

Madison Township Board Meeting
7047 E. Landersdale Rd. Camby In 46113
December 14, 2023
7:00 pm

Agenda

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

Present: Trustee Larry Ellis, New board member Matthew Pranger, Board Member Ronnie McClure, Board Secretary Nelson Hoggatt, Clerk Tina Turner

Absent: None

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

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

- IV. **Organization of Board:**

Trustee Ellis announced we will have a reorganization of the board tonight and then have another one next year at our Jan. 2, 2024 meeting.

Trustee Ellis welcomed new member Matthew Pranger to the board.

Nelson nominated Ronnie as Board Chairman, 2nd by Matthew.

Motion passed 2-1, with Nelson and Matthew voting for and Ronnie voting against.

Ronnie nominated Nelson as Board Secretary, 2nd by Matthew.

Motion passed 3-0.

- V. **Adoption of Minutes:**

Ronnie made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 minutes as written, 2nd by Nelson.

Motion passed 3-0.

- VI. **Trustee Report:**

Trustee Ellis stated we were able to resolve our issue with the roofing contractor.

We have received our money back from the roofing contractor (Haynes Roofing) so we can now proceed with getting the roofing job completed on both fire stations.

We also got Station #31 closed. We are addressing many issues with #31. The

building has not been properly maintained for many years. We are looking at our options now. Whether we add on, renovate, or what our options may be. We have

been able to save considerable money on our insurance. We now have another company that is quoting coverage for us and it looks like we will be able to save

more money and get as good, if not better, coverage. We were able to put health insurance in the budget for our firefighters. Firefighters will now have health insurance after the first of the year, and the insurance will include vision and dental coverage as well. We have been able to save taxpayers a lot of money. Over the next four years, it comes out to a little over \$500,000. Ronnie asked if the roofing contractor will be allowed to bid on the new roofing project on the stations. Trustee replied that we have an agreement with his attorney and our attorney that he cannot bid on the roofing project. Ronnie asked if there is a list of things that can be done to open station # 31. Trustee Ellis said anything we do at this point would be putting on a band-aid and he would prefer not to do that. Ronnie said he knows the concrete work is a big issue, and he wonders if we do the concrete work could we move on to make the building safe and get it open. Larry said we have some other serious issues, for example the electrical is a mess and the building was never built to house firefighters. It has make-shift bunk rooms, and the wiring was not done properly. It is missing conduit and junction boxes. It is not a safe environment. He invited the fire marshal to evaluate the building, and he said everything was done wrong code wise. He said Sunco evaluated the building and found it structurally sound. An air quality test was good. So, the structure and air quality are good, but it needs a lot of renovation. The backup generator has issues that need to be addressed. It was never intended to cover the living quarters. Matthew asked if we have a prioritized itemized list of repairs that need to be made. Trustee Ellis thinks we need to have a contractor come in and do the whole job. We have an issue with sewage also. We are not supposed to wash the apparatuses inside the building and we cannot wash them outside the building in the winter. Nelson said Trustee Ellis asked him for any suggestions and he has been going over to station #31 regularly and becoming familiar with the issues. He said he will soon complete a prioritized list of what he thinks needs to be done and present that to Trustee Ellis for his consideration. Nelson said the bay drains are hooked into the septic system and according to the dept. of health that should never have been done. He said it probably would not be permissible to hook them in to a sewer system without some type of filtering. He said he has talked to the owner of AA Septic who does our septic cleanouts, and he said he will be willing to attend one of our board meetings early next year and answer our questions after Nelson has done his evaluation. Nelson said he has obtained a drawing of the outside septic setup. It just shows the original septic/holding tank and a new septic tank, dose/pump tank, and dirt being added to the mound system in 2006. He said the drawing looks like the new septic tank is connected to the old one, but the Health Dept. did not think it would be connected to the old one. Nelson said we had a septic tank clean-out in Feb., March, and June of 2023. We were told to stop washing the apparatuses in the bay and have not had a clean out since, although we closed the station around October 27, 2023. Trustee Ellis said we want to do what we need to do to get the firefighters back in that station because it is our most centrally located station. Nelson said he is waiting for Sunco to produce drawings of the sewage and drain lines inside the structure, however, the building was built before they started digitizing that information, so

they will have to look through the archives. Nelson said regardless of the eventual outcome of what we do with the station (renovate, sell, repurpose, etc.), the electrical needs to be addressed and it probably would not kill us financially to proceed to get that done. Nelson said he will put something together as quickly as possible and forward it on to Trustee Ellis so he and the board so they can do an evaluation and determine where we go from here.

Audience member Patty Cooper said she lives behind the station and asked if we have a timeline for opening it. She said there are other issues with it being close other than slower response times for ambulance and fire runs, like people dumping things in the dumpster.

Trustee Ellis said he has been in contact with Sunco and they are working on some options for us and putting some numbers together. He said we really do not have a timeline at this point, but we would like to open it as quickly as possible. He said we are still exploring our options and when we finish that we should have a timeline. He said we plan to park the dumpster inside so that people cannot utilize it.

Dawn Horock asked if the Fire Marshall has a report of his findings. Trustee Ellis said he is working on a report that will include write-ups, pictures, etc. Dawn asked Trustee Ellis when he expects a report from Sunco and when will it be made public. Trustee Ellis replied next week. He said right now he only has one option and he thinks we need another one. After we get that we can discuss cost.

A citizen said she owns the property next door to the station and is concerned about security and water runoff from the metal building and driveway onto her property.

Trustee Ellis said we currently have cameras inside the bay areas and we could probably add cameras to the outside area. He said we are looking into having the concrete work done and we are looking into other things, like drainage issues, as well.

Ronnie asked if we could make the county aware of our security needs at the station. Trustee Ellis said the Sheriff's Department probably would not assist us for that. He said we have even offered the Sheriff's Dept. an office in station #32 and they have not taken advantage of that.

An audience member stated his concern that the station was not up to code. Trustee Ellis said he has made Sunco aware of that and any work that is done on the structure will be with all building codes in mind. That means, if code requires sprinklers, then we will have sprinklers. The structure will be brought up to code. The audience member asked if we have gotten input from the firefighters and Trustee Ellis responded that we have not done that yet since we are in the beginning stages of this project, but he said we will get their input.

VII. 2024 Salary Resolution

Ronnie stated that this Salary Resolution looks similar to what we currently have.

Trustee Ellis said there are a couple of changes. The current Salary Resolution provides for 3 part-time Chiefs and this one has 2. Also, in the budget we talked about 6 full-time paramedics and for this Salary Resolution we decided to go with 3 and 3 part-time firefighter/paramedics, so we will have dual purpose employees and save us money.

Ronnie said there has been talk about meeting ALS standards and asked if this staffing would facilitate that and Trustee Ellis said it would.

Tina said the clerk's salary went up 3k and the board member's salary went up slightly. We added a stipend of 3k for full-time firefighter/paramedics, and part-time firefighter/EMT's increased to \$16 per hour. Fire Marshall went up from \$16 to \$18 per hour.

Trustee Ellis said the Salary Resolution is within budget. Ronnie restated Trustee Ellis' statement that all of this is within budget and Trustee Ellis responded that it is. He said the budget allowed for 6 full-time paramedics and we are going with 3, saving us approximately \$168,000.

Nelson said we have to subtract out the 3 additional part-time firefighter/EMT's from the \$168,000. He said the budget called for 9 and the Salary Resolution calls for 12. Trustee Ellis said they are as needed. Nelson asked how much money was budgeted for the part-time firefighter/EMT's and Michael responded \$420,500.

Trudy asked how the full-time firefighter/paramedics' stipend will be paid. Tina said it will be added in to their hourly rate and paid out per pay period. Trudy asked if longevity is calculated into overtime. Tina replied not this year, but it will be next year. Trudy said the longevity payout will be more than the amount in the salary resolution.

Nelson made a motion to accept the 2024 Salary Resolution, 2nd by Matthew. Motion passed 3-0.

VIII. 2024 Benefit Resolution, Resolution 2023-17:

Ronnie said given the employees will pay 3% or the 77 Fund contribution and the township will pay 3%, what does that equate to in terms of dollars out of their paycheck. Trustee Ellis said approximately \$1500 per year. Dawn asked if the firefighters will pick up the 3% contribution to the 77 Fund for 2025 that the township is now paying. Trustee Ellis and Ronnie said that has not been discussed yet.

Nelson pointed out in the past we discussed the employer/employee insurance premium percentages as 70% for the township and 30% for the employees. This resolution states a dollar amount of \$400, which is 76% for the township share. He said using a percentage would be better for the employees later and asked what will happen if the premium goes up. Tina said the premium should not go up for 2024. Nelson said according to Ronnie it could go up. Ronnie said we do not have a guaranteed rate. Trustee Ellis said if it does go up we will discuss it and the board can determine how to handle it.

There was discussion about the decrease in employee take home pay due to paying for health insurance and 3% into the 77 Fund. Trudy pointed out that the employees are not paying into social security any longer, so that is a savings of more than 6% and some employees may not see a decrease in pay at all. Tony stated that everyone across the board will see some decrease in pay.

Eric Shields asked if the fire fighters had input into the Salary Resolution and Trustee Ellis said they did. Trustee Ellis said anytime we have resolutions that affect firefighters, we have discussions and get their input.

Matthew asked Trustee Ellis if he felt the firefighters are in favor of what has been done and Trustee Ellis replied yes.

Nelson stated that there is not enough money in the PERF line item of the budget to pay the employee 3% contribution. He said the \$107,700 budgeted is only enough to cover the 19.1% employer contribution for 9 full-time firefighters and 3% for 6 full-time paramedics. He said the fact that we will only have 3 full-time paramedics gives us a 4- or 5-thousand-dollar cushion, but it is not enough to cover paying the 3% part of the employee contribution, which brings our obligation up to around \$118,000, leaving us around \$11,000 short. Trustee Ellis said we do not have 9 full-time firefighters. We have 6, soon to be 5, so we will not have 9 full-time firefighters for the full year. When we are short firefighters, we are not paying into PERF for all 9.

Matthew made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-17, 2nd by Ronnie.
Motion passed 3-0.

IX. Good To Order:

Trudy said there are some items that will need to be addressed before the end of the year. We are getting very close to being over budget.

X. **Adjournment:**

Ronnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32, 2nd by Nelson.
Motion passed 3-0.

Minutes prepared by Nelson Hoggatt, Board Member Secretary

Dated this 28th day of December, 2023.

AYE

NAY

Roni

Nelson Hoggatt

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Trustee Ellis, Madison Township Trustee