

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING - FIRE PRIORITIES**  
**October 3, 2016**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Laura Moreau, Clerk



**Call to Order:** Supervisor Walls called the October 3, 2016 Special Workshop Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 6:09 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Rd., Davisburg, MI 48350.

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present**

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Laura Moreau	Township Clerk
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

**Board Members Not Present**

None

**New Business:**

1. Fire Priorities
  - a. Water Sources

Supervisor Walls outlined different water sources in the Township that can be utilized with the TurboDraft equipment and that already exist.

Chief Feichtner stated that through ISO, we can only get credit for water sources over 30,000 gallons. The Civic Center 25,000 gallon tank no longer qualifies for credit.

Supervisor Walls summarized other water sources including Big Lake, Dixie Lake, Susin Lake, Bridge Lake and Waumegah Lake. The Department looked at the water source off of Leddy's Lane. We get credit for the hydrants that are in White Lake and adjacent to the southwest part of the Township. The Chief has located an engineer that can more accurately determine qualifying water sources. His services range from \$400 to \$1,000 each for 10 or 11 sites. The estimate is \$6600. The Board will need to approve the consultant agreement.

Board members discussed water sources.

Trustee Cooper asked if there were enough access points to meet the criteria.

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**SPECIAL MEETING - FIRE PRIORITIES**  
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Chief Feichtner responded that the one spot in the Township that we are “water poor” is down Ormond Road in the southwest corner. There are not enough access points for water and the travel distance is too long. He pointed out an area where they could add a well which would be ideal because the transformers are already there. They also looked at putting a well on the east side and he pointed out that site. He stated that Independence Township would share cost of a well that was in this area because there are no water sites for that part of Independence Township in this area either. Independence Township would also consider splitting funding further with their DPW Department.

Trustee Hopper asked if there were grant programs available for installing wells.

Chief Feichtner answered no.

Trustee Cooper asked if they need them to meet the criteria.

Chief Feichtner stated that if they get the Township’s water sources credited, they will send notice to the ISO consultant for the 10-11 sources. The consultant will do the same mathematical calculation and he will determine where they should definitely go. Chief Feichtner pointed out the proposed water well locations that the consultant recommended.

Supervisor Walls indicated that the well locations and water source locations that were recommended by the consultant were based on mathematical calculations.

b. Station Construction

Supervisor Walls stated that the ISO consultant advised that if we are not going to construct Station 3 then we should not even get in touch with ISO because that is the only way we can get 85% or more of the buildable area in the Township within 5 miles of a fire station. There was reference in his summary to Station 1 and Station 2 because they already exist. He presumes the consultant felt that the equipment in Station 1 that exists can still be put in there to meet the minimum criteria.

Chief Feichtner replied as long as we put 4,000 gallons of water in the station. In order to have the water that we need to have available to drop our ISO number, the equipment we have right now will be put into Station 3 will do what they need.

Clerk Moreau asked if we are still planning on for a polling place at the new station 3.

Supervisor Walls stated that if that is something the Board wants to include, then it should be in the design details. The apparatus room probably would not work well for this use.

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Chief Feichtner suggested having two bays and an office area in each station.

Clerk Moreau stated that Andersonville Elementary is not ideal for voting and the schools are getting wary of strangers and visitors to the school. They have decided to have a police officer on duty during election day. They are either in the cafeteria and that causes a problem and is disruptive or for smaller elections the precinct is set up in a music room which is too small. Springfield Plains is not as big of an impact because there is an exterior door right into the cafeteria area that is utilized. Voting at each new fire station would serve the community and there is a good reason to do it. If there is considerable cost, perhaps Station 1 can be smaller than Station 3.

Chief Feichtner stated that the community room would also work for associations too.

Clerk Moreau stated that the Board should look at the dual purpose for those buildings to serve our community.

Supervisor Walls asked for an estimate of what a polling place would require.

Clerk Moreau indicated that she could provide it.

Chief Feichtner suggested that he confer with Clerk Moreau regarding the requirements and the cost per square foot.

Clerk Moreau stated that they are making a contribution from the General Fund for the new station and she believes that is reason for the support.

Trustee Hensler agreed. She would like to see the costs.

Supervisor Walls stated that this use would increase the restroom capacity level.

Clerk Moreau suggested looking into the feasibility of cost.

Trustee Vallad asked about the cost of \$1.9 million for the new stations.

Supervisor Walls answered that it was \$900,000 for Station 1 which is least \$50,000 more than they used before and they used \$600,000 for Station 3. These are educated guesses. He stated that \$1.9 is the total capital outlay including vehicles.

Supervisor Walls asked what the priority was for Station 1 and Station 3. They are a little ahead of things with Station 3 in hiring a contractor. The Station 1 site plan has not

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**SPRINGFIELD**  
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progressed much. The designs will be similar for both stations. The estimates for Station 1 for site work could be lower or higher depending on where they find the outlet for storm water drainage. He explained the pond beside the site and how it could require approval from all of the property owners.

Board members discussed the priority of building Station 1 or Station 3 first and the benefits to building them concurrently.

Treasurer Dubre replied that the priority depends on what kind of savings they could really get if they did them at the same time.

Trustee Vallad asked how long they could continue to use Station 1 if they decide to start on Station 3 first.

Chief Feichtner replied that the new tanker will not fit into Station 1 now. The ISO consultant was planning on the station moving up to street and his recommendations were based on this. He stated that they are planning on ISO re-evaluation next fall but for that to happen, Station 1 and Station 3 would have to be funded and underway by that time.

Trustee Vallad and Trustee Hensler agreed that they should do both of them.

Supervisor Walls stated that the ISO consultant indicated that there might be change in the ISO standards in 2018.

Chief Feichtner stated that if they push that construction schedule into December, they would still be covered. He stated that the ISO evaluation consists of the consultant spending four hours in the community evaluating. He stated that much of the work is done prior to their visit.

Clerk Moreau asked how much advance notice they need to set up the ISO evaluation date.

Chief Feichtner stated that they need eight to ten months notification.

Trustee Hopper indicated that they should do both stations at the same time.

Treasurer Dubre agreed with doing both stations at the same time.

Chief Feichtner stated that Mark Yovich indicated that they could do both at once and this is where the savings come in.

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
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**October 3, 2016**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
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Board members discussed building the stations at the same time and the site location of Station 3. Majority agreed to building both stations at the same time.

Supervisor Walls stated that they either need to rezone the three parcels or change the ordinance. They need to be rezoned to Public Service. The Board can change the residential zoning so that it will allow fire stations and then they could either go through the Special Land Use process.

Clerk Moreau stated that the current Station 1 is zoned residential.

Treasurer Dubre suggested changing them to Public Service zoning.

Board members agreed that all three parcels should be rezoned to Public Service. They agreed that they would do existing Station 1, proposed Station 1 and the two parcels that make up proposed Station 3.

c. Finances

Treasurer Dubre stated that Clarkston State Bank was willing to negotiate and look at a loan. She provided a summary of the financial options available from Clarkston State Bank and distributed a document to all Board members.

Supervisor Walls asked if it was still possible to bond.

Treasurer Dubre answered yes; we are allowed to borrow up to a certain amount of money. There is additional monies needed to bond, for example financial advisors and bond counsel, and this can be a considerable amount of money. There is no prepayment allowed.

Supervisor Walls stated that the Farmers Home Association has a loan program for public facilities. Interest rate was less than 2.5% he thinks.

Board members discussed the time frame that would be needed to accomplish all of the steps.

Supervisor Walls asked if the bank would consider the equipment loan and the station loan at the same time.

Treasurer Dubre answered that they will consider both but they will not loan the money in the same manner. She is confident that it would be an easy process through Clarkston State Bank.



Supervisor Walls stated that demolition of the Mason Temple can happen any time but not recommended. The problem is when it is demolished, the area has to be filled in and you would want to avoid filling in an area that you will have to dig out anyway. He confirmed that asbestos is present in the tile floors.

d. Vehicles

Supervisor Walls stated that this category includes all equipment. The difference between an engine company and a service company is hose. The service company does not have hose.

Clerk Moreau stated that Chief Feichtner added retain Engine 3 as a service truck rather than sell when a replacement is purchased.

Chief Feichtner clarified that the hoses would be taken off of Engine 3 and ladders would be added.

Trustee Cooper asked how many service trucks they would have.

Chief Feichtner answered that they would have one truck. Technically they need two but they are allowed to have the stuff that would be on that second service vehicle and distribute it to other trucks that are in service. This would fulfill the requirement.

Clerk Moreau stated that the first three vehicles on the revised replacement schedule are completely done or close to completion.

Chief Feichtner clarified that the Brush Truck was ordered and would arrive around December and new Engine 3 is being prepped and equipped now. Old Engine 3 would become the service truck.

Clerk Moreau asked if the new equipment was worked into the budget numbers.

Chief Feichtner answered yes.

Supervisor Walls asked if we should accelerate the high volume tanker purchase.

Chief Feichtner replied that it would benefit the Township and the water needs to eliminate the current tankers and replace them with bigger ones. This is something that the ISO consultant indicated that should be on the 1-3 year plan. They had a salesman come and appraise the current two tankers. He stated that if they did want to accelerate this purchase, it would involve selling their current two. He referred to the document which

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**SPECIAL MEETING - FIRE PRIORITIES**  
**October 3, 2016**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
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reflected the decision months ago which was to keep the current two tanks and instead of refurbishing them, they would get rid of them at that point and replace them with larger tankers. He summarized the fund amounts that would have to be set aside.

Chief Feichtner stated that based on the information from the ISO consultant, it would make sense to increase the tanker capacity and replace them.

Clerk Moreau stated that to decrease the rating in 2017, it only requires purchasing a tanker in 2017.

Chief Feichtner answered yes. He stated that once they send the flow numbers to the ISO consultant, it comes down to the math. By increasing their flow sources, they will be able to bump that up.

Board members discussed the water flow amounts and how this affects the ISO rating and tanker replacement.

Treasurer Dubre asked Chief Feichtner to provide the numbers for financing the new tankers.

Trustee Cooper asked if a new tanker would fit in Station 1.

Chief Feichtner replied it would depend. They would have to get a new tanker for Station 3 in 2017. He will look into financing options.

Supervisor Walls explained the Miscellaneous and Assorted Required Equipment column which was recommended by the ISO Consultant.

Chief Feichtner provided details on this equipment category and explained what was purchased so far. They will move some of the equipment to the appropriate truck since they do have a complete inventory now. He clarified how much still needs to be spent and indicated that it wouldn't be more than \$2,000 more in this category.

e. Communications

Trustee Vallad asked about the communication between the ISO Consultant and Oakland County.

Chief Feichtner stated that the ISO Consultant went to dispatch and looked at their capabilities and evaluated the County's dispatch center. Out of a total of 10 points, they were an 8.5 and he told the County things that they should be doing. Some of these items require a large capital outlay by the County.

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING - FIRE PRIORITIES**  
**October 3, 2016**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
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Clerk Moreau asked if Springfield Township is required to purchase software.

Chief Feichtner replied that the software that the consultant recommended was already provided by the County. We need to have a second way to indicate that a call is going out. Cell phones don't count because the Department doesn't own the software. The County already provides a document displaying the call and also provides a map and this is already part of the software that the County provides. The Department simply bought a television, mounted it to the wall and refurbished a computer and now that system is operational. The capability is only required at the station that is staffed 24/7.

Clerk Moreau asked about the age of the previous ISO rating document.

Supervisor Walls indicated it was done in 1997.

Chief Feichtner replied that every several years ISO will re-survey your community by sending you a survey which you fill out and send back to them.

Supervisor Walls stated that there was a recommendation by the ISO consultant that they had to make sure that all of the buildings were 32 feet or less in order to avoid having to have a ladder truck.

Clerk Feichtner stated that ISO now shows the Township needing a ladder company. They determine this by looking at how many buildings require more than 4,000 gallons of water or buildings that are higher than 32 feet. There are several buildings in the Township that are within these fire flows. The Chief will submit for all changes and ISO will send out a staff member to confirm.

Supervisor Walls stated that we need to address ordinance provisions for building height; currently we do allow up to up to 40 feet in some zoning districts. The difficulty is that industrial and large commercial buildings are more prone to flat roofs. The measurement of height with a basement begins halfway between the basement floor and the first floor and then you go to the midpoint of the ridge and eave. He confirmed the current ordinance amounts for different zoning districts. They need to go back and take a look at the height requirements and there should be an ordinance amendment that determines what the developer has to do to get higher buildings. He asked how much a small ladder truck would be.

Chief Feichtner replied \$150,000. If you want to build taller and it has sprinkler system, it doesn't count against us.





Clerk Moreau stated that it would make sense to require a sprinkler system in buildings over a certain height.

Chief Feichtner replied that a lot of communities have a sprinkler system requirement built into their ordinance based on usage, size and height. He stated that once they can confirm that they have so many gallons per minute, then they can get credit for mutual aid.

f. Personnel

Supervisor Walls asked how many applicants they had for the full time fire fighter position.

Chief Feichtner replied that there are eight applicants. First round interviews are on October 6<sup>th</sup> and the second interviews are the following Friday. The physical agility test will be the final week along with the final interview and then they will forward to the Supervisor's Office to extend the job offer. Lt. Hart, with three officers from other departments, conducted the first round interview. The second round will be with Capt. Strickland and three other officers of similar rank from other departments. The applicants will receive a score and ranking depending on these interviews and this will be worked in with the physical agility test. He will interview the top three candidates with three other chiefs and then he will make a recommendation.

Chief Feichtner commented on the tracking program supported by the ISO consultant and the fact that he doesn't know if the cost warrants the usefulness of the software.

Clerk Moreau asked if not for ISO, would it be good for managing response with this type of department.

Chief Feichtner stated that he and the other officers have done an excellent job of tracking availability and he provided examples. This is working very well.

Supervisor Walls stated that he doesn't think the concern is with providing for the minimal response. The question is how you let personnel know when suddenly there isn't enough or when you are ending up with more people than you need.

Board members and Chief Feichtner discussed scheduling software.

Trustee Vallad asked about the ISO requirement of having a minimum of four responding. He asked if you get knocked down by ISO according to the number of times you are below four.

Chief Feichtner replied that ISO requires 85% of the time.

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING - FIRE PRIORITIES**  
**October 3, 2016**



Supervisor Walls asked how many on the monthly incident chart were structure fires.

Chief Feichtner replied fifteen. He stated that the ISO requirement applies to structure fires; the four personnel minimum does not apply to medical costs.

Clerk Moreau asked if the response to a structure fire was less than four and mutual aid was used, do they get credit for that?

Chief Feichtner replied yes.

Supervisor Walls asked if there is a cost to utilize the OCC training facility.

Chief Feichtner replied yes. He explained how that facility training was organized. This cost is included in the tuition and training line item, about \$5,000 to \$7,000 for this training was included.

Supervisor Walls asked if other departments had non-incident pay.

Chief Feichtner replied that they pay them out of shift pay; it is not separated.

Clerk Moreau referred to the chart which compares pay rates with other communities. She asked why Novi was included.

Chief Feichtner stated that he sent out the same question to all of the MAVIS departments and the departments that are paid on call. The chart included those who responded.

Treasurer Dubre asked about Oakland Township.

Chief Feichtner replied he would reach out to them.

Treasurer Dubre asked if the wage amounts included medical, 401K, etc.

Chief Feichtner replied that he has a larger sheet but it does not include this information. He confirmed that he would email this to the Board members.

Clerk Moreau suggested that they contact MTA and request a custom report with the same type of information.

Chief Feichtner explained the comparison chart.

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
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**October 3, 2016**

**SPRINGFIELD**  
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Supervisor Walls said Treasurer Dubre would like the cost of medical insurance and employee contributions to medical insurance added to the chart.

Chief Feichtner will request that information.

Supervisor Walls stated that he should also delete Novi because they are really not comparable.

Board members discussed the wage Comparison Chart of other departments that was distributed.

Supervisor Walls asked about training pay for fire fighters and if this was meant to be all full time fire fighters.

Chief Feichtner stated that it was meant for the new fire fighter too.

Supervisor Walls asked why they increased the pay.

Chief Feichtner stated that they had already had a 3% increase budget suggestion for full time and this reflected that increase.

Clerk Moreau asked about the Springfield salary increase on the chart.

Chief Feichtner stated that they were based upon the comparables on the larger sheet and the job requirements that they have asked for.

Clerk Moreau asked why the Chief is requesting to pay separately for training when the Board was just asked to combine all compensation into one increased salary.

Chief Feichtner replied that it was a simple increase at the time that he made the request but with ISO changes the amount of time spent on training will continue to increase. He can find out what the budget ramification is and add that in. He can do it either way. This training is increasing beyond what they had budgeted for last year.

Clerk Moreau asked if the training time at the OCC facility be incorporated into the Monday night or is that additional training.

Chief Feichtner replied that it is separate. Monday night is to meet the bare minimums for EMS continuing education. For some of the required additional fire fighter training, they have to make sure they are using the OCC training facility.

Minutes of  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING - FIRE PRIORITIES**  
**October 3, 2016**



Supervisor Walls stated that for compensating those who complete firefighter 1 and 2, he feels more comfortable reimbursing for out-of-pocket costs rather than paying hourly for training because the policy already allows for this.

Treasurer Dubre stated that leaving the paid call salary numbers as inflated as they are in the budget is very concerning. She summarized the lines that have gone up and how much they have gone up. She suggested that this needs to be looked at and amended. She agrees with the amounts being broken down into categories but the paid on call number is too high. She suggested putting the additional into a contingency fund so in case it is needed.

Clerk Moreau agreed. She understands Treasurer Dubre's concerns.

Trustee Vallad suggested that it could be trimmed and he liked Treasurer Dubre's suggestion that it be put into a contingency fund.

Trustee Hopper commented it would be there if it was needed.

Board members discussed the personnel costs. Members suggested 25% of the Paid Call salary budget be moved to contingency.

Supervisor Walls stated that the Chief and he would talk about it. He stated that lowering it is fine but suggested that he not make a commitment to how low it was going to be lowered.

**Adjourned:** 8:47 p.m.

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Collin W. Walls, Supervisor

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Laura Moreau, Clerk