

Chairman Augustine called the special meeting of the Hinckley Township Board of Trustees to order at 11:33 a.m. on February 22, 2022. Present were Trustees Augustine, Ascherl and Swedyk, Fiscal Officer Martha Catherwood, Fire Chief Grossenbaugh, Police Chief Centner, Road Superintendent Mike Behary, Suzanne Peterlin, four residents in person and two residents remote via Zoom.

Ms. Augustine stated the purpose of the Special Meeting was to hold a work session.

### **POLICE**

Chief Centner informed the Trustees that he has not been able to discuss the police building donation with the anonymous donor yet.

### **FIRE**

Chief Grossenbaugh stated the following items will be on the regular meeting agenda:

1. 4 firefighters will move up to higher pay rates
2. Jessica Roberts has submitted her resignation from the fire department

Chief Grossenbaugh presented a PowerPoint presentation on the future direction of the Township fire department and the need to increase funding through a 1-mill renewal and 1-mill additional levy for 2022. He indicated that the direction of the department is to hire a full-time Chief and three full-time firefighters, which would give the department a daily three -member work force and ensure a medic on every call. Currently, the fire department staffs with two members and he feels the need for three members is necessary for improved patient care.

The presentation noted that in 2021 there were 790 total calls for service. The department currently has 31 part time members.

The Trustees thanked Chief Grossenbaugh for the presentation. Chief Grossenbaugh explained that it continues to be difficult to retain staff due to the competitive nature of the fire service and feels full time personnel will help retain staff.

Mr. Swedyk stated that his concern was potential impact to the taxpayers, while providing necessary services. Ms. Ascherl asked Chief Grossenbaugh if an hourly wage increase would assist in retention; rather than full time staffing. Several current Township firefighters replied that additional pay per hour may aide in retention, but full-time staffing will vest firefighters in the Township.

Mrs. Catherwood asked Chief Grossenbaugh how many part-time firefighters will be required if the department hires the full-time staff, he replied that 30 part-time firefighters will still be required to staff 24/7.

Dave Manley, President of the Hinckley Historical Society informed the Trustees that the Historical Building may need a furnace repair or replacement. He provided a quote from S & S Heating. Mr. Behary will look into the concern.

### **SERVICE**

Mr. Behary informed the Trustees that representatives of the Medina County Engineers Office will attend the next work session to answer questions about potential Township subdivision standard changes.

Mr. Behary is also obtaining quotes for replacing town hall exterior doors.

### **ZONING**

Ms. Augustine is working Zoning Inspector Tom Wilson and Zoning Secretary Suzanne Peterlin on reviewing the Zoning Fee Schedule.

### **TRUSTEES**

Mr. Swedyk discussed his conversation with Assistant Medina County Prosecutor Brian Richter about defining a “resident” in order to allow, with Trustee approval, the purchase of cemetery lots by former residents of the Township. Mr. Richter suggested reviewing the language used by Granger Township for this allowance.

A discussion regarding dates for putting the east wall of the former fire station energy efficiency project out for bid were offered and will be placed in the next regular meeting agenda.

Mr. Swedyk stated that he would like to require exit interviews for employees leaving Township employment. He feels that these mandatory meetings would be helpful in determining areas to improve upon.

Mr. Swedyk added that he had attended a recent Medina County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch meeting. The Sheriff’s Office would like all dispatch contracts to model the 5-year contract Chief Centner negotiated in 2019. The Hinckley Township contract is currently in year 3 of a 5-year term.

Ms. Augustine informed the Trustees that HB 55 passed, allowing for virtual meetings. She also stated that the Township will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025.

The Trustees discussed the proposed scope of work for the Township website update. It was decided that each Trustee will choose a vendor to present their services at a future work session. Functionality, ADA compliance and the ability to link with Zoom were identified as necessary components of any website update.

The Trustees will post an opening for the remaining Zoning Commission Alternate position.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Ms. Peterlin stated that she is working on freeing up Zoom Room space either by moving to a hard drive or an external drive. She added that based on her research with the State; all three Trustees may sell lots, but their only needs to be one additional contact person in addition to Ms. Peterlin.

**PUBLIC**

Residents Nikki Long and Jim Larson presented the Trustees with an analysis they undertook exhibiting bias in the Comprehensive Steering Committee selection process. Their analysis indicated that the final selection responses deviated significantly from the response of the entire group of those that applied for the committee. She provided several questions exhibiting these deviations including; preferences for lot sizes, conservation development support, business uses and the extension of water to Hinckley’s center. They felt that the deviations reflected exhibited a lack of balance and fairness in the selection process.

Both Ms. Long and Mr. Larson asked the Trustees to consider steps to balance the composition of the current committee in order to better reflect the responses of all the applicants.

Ms. Augustine replied that every application was considered equally and that she has received compliments on the process and feels the former Board did a good job in objectively choosing a committee. She added that the questions analyzed by Ms. Long and Mr. Larson were not the sole factor in choosing committee members.

A discussion ensued as to why the questions were included if they were not used in the selection process. Ms. Augustine replied that there a number of factors that went into the decision-making of the former Board. She added that Police Chief Centner and Sergeant Schroll were also involved in the final selection.

Ms. Ascherl stated that she saw applications that were dated after the publicized application deadline. Ms. Augustine replied that a deadline was not followed and she stated publicly that all applications would be accepted. Ms. Ascherl feels she and Mr. Swedyk should be able to add additional members. It was recommended that she ask Mr. Schmidt of OHM if this would be acceptable.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Augustine made a motion to adjourn at 2:34 p.m. Swedyk second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

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