

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MUNSON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held Tuesday, January 10, 20 23

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chair Irene McMullen, with Trustees Andy Bushman and James McCaskey and Fiscal Officer Todd Ray present. Ms. McMullen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was identified as a workshop to allow Munson Fire Department administration to discuss Department finances and options for funding two full-time fire fighter/medic positions the Department would like to add to the staffing roster. Chair Irene McMullen invited the Department members who were present to open the discussion.

Munson Fire Chief Mike Vatty spoke first. He cited statistics on call volume increases over the past two years and provided the Trustees with hard copies of reports generated within the Department detailing EMS calls, structure fire responses, and responses time averages.

Fire Department Treasurer Rich Ferlin provided supporting commentary and a graph showing service calls and operational service costs increasing while maintaining a priority call response time average of six minutes. The overall purpose of the presentation was to allow Trustees to understand the value of adding two full-time positions to the budget. The presenters asserted that the two full time positions are necessary to sustain the high quality, low response times currently delivered by the Fire Department. The additional fulltime fire-fighter/medic positions in the Department will improve scheduling for shift coverage and officer support for all shifts. Chief Vatty pointed out that full-time staff will yield some costs savings due to reduced overtime pay currently needed to fill shifts. The additional full time positions will, however, require an increase in payroll costs in the range of \$131,000 per year over the next two years.

The Trustees asked questions about response times and staffing. Mr. McCaskey noted that the Department took in \$152,000 in increased real estate tax revenue in 2022 due to the levy increase passed by voters in 2020. Trustees have partnered with the Fire Department to provide needed funding for two new ambulances and a new Pumper truck in the past four years. The Trustees had approved the purchase of the pumper truck by the Fire Department, paid for in 2022 from Department using reserve funds set aside for the purpose.

The cost of the additional staffing currently under consideration might have been covered by the reserve funds. Treasurer Ferlin and the Trustees discussed ideas for restoring the reserve funds to Fire Department by purchasing the pumper truck from the Department. Mr. McCaskey made a suggestion to honor the contract which is to use the EMS money to buy the needed vehicles. His recommendation is to buy the pumper truck back for the original purchase price from the Fire department, put it on a four- year note with Geauga Credit Union; then pay for it out of the EMS fund. This payment would take the place of the engine and bucket that were paid off in 2022, thus restoring the department's cash reserves. The Department could receive the cash to cover the staffing increase in 2023 and 2024, and Mr. Ferlin suggested the Trustees allow the voters to decide on a levy increase to cover the costs in the years beyond 2024.

Trustee Jim McCaskey provided data from the County Auditor's office that shows Munson is currently ranked 4th in the County in Fire Levy millage among local jurisdictions, but 15th in Road levy millage, out of 21 jurisdictions.

Chair Irene McMullen stated that the Trustees will consider the information presented, and should do additional research and explore options for securing the additional funding, and will address the matter in an upcoming regular meeting.

Jim McCaskey moved to adjourn the Special meeting at 6:20pm. Andy Bushman seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. The Chair noted that the Trustees Regular meeting would begin at 6:30pm.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer