

BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2018

The Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Chair Michael Esber, Vice-Chair John Witthuhn, Trustee Christina Kusnerak, Chief Anthony Strazzo and Police Chief Tim Sopkovich.

Esber called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted the meeting was properly advertised.

PRESENTATION:

Chief Strazzo presented the Girl Scout Troop 750. The members of Troop 750 have worked very hard to raise funds for Pet Oxygen masks and have donated enough masks to put one on every piece of equipment in the fire department.

Although previously sworn in, the Chief explained that he would like to have them publicly sworn in, separately. David Haffner is a level two firefighter/EMT, presently in paramedic school. Mr. Haffner is accompanied by Captain Haffner of the Strongsville Fire Department, other family and friends. Nick Mehalic is also a level two firefighter/EMT currently in paramedic school and accompanied by family and friend. Corey Hayden is unaccompanied however if anyone in the audience would like to pin his badge on, feel free to step up. Mr. Hayden is a level two firefighter/paramedic with the Valley City FD, bringing experience to our department. Troop 750 stepped up to stand with Mr. Hayden and pin on his badge. The board congratulated the new recruits.

Chief Strazzo gave a thirty- five minute power point presentation explaining the history, current and future needs of the department. This presentation described the current funding, outlined the future needs of the department and how the current 4.0 mil levy is insufficient. Two different levy request in the power point are a renewal with an increase of 1.2 mils and a renewal with a 2 mil increase. The cost range is \$42.00 to \$210.00 per year depending on the tax valuation of the home. Chief Strazzo gave break downs of all funds collected for the township and how those funds are distributed between the county, schools and township departments. There was detailed information for the use of the funds to include full time personnel, part time clerical support, equipment purchases and repairs and replacing station one.

There was an additional eight minute discussion between the board, Chief Strazzo and the audience. All requested the residents to ask questions and detailed information about the levy. Strazzo offered to address HOA's, scout troops and answer any questions. Witthuhn reminded everyone that the board member's email addresses and phone numbers are listed on the website at the bottom of the page. Esber asked for

anyone that would like to help get the levy passed let them know. Witthuhn stated that the department is operating with a deficit. The department has a small reserve which will not last when continuity operating at a deficit.

MINUTES:

Witthuhn moved to approve the April 24th, 2018 regular meeting Minutes. Esber seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

Kusnerak moved to approve the May 9th, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Witthuhn seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Witthuhn gave an overview of off camera items addressed by the board.

- April 24, 2018 – Executive Session for employee discipline. No action taken.
- May 9, 2018 – Executive Session for employee discipline, different from April 24, 2018. The Board advised the Fiscal Officer to write a letter to the employee and outline the manner in which it was to be delivered.
- Approved an invoice overlooked previously in the meeting to Zashin and Rich in the amount of \$1,453.00.
- A resident had addressed the board at the beginning of the meeting in reference to the difficulties he is having getting approval to build a house. Due to changes required by the county he will now have to go before the township BZA a second time. The board waived the fee for this appearance for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Zoning Department:

Request from the Zoning Inspector to attend the American Planning Association meeting on June 13th, 2018 in Columbus. The class will cost \$50.00. Esber moved to approve. Kusnerak – seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Esber moved to accept Bob Yanacsek resignation from the Brunswick Hills Township Board of Zoning Appeals. Witthuhn seconded. Esber – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

Police Department:

Chief Sopkovich informed the board that two vehicles are in for repairs; Unit 6 for tires and Unit 7 for light bar issues.

Chief Sopkovich requested to attend the FBI National Academy Session 275 from January 7, to March 15, 2019. The 10 week program will be held in Quantico, Va. Witthuhn asked about cost to the township; wages and travel to and from, all other cost is paid by the FBI. Esber asked about possible overtime; Sopkovich stated that should not be a problem and that Bors and Stanford would be in charge. Esber also

asked the benefit to the township; Sopkovich stated that this is a requirement when other departments are looking at Lieutenant's and Chiefs of Police. Witthuhn stated that this is a great personal opportunity for Chief Sopkovich and is in agreement that he should be able to attend if he chooses; however, the wages are a substantial cost to the township at an estimated \$15,000.00. Witthuhn asked about Chief Sopkovich using personal time to attend verses the township paying the salary. No additional discussion. Kusnerak moved to approve. Esber seconded. Witthuhn – due to personal time not being considered – no. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Kusnerak asked Sopkovich to address transient vendor's license and who needs to get one. Sopkovich stated any one going door to door, ice cream truck, lawn care companies, etc. Sopkovich advised that a transient vendor's license helps the department to safe guard from unwanted, unnecessary solicitation. Kusnerak advised those who do not want solicitors knocking on their door to post a sign stating so.

Fire Department:

Chief Strazzo reported:

- Car 25 paint claim update, after much back and forth with Ford, the hood will be replaced at a cost of \$500.00.
- I-pad Update – No one was informed that the I-pad came without an air card, which reduces the connectivity when in the squad. There were discussions surrounding the possibility of keeping the I-pads at the station. Most departments have returned them to the state.
- Brunswick Education Foundation Thank You Letter for the donation of a ride to school on the last day by the Brunswick Hills Fire Department.
- We held a fire prevention information session for Westbury Place residents. There were 30 to 35 people in attendance. Thank you to Donut Land for donating donuts and to the Hinckley Fire Department for the use of their fire safety house.
- Hickory Ridge invited members to a luncheon and they had a wonderful time.

Service Department:

TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Chris Kusnerak:

Kusnerak moved to approve pay the City of Brunswick \$14,746.95 for cable fees. Esber seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn – abstain. Motion carried.

John Witthuhn:

Witthuhn reported on the recent phone outage advising that if you called and believe you left a message please call back. We had received a quote to upgrade and decided not to spend the money at this time with the possibility of moving. Witthuhn advised that an updated quote was received and forward to the board for consideration. The

system can move with the township. Witthuhn also believes that repairing the current system is not a viable option due to lack of parts and the only local vendor being over an hour away.

Mike Esber:

Esber announced that there are openings on the zoning boards; two on the zoning commission and one on the board of zoning appeals. Should anyone be interested please contact any trustee.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Fiscal officer left payroll, purchase orders and warrants to be signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kusnerak reported that at the Ohio Township Association meeting that Marybeth Gunther from the auditor's office advised that documents for levies have changed and to contact the prosecutor's office when putting on a levy.

NEW BUSINESS, MISCELLANEOUS & CORRESPONDENCE:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Trustees: June 12th ZC: June 7th
BZA: June 6th Storm Water
Special:

PUBLIC INPUT:

OFF CAMERA:

Esber moved to go off camera at 8:16 pm for the signing of warrants, purchase orders and any other business brought before the board. There will be an executive session for employee discipline. Witthuhn seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

At 8:38 pm, Witthuhn moved to go into executive session for the purpose of employee discipline. Esber seconded. Chief Strazzo and Howard Goodyear were invited in. All votes yes. Motion carried.

At 9:23 pm, Kusnerak moved to come out of executive session at 9:23 pm. Esber seconded. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Employee to provide written agreement for review.

ADJOURN:

Witthuhn moved to adjourn at 9:28 pm. Esber seconded. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Michael Esber, Chair Trustee

Katherine Esber, Fiscal Officer

John Witthuhn, Vice-Chair Trustee

Christina Kusnerak, Trustee