

<<<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING 3/22/06>>>

David Petty, Chairperson, called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of a quarterly meeting discussion of fire department operations. Members present were Trustees Petty, Brian Randles, Joseph Smith and Carol Moore, Fiscal Officer. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Office Admin & Bldg/Zoning Admin; and several firefighters.

Discussion regarding a new deferred compensation contract that had been presented by George Banjoff of Dawson Companies to Fiscal Officer Moore for signature. Ohio Firefighters deferred compensation plan is changing. Petty said he, Moore, and Brad Shull had a conference call with Richard Wells of Security Benefits to discuss concerns about the proposed new role of the township in the deferred compensation program. They will have legal counsel (Paul-Michael La Fayette) review the contract before agreeing to anything. The firefighters believe the sales representative did not explain the program as well as he should have. Shull said he does not think there has been any shifty activity, he just thinks it has been poorly marketed. Moore said she has a different opinion on the company and believes they have been misleading in their presentation of the papers they would like to have the township sign. She said the township's role will be different from what it was before. We will now own the program whereas we did not own it before. We just withheld the money from payroll and sent it to Ohio Firefighters. Shull is going to contact the Columbus Fire Department for information because Wells had said in the teleconference that the City of Columbus signed up for the new program. Moore stated she had heard that Washington Township in another county was advised by their legal counsel not to sign. Shull agreed that the township should thoroughly check it out before signing the contract. He said he thinks everything is legitimate and that it is an honest changeover. Petty said he is not totally pleased with previous legal counsel and would prefer not to use him. Smith said he was satisfied with past legal counsel. Shull appreciates the trustees and fiscal officer working with them on this issue. Moore said the contract will be presented to legal counsel for review upon her receiving an addendum that Wells is to email to her.

Discussion of new medic: Shull said there are some more items needing to be done to it so it is not in service.

Discussion of the fire department's response to a call of lightning striking the township office. No damage was found. A "Knox-Box" will be installed so that keys will be readily available for firefighters for any future emergencies.

Shull said Chief Gill has discussed the new Greencastle sub-station and they are excited about it. He said there will be contract issues that will need settled.

Smith asked the status of tornado sirens since the township paid for the delivery. Petty said the county EMA director will come to a future meeting to discuss the issue. Smith expressed concern that the township paid for the delivery but there is not a definite answer on the status of the issue. Randles said the trustees will ask Chief Gill about the status.

Justin Vermillion told the trustees the department will work with Cyphert on getting publicity for the new striping system for the fire department vehicles designed for safety purposes.

Smith said the American Legion will be cutting a donation to them in the near future. Randles asked if a new firefighter would be hired, would that reduce overtime. Shull said yes. Vermillion said the only time there is overtime now is if someone is off sick.

Petty adjourned the meeting.

David Petty
Chairperson

Carol J. Moore
Fiscal Officer