

## Worth Township Advisory Board Meeting

**Date:** December 14, 2021

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

- **Meeting called to order:** 6:31pm
- **Present:** Anne Bohm, Mike Hancock, Andrew Heffner
- **Absent:** None
- **Trustee:** Jim Baldwin was present
- **Legal Counsel:** Jeff Jacob was present

**Approval of agenda:** Motion to approve made by Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anne

**Vote 3-0**

**Action on Previous Minutes of 10/19/2021:** Motion to approve made by Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anne **Vote 3-0**

### **Agenda Item 1: Interlocal Resolution for fire protection- Proposed resolution 2021-05**

Trustee Baldwin gave a brief introduction. Jeff Jacob provided a legal overview and recap of the negotiations that led to this resolution. Mike sought clarification of the term of the agreement, the step out provisions, and ability to bind upon successors. Board discussion followed and clarifications were made. Mike noted that he had compared this resolution to the previous 2009 resolution and that both documents were substantially the same with minor changes which were discussed. Mike was concerned that the new resolution took some power away from the fire board and placed it with the town council, specifically sections 4.1 and 4.4, which lessened the power currently available to the township appointees to the fire board. Jeff Jacob encouraged the board to approve the resolution as written with a directive to the trustee that we would like to see this provision put back to the former language.

Mike also questioned the payment calculation which also remains unchanged, is somewhat confusing, discounted a previous suggestion to consider a flat rate fee, and still includes the COIT/LIT provision. Mike continued by offering a simplified set of calculations which he had performed that showed the unincorporated area residents appear to pay a higher rate per household than residents in the incorporated area by a factor of 3x despite only making up less than 10% of the run loads. It was stated that the payment provisions of the resolution were still on the table for discussion if both parties would agree to take a closer look, but that the important thing right now was to ensure fire protection for the unincorporated area.

Jeff Jacob read the resolution aloud.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-05 with the suggestion that Trustee continue discussions previously discussed including sections 4.1 and 4.4 made by Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anne

**Vote 3-0**

**Agenda Item 2: Emergency Services Fees- Proposed resolution 2021-06**

Jeff Jacob gave an overview of the resolution and noted that he had received relevant concerns from Mike with regard to language in the resolution, and that he had incorporated that change into the resolution for us to consider. Mike shared an email sent to the trustee and to Jeff Jacob in this matter (attached). Chief Westrich provided important information in regards to the fire territory and billing practices. Whitestown will likely need to amend their agreement to reflect the change we seek, to define the intent of the resolution with regards to defining resident vs non-resident. Discussion took place. Andrew asked Chief Westrich if this increase was partly needed to put another ambulance in service. There was no public comment.

Jeff Jacob read the resolution aloud.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-06 was made by Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike

**Vote 3-0**

**Agenda Item 3: End of year business**

Trustee noted that public assistance has been lower than expected.

Trustee noted that he was expecting an invoice for website services from Mike.

Trustee noted that payments owing to the town will be made upon the fall settlement from the county.

Trustee noted that the lease amount on the Trustees office was increasing from about \$8,000 a year to roughly \$11,000. We are expecting to have an office in the new library upon it's completion.

Trustee would like to discuss purchasing park property next year.

**Public Comment:** Janice West noted her appreciation of the Whitestown Fire Department and their services. She also talked a little bit about local history and her desire to see McCord cemetery renewed.

**Announcements:** Last fire board meeting of the year is coming up. A new ambulance is forthcoming for WFD. Mike noted the goals set and achieved by WFD for the year and commended Chief Westrich. Andrew thanked everybody for their service this year. Trustee gave special commendation to Jeff Jacob for all he had done for the township this year.

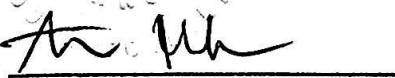
**Meeting adjourned:** Motion by Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anne

**Vote 3-0**

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

Approved:

  
Jim Baldwin-Trustee

  
Andrew Heffner-President

  
Mike Hancock-Secretary

  
Anne Bohm-Member

Hello Gentlemen,

12.2.2021

Following the fire board meeting last evening, I spent some time talking with Chief Westrich concerning the proposed fee schedule adjustment for ambulance services. I explained to Chief that my main problem with the proposed resolution is the fact that it completely fails to define "resident" and "non-resident". It is mainly for this reason which I oppose the proposal, and will continue to do so.

The proposed fee schedule mentions resident and non-resident rates but fails to define those categories other than to say "of whitestown".

Is a resident defined as someone in the town limits?

Is a resident someone in the limits of Whitestown AND worth township?

Is a resident anyone covered by the interlocal agreement?

Does it consider unincorporated worth residents as non-residents as seems to be the case in my opinion (and would fit the legal definition of such)?

Will our incorporated worth constituents pay one set of fees while our unincorporated constituents pay a higher set of fees, despite paying the same tax rate and being covered by the exact same interlocal agreement? (which is how I initially interpreted the proposal)

It's my contention that this proposal, as written, is incomplete and could actually discriminate against a portion of the constituents that we represent.

Our own legal counsel would be one of those saddled with the higher rates.

Well, Chief Westrich has informed me that "resident" is actually anyone in the WFD service area, which includes anyone covered under the umbrella of the interlocal agreement, which includes our constituents in the unincorporated area. He assures me that their software makes this differentiation when billing, but the proposed resolution does not make that same differentiation.

I suggested to Chief that the proposed resolution needs to be rewritten to include a solid definition of those two terms, and to more clearly define those cost increases and their application.

The town council meets next week, and I would suggest that this be brought to their attention right away and that they withdraw the proposed resolution which they have already signed and replace it with a proper proposal that addresses my concerns and includes appropriate definitions.

or, we can make the changes ourselves, take the lead and vote on our resolution first, then send it to them to mirror.

Of course, this all hinges on a renewal of the interlocal agreement.

Thank you

Mike Hancock