

Worth Township Advisory Board Meeting

Date: October 3, 2023

Location: Trustee office, 8 South Main Street in Whitestown, Indiana

- **Meeting called to order:**
- **Present:** Shelby Hasz, Will Jacob, Mike Hancock
- **Absent:** None
- **Trustee:** Jim Baldwin was present
- **Legal Counsel:** Jeff Jacob was present

Approval of agenda: Motion to approve made by Mike, 2nd by Will **Vote 3-0**

Action on Previous Minutes of 8/23/2023: Motion to approve made by Shelby, 2nd by Will **Vote 3-0**

Agenda Item 1: 2024 Budget Proposal Public Hearing

Trustee Baldwin presented and discussed the proposed budget. Trustee Baldwin explained that the Township unincorporated area's assessed value went up over \$10 million dollars but the reason for the large increase was unknown. Trustee Baldwin also gave an update on the state of public assistance as the population continues to increase and those requests are projected to also increase.

Motion to open the public hearing made by Mike, 2nd by Will at 6:21pm **Vote 3-0**

There was no public request to speak

Motion to close the public hearing made by Mike, 2nd by Will at 6:22pm **Vote 3-0**

Board discussion took place. Will questioned how much of the public assistance budget for the current year had been used, and Trustee Baldwin answered that we have used 80% to date and should have sufficient funds to finish out the year. Trustee Baldwin stated that our tax rate has actually decreased and we hope to continue that trend. Mike brought up a point of concern as he had been recently reviewing the Interlocal Fire agreement (Resolution 2021-05). It was discovered that section 5.1 dictates that a fire budget shall be established by the fire board no later than August 31st of each year, and then presented to the town council for final consideration. The budget issue never appeared on the fire boards agenda, so no discussion or approval was made. The budget was presented directly to the town council for consideration. Mike raised the concern about whether this rose to the level of a breach of contract, and whether those residents in the unincorporated area were not represented in the budget discussion. Mike caught the oversight the day before this meeting and had already notified the Trustee and board attorney. Jeff Jacob had some preliminary questions, and stated that he would contact the Whitestown attorney to discuss.

Agenda Item 2: Discuss Township Assistance Guidelines

Trustee continued previous discussion about guidelines for public assistance and how we implement this program. Trustee Baldwin discussed the increasing number of requests for assistance and how he currently determines eligibility. Trustee Baldwin also discussed his research into other entities and how they implement their programs. The board asked some questions which were answered by Trustee Baldwin. Trustee Baldwin has been working with Jeff Jacob to create a draft, and hopes to share that with the board soon and move for adoption by end of the year.

Agenda Item 3: Discuss Storage Options for Township Records

Trustee Baldwin explained that he will likely need to secure a short-term storage option for township records prior to, and during the move from his current office to the new office in the library. The board agreed that Trustee Baldwin should identify and secure proper storage.

Agenda Item 4: Library Update/ Office Lease

Trustee Baldwin informed the board that a rough draft is almost ready for review. Utility cost will be based on a percentage of square footage of the office space to be fair. Grand opening is set for January but the new office of Trustee should be move-in ready in December. Furniture has been identified and the cost should be around \$6000. Current office furniture is at the end of usefulness and will likely be declared surplus. Jeff Jacob asked if there was an estimate of monthly cost, but that detail is not yet available. The current office must be vacated by 12/31/2023.

Public Comment: None

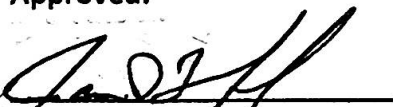
Announcements: Fireboard is 10/4/2023, The library tour will be 10/17/2023, Township budget adoption meeting will be 10/16/2023.

Meeting adjourned: Motion by Will, 2nd by Will at 6:54pm

Vote 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Hancock, Secretary, Worth Township Advisory Board
Worth Township, Boone County, Indiana, USA

Approved:


Jim Baldwin-Trustee


Mike Hancock-Secretary


Shelby Hasz-Member


Will Jacob-Member