

Madison Township Board Meeting
7047 E. Landersville Rd. Camby In 46113
January 3, 2023
7:00 pm

Finance Meeting

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jim Johnson at 7:00 pm.

Present: Roll call: Larry Ellis, Jim Johnson, Ronnie McClure, Nelson Hoggatt, Tina Turner, Jeff Wilson, Anthony (Tony) McClure.

Absent: None

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge was recited by board and audience.

- III. **Prayer/Moment of Silence:** Observed by board and audience.

- IV. **Finance Meeting:** Election of officers for this meeting only.

Nelson made a motion to nominate Ronnie for Chair, 2nd by Jim.

Motion passed 3-0.

Jim made a motion to nominate Nelson for Secretary, 2nd by Ronnie.

Motion passed 3-0.

Jim read the financial statement dated 1-1-2022 to 12-31-2022. We had no interest on investments because we had no investments.

Ronnie made a motion to accept the report with the changes discussed about the interest, 2nd by Jim.

Motion passed 3-0.

- V. **Adjournment:**

Ronnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Jim.

Motion passed 3-0.

Reorganization

- I. **Call to Order:**

Jim Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present: Larry Ellis, Jim Johnson, Ronnie McClure, Nelson Hoggatt, Tina Turner, Jeff Wilson, Anthony (Tony) McClure.

Absent: None

Election of officers on-going took place (see Agenda item III below).

II. Approval of meeting minutes:

An audience member asked that all members introduce themselves. It was agreed that this would take place after approval of the following meeting minutes.

Ronnie made a motion to accept the Oct. 11, 2022 meetings minutes, 2nd by Jim.
Motion passed 3-0.

Ronnie made a motion to accept the Oct. 25, 2022 meetings minutes, 2nd by Jim.
Motion passed 3-0.

Members introduced themselves in the following order:

Tina Turner (Township Clerk), Larry Ellis (Trustee), Ronnie McClure (Board Member), Jim Johnson (Board Member), Nelson Hoggatt (Board Member), Anthony (Tony) McClure (Deputy Chief), Jeff Wilson (Fire Chief).

Larry said that Jeff has been working for approximately 6 months behind the scene.

Jeff provided the following information as part of his introduction. He is the only full time EMS person and the fire department is providing EMS about 36% of the time. He introduced four members of the fire department, Capt. Steve Hartssock going to Bargersville, Parker Kloss going to Indianapolis, Jeremy Moynahan station #31 staying and Austin Mundy who is going to White River. Out of our 9 career firemen we will potentially lose 5 in the next two months. Station #32 is being shut down about 50 percent of the time because we do not have adequate staffing for it. He is working as Fire Chief, EMS director, and Company Officer on the A shift at station #31 until they can get appropriate staffing. He is working with Johnson County 4252 for Fire Ops 101 training. The dive team has been shut down due to high risk/ low frequency and the activity normally being for recoveries and not rescue and we will be selling the scuba equipment.

III. Election of officers on-going.

Nelson made a motion to nominate Jim for Chair, 2nd by Jim.
Motion passed 3-0.

Ronnie made a motion to nominate Nelson for Secretary, 2nd by Jim.
Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Salary Resolution 2023: Jeff presented information on the white board that compared the health insurance benefits, salaries, pensions and runs of Madison Township to several other fire departments. He stated that he had done research and talked with surrounding departments. Dawn said she knows these fire

departments are all local but asked if he is doing comparatives based on population? Jeff replied no, that population is not on here, but Martinsville only has about 11,000 people, so they are pretty much the same as us. Dawn replied that Martinsville is a city. She said you need to compare apples to apples. Jeff said what he is working on is a salary survey for all departments around us. He said he has documentation from the professional firefighters of Indiana. We are 102 out of 113. Dawn replied, we cannot be comparable to the County or Mooresville and the benefits they provide. We do not have the money or assets. Gregg Terhune explained that the departments listed on the board have a better tax base than we do. The discussion continued about how we might improve our tax base. Gregg then stated that out of 1008 townships, we rank #25 on spending per capita. Trudy added that we are over \$200 per capita. Dawn offered to email Jeff a spreadsheet of the various counties that have the population we have. Jeff agreed that he and Ben would look at it. Dawn added, you need to rein in all the expenses from the previous administration. Jeff replied that is why we are looking at 2024. Ronnie asked what we can do to attract businesses. Larry stated he and Jeff have already been talking about attending county meetings and putting their two cents in about Madison Township. Gregg advised that economic development is who we need to target. Gregg pointed out that we have places to put in businesses and we need to attract more businesses. Gregg said that the County has an economic team and Mooresville has an economic team but Madison Township does not have one. Morgan County economic development should work to improve Madison Township. Larry stated there is a plan to get rid of the fluff and improve the economic standing of the fire department and we need to get rid of equipment we do not need and get what we do need.

Larry stated this board and the administration is committed to the fire department and residents and he has already looked at fluff in the budget, things that have been happening, and their heads are spinning at the things they have found. He stated we do not want that kind of thing going on. They talked to Ben Roeder before this meeting and there is a plan that will be shared when developed. There is a piece of apparatus equipment that is an albatross that should never have been purchased and we have an opportunity to rid ourselves of it and get a piece of equipment we need and not cost us any money to do so.

Jim asked if the salary budget resolution is within budget. Larry and Jeff replied Yes Sir. Dawn said we do not have last year's rates for these classifications so we really do not know. Jeff responded that everybody is on salary now except for part time people. Dawn asked how many hours are being assigned before you deduct from the payroll. Jeff said 2912 hours less any vacation time. They work 56 hours a week. Dawn said this does not tell her what their rate was last year and what you are configuring it to this year. It should be presented how it was last year vs. what you are changing it to this year. Jeff responded no. Gregg explained that she wants to know if this indicates a raise for anyone here. Jeff asked Ben what the percent raise

is. Someone said 8.6 percent. Jeff said 8ish. Trudy stated that on the budget it went up 8.46 percent on wages. After you take off the chief and assistant chief the increase is 7.6 percent. She is not understanding how you have an 8 percent increase in wages when you must consider overtime. She sees that we paid \$15 an hour on salary resolution last year. So, what is the hourly rate that will be paid for 2023. Ronnie calculated that based on the information given the hourly rate for line 7 of the salary resolution form would be \$18 an hour. Trudy said the hourly increase is huge, about 20 percent, but we do not have a 20 percent increase in the budget. Trudy asked how we would know the yearly amount for those paid hourly and would we still be within budget. She pointed out that the first six categories on the salary resolution sheet totaled \$726,500 for the year which only leaves \$400,000 to pay all the others. Jeff responded that we would still have approximately \$70,000 left in the budget. Larry replied that we would still be \$63,000 under budget. Trudy asked the board if they would approve additional appropriations during the year if we run short on money. Jim replied no, he wants to be in budget, no emergency loans or what we have been through before. Nelson replied he did not know, he has to look at this. Ronnie replied he does not know what will need to occur. It is his understanding that Larry is responsible for the budget and operating within the budget. Larry replied that is true. Ronnie then asked Larry with the salary provision as it is right now at this time and date does he see us operating within the budget. Larry replied that at this point we are approximately \$63,000 under budget.

Ronnie made a motion to accept the Salary Resolution, 2nd by Jim.
Motion passed 3-0.

After the vote Larry stated that he and Jeff ran the Financial Resolution by our financial advisor as well.

V. Board Items – Requested from Board Members Only:

Ronnie and Nelson both stated they did not have any board items to discuss.

Jim said he thought the public would like an update on the roofing project. Larry emailed Mr. Haynes 1/3/2023 and is waiting for a response. Larry said that during his last conversation with former trustee McDonough, he was told that Mr. Haynes (roofing contractor) would continue work on station #32 in the next two weeks, weather permitting. Larry said he put a hold on starting the work because we have not received all the materials that we paid Mr. Haynes for. He also said we do not have a third estimate yet. When we receive a third estimate, the bids will go to the board and the board will decide who will put the roof on station #32. Someone in the audience asked if the board would select the bid before we get the materials and Larry replied no, the first thing that must happen is that we must get the materials. Larry said the materials that were delivered on December 14, 2021 have sat outside for at least a year and they are no value to us. We need new materials. The shingles manufacturer will not warrant lifetime shingles if they have sat out in

the weather for a period prior to installing them. In bringing everyone up to date, Larry explained that a check was written to Mr. Hayes for \$150,000 for materials over a year ago. Some of the materials were delivered to station #32 where they have sat outside. Larry stated that we need to see the written agreement between former trustee McDonough and Mr. Haynes. We need documentation before we can decide what steps to take next regarding the roofing project.

VI. Public Comments/Questions:

Someone from the audience asked what the board meeting schedule was going to be going forward. Jim replied that meetings are held on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. Larry said he felt the board should meet every other month.

Jeff then asked Larry to speak about surplus of the dive gear and the other vehicle. Larry replied that later this month we are going to have an informative meeting, help fill the room. We will talk about where we are going and how we will get there. And more importantly, what we are going to do going forward. He said we have a plan and they want to share that plan.

Trudy made the board aware that the amount for concrete appropriations on the June 23, 2022 meeting minutes should be \$45,240, not \$38,000. Page 1 was OK; it was not OK on page 3. Corrections were made to the minutes.

Ronnie made a motion, 2nd by Jim to accept corrections to paragraph 9 and 10 of the June 23, meeting minutes.
Motion passed 3-0.

Jim asked Larry if he wanted to speak to the cots. Larry said the department has bought two used power load cots that the previous administration purchased for us for a little over \$23,000 but has not been paid for yet. They could possibly be paid for out of the firefighting fund. Jeff then had the fireman bring one in to demonstrate it.

VII. Next Meeting Date:

Thursday January 19, at 7:00 pm.

The Meeting schedule for the rest of the year will be set at this meeting.

VIII. Adjournment:

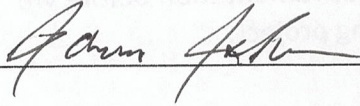
Nelson made a motion to adjourn at 8:11, 2nd by Ronnie.

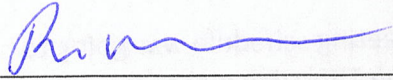
Motion passed 3-0.

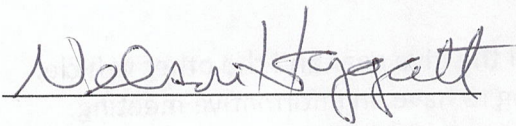
Dated this 19th day of January, 2023.

AYE

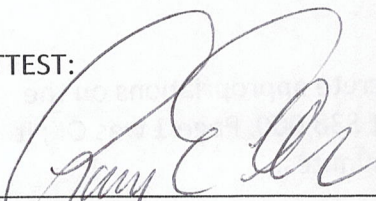
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ATTEST:



Larry Ellis, Madison Township Trustee