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

C. New Business

1. Hiring replacement – MaineStay position-Agency & Program Coordinator. The board reviewed and approved the hiring of Christina Christie for this position at a salary of \$33,000/year (it should be noted that the position previously paid \$43,000).
2. Barton Marketing Group Contract Renewal – The board approved the contract for the next fiscal year. It should be noted that there was no increase in the contract fee from the previous fiscal year (the contract was previously with the Barton Marketing Group) . A representative from the Barton Group reviewed the services they provide the township including publication of newsletters and monitoring articles and notifications re Maine Township in the local newspapers. The newsletters will now be uploaded into the Township’s web site.

3. IT Consultant Contract – four companies submitted proposals to the township. The contract was awarded to Warehouse Direct. The company submitted the lowest bid and services included work station support at no additional expense to the township.
4. Prevailing Wage Ordinances – General Town Fund /General Assistance and Road & Bridge - There was a change in the law – the township would no longer be required to publish the prevailing wages paid to township employees, i.e. road and bridge workers. However, board voted to continue to publish the wages in the interest of transparency to the residents.
5. Capital Fund - there was a discussion of the laws related to the accumulation of Capital Funds. It is now possible to accumulate funds targeted for long term improvements. Implications for the budget process were discussed. The Board voted to table this discussion/decision process for two weeks. An amended budget meeting will be scheduled to establish a Capital Fund account following the implementation and consideration of a several step process.

Public Participation: There were comments from the public present at this meeting in support of the bonus increases for township employees.

League Action Needed – I would suggest that we monitor the capital fund process.