

## Worth Township Advisory Board Meeting

**Date:** December 19, 2023

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

- **Meeting called to order:** 6:00pm
- **Present:** Shelby Hasz, Will Jacob, Mike Hancock
- **Absent:** None
- **Trustee:** Jim Baldwin was present
- **Legal Counsel:** Jeff Jacob was present

**Approval of agenda:** Trustee Baldwin asked to add a new business item to consider moving \$30 from one line item to another. Motion to approve agenda as amended made by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will **Vote 3-0**

**Action on Previous Minutes of 10/16/2023:** Motion to approve made by Will, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shelby **Vote 3-0**

### **Agenda Item 1: Consider Resolution 2023-03 for Additional Appropriations Request**

Trustee Baldwin presented information showing that there was a shortfall in funding for township assistance, which is at an all-time high, and that he would need to move an additional \$30,000 into that budget line item to avoid a negative balance currently projected at -\$17,437. The budgeted amount for this fund was \$60,000. Trustee Baldwin supplied information that \$77,437 has been expended from this line item to date and that 78% of those expenditures were attributed to the "Meadows on Main" neighborhood. Board discussion included questions about eligibility, types of assistance requested, and % of denials for not meeting requirements.

### **Agenda Item 2: Consider moving money in the budget**

Trustee presented information showing that he would need to move \$30 from line item 2ab (stationary, office supplies) to line item 3e (utilities) due to utilities running slightly higher than expected and resulting in a shortfall of \$25.10

Motion to approve the moving of money as stated made by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will **Vote 3-0**

### **Agenda Item 3: Township Assistance Guidelines**

Trustee Baldwin presented the board with the rough draft guidelines to the board for consideration. Trustee Baldwin asked the board to review with final discussion and possible adoption at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting date. Jeff Jacob highlighted some of the policy provisions, and the reasoning behind the language in the draft. Board discussion and feedback took place.

#### **Agenda item 4: Updates**

- 1) Fire Board- Trustee Baldwin and Mike gave a recap of the December 6<sup>th</sup> fire board meeting as it related to the introduction of a proposal for a contract between the town and the firefighter's union. Fire board was caught off guard by the introduction of the contract, which had never been a topic of discussion and therefore the board was unaware that negotiations had been occurring over the previous few months in secret. The fire board felt unprepared to make any recommendation on the contract and a unanimous vote was recorded asking the town council to keep the contract issue off of their agenda until such time as the fire board could make a recommendation. The town council still placed the contract issue on their agenda for the meeting which took place on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The contract issue received a 1<sup>st</sup> reading but no vote, with council appearing to be set aside the issue until the January meeting and allowing the new incoming council to make the final decision. The town council President then surprised everyone today by scheduling a special meeting for December 21<sup>st</sup> to decide on the contract issue despite no additional meetings, discussion, or input from the fire board. This is the first time this information has been discussed by the Township board. Board discussion took place about the role of the township and fire board in this matter and general feelings about the contract issue, its' effect on the interlocal agreement, the effect on township budget, and how Jeff feels it appears to water down the township's representation on the fire board, but also appears to water down the town's representation. Options were discussed regarding possible actions that could be taken. Jeff Jacob hopes to be able to attend the special meeting to express questions and concerns of the township, and the apparent rush to pass this contract.
  
- 2) Library- Occupancy has been pushed back to late January, with a grand opening in March. HMMPL has sent a draft lease agreement to the Trustee, but it still needs work and Jeff Jacob had suggestions for revisions. Trustee Baldwin expressed concern that his office lease expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and we will not likely be able to move into the new office before that time. Trustee Baldwin expressed a desire to engage with the landlord about entering into a month-to-month lease agreement, if the space hasn't been leased to another party.

Motion to allow the Trustee to engage with the landlord and enter into a month-to-month agreement made by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Will

**Vote 3-0**

- 3) Upcoming Meetings- The next advisory board meeting will be January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 6pm
  
- 4) Advisory Board Pay- Checks and direct deposit receipts were handed out

**Public Comment:** None

**Announcements:** Trustee Baldwin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for their service this year.

**Meeting adjourned:** Motion by Will, 2nd by Shelby

**Vote 3-0**

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

**Approved:**

  
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**Jim Baldwin-Trustee**

  
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**Mike Hancock-Secretary**

  
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**Shelby Hasz-Member**

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**Will Jacob-Member**