

Minutes of
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING**
March 17, 2016

SPRINGFIELD
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Laura Moreau, Clerk



Call to Order: Supervisor Walls called the March 17, 2016 Special Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 4:30 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
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

Board Members Not Present

Marc Cooper	Township Trustee
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Supervisor Walls stated that any issue that we face today is a result of the fact that time has bumped us up in our planning process and our inability to generate the revenue through taxes anticipated when those plans were made even though some of those plans were made many years ago. Revenue rates will probably not happen at levels that we have become used to. This is reflective of the fact that not all communities in Oakland County are benefitting from an improvement in the economy. He doesn't think that it would be much different no matter what we had done based on what has happened.

Supervisor Walls stated that the first thing the Board should come out of the meeting with is a reduction of options that are in front of them so that we can sit down and prepare more specific information for actual millage discussion. The deadline to have millage language to the County is May 10th and the Board meeting in May is May 12th. He reviewed the items that he handed out to Board members. He confirmed that the Safer Grant submission deadline was March 25, 2016. This would cover the salary and benefits for two full time firefighters without match for two years.

New Business:

1. Taxable Value Projections

Supervisor Walls asked if there were any questions regarding the memo and information received.

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Trustee Vallad replied no; the memo was thorough.

Supervisor Walls noted that the 1 mil generated less money in 2015 than in 2005.

Trustee Vallad asked when was the last time that they addressed fire millage.

Supervisor Walls replied ten years ago.

Treasurer Dubre answered August 2006 was when it was renewed.

2. Police Millage

Supervisor Walls indicated that Sgt. Baldes had a meeting so would probably not be here. The Board received a chart with projected bi-weekly and annual charges at 2% and 3% annual increase in the Sheriff contract. He thanked Treasurer Dubre for adding the tax revenue collected so it is evident at the highest contract rate projected and the millage rate projected that the Township still generates enough millage at the straight renewal to cover projected costs. He did not project any increases in personnel because he has not had any complaints in service and Sgt. Baldes concurred. The push from the County is to make sure that every substation has a Lieutenant. If this does become something that they need to do, they do have a reserve which may be available. He stated that the recommendation is to combine both of the Polices millages that expired in December 2015 into one millage at 1.4663 mils. He did look at what it would generate if it went back up to 1.5 mils.

Clerk Moreau asked if the proposal language would have to mention something about it being combined.

Supervisor Walls answered he did not think do and indicated that he thinks it is a straight renewal for ten years. He stated that he recollects that the shorter terms historically are for new millage.

Clerk Moreau indicated that a resolution would appear on the April agenda to approve the language.



3. Fire – Capital Outlay Options

Supervisor Walls distributed maps to Board members.

Chief Feichtner stated that on one of the maps they attempted to show where the run volume is. The darker the spot, the more calls there are in that area. The wide view map shows other close communities in which they have been called to provide mutual aid. The zoom view is the Township only. It does not depict 259 calls on I-75.

Supervisor Walls stated that these reports were generated by Independence Township Fire Department's GIS system.

Chief Feichtner explained that he and Capt. Strickland generated the data and Chief Feichtner worked with Mr. Brown in Independence to create the reports. For the second map, Oakland GIS was asked to take the Township area and create a map that shows where they can get in five minutes from both Station 1 and Station 2. He then discussed travel times for different areas of the Township. He outlined the area that would be covered by Station 3 and the benefits of having a station in this area.

Clerk Moreau asked if the data supports re-districting or if it supports the planned location of Station 3.

Chief Feichtner answered both. He stated because they are staffing appropriately, they are now getting to these places in five minutes or less.

Treasurer Dubre asked about response to Indian Springs Metro Park.

Chief Feichtner replied that White Lake's fire department responds to the park.

Supervisor Walls stated that he provided a breakdown of different options for equipment purchases utilizing benefits of used equipment, refurbished equipment and including some new equipment. The biggest difference in the two charts is how quickly they start with new equipment. Farmington Hills is going to be getting rid of an engine which will be 13 years old and still has about 7 years of life for us. Chief Feichtner estimated \$30,000, but he raised it to \$50,000. This engine new would be about \$350,000-\$500,000. In all of

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the projections made by the Township Board in the past, they are much closer to \$300,000-\$400,000. He asked if there was a preference from a comfort level on the use of used vehicles. He asked if they would feel better starting with new equipment.

Clerk Moreau suggested that the Board plan for new equipment but that goal might have to be revisited on August 3rd.

Treasurer Dubre concurred. She suggested that they aim for new and if something great comes along, then they should take advantage of it. She is concerned about the repair cost and the down time when buying used.

Trustee Vallad concurred. They should plan for the higher cost and then have the fall back if they need to take that route.

Trustee Hopper asked if this was taking into account they were going to bid on the used vehicle mentioned earlier; he concurred with that purchase but going forward they should plan for new vehicles.

Supervisor Walls reviewed the options outlined in the documents distributed.

Clerk Moreau and Treasurer Dubre both supported bidding on the engine in Farmington Hills. They would then proceed with buying new unless another appropriate vehicle comes up that they can bid on.

Chief Feichtner stated that whatever they acquire, it has to be a recommended vehicle that conforms to all standards.

Trustee Hensler agreed with the idea that they are going to go with new vehicles. She stated that they should leave it up to the discretion of the Chief if he find something used that is worthwhile.

Trustee Vallad stated that they have not talked a lot about refurbishment.

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Chief Feichtner stated based on the condition of the vehicle at the time of refurbishment, different fire departments are having different results. The concern is that they never know what they are going to find.

Supervisor Walls stated that they can change the figures and use Option #2 to project costs with new vehicles.

Chief Feichtner stated that they should know in the next couple of months regarding the grant for the brush trucks.

Equipment

Supervisor Walls explained that Chief Feichtner informed him that they will have to replace the pagers; they are \$470 each. They will also have to replace all of the hose nozzles.

Trustee Vallad asked what the expected life was for the nozzles.

Chief Feichtner replied 20 years. The pagers are \$470 each and they have to replace 25-30. The estimate for the nozzles is approximately \$17,000.

Supervisor Walls stated that they will add those numbers into the spreadsheets. In all of the documents, he did not include the fact that turn out gear was paid for with grants. He included the grant funding for 2016.

Facilities

Supervisor Walls explained that the suggestion for the new station is to increase the width to 60 feet and the depth to 80 feet. At 80 feet, the Station can accommodate four full sized vehicles. The discussion with the architect was to take a 60 foot by 80 foot building and 2/3 would be equipment and 1/3 would be a vestibule, an office, a gathering area, restrooms, mechanical area and storage/workshop. He asked if Station 1 was a higher priority than Station 3.

Trustee Hopper replied yes.

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Trustee Vallad stated that they need both of them at the same time, but Station 1 was the priority.

Chief Feichtner replied that there would be savings on doing both at once.

Clerk Moreau stated that the maps that the Board just reviewed are helpful. They already have a Station 1 and the last time they spoke, Station 1 was the priority. She stated that seeing the maps shifts her thinking to addressing the need for a Station 3 a lot earlier. It doesn't change the priority of Station 1 over Station 3 but it does change her thinking as far as the millage funding for coverage and response. She stated that if the Board is considering building both stations at the same time, they have justification for that based on the reports. There is a need for Station 3.

Trustee Hopper stated that if they built Station 1 and Station 3, would they have apparatus to put in Station 3.

Chief Feichtner stated that they would move Engine 3 and Rescue 1 to Station 3 to get a quicker response on the southern part of Dixie and also along that portion of I-75. It is a shifting of the trucks that they have.

Trustee Hopper asked what type of facility would be needed for Station 3.

Chief Feichtner answered that they are proposing that Station 3 be a rectangular building, with one bay to hold two trucks back to back and a small area to do reports, bathrooms and small storage area. He anticipates the building would be 30 foot wide but they still need to confirm with the architect how big the bathrooms have to be to be ADA compliant. The facility would be around 2400 to 2600 square feet.

Board members discussed the square footage of the new fire station and the location of the fire station.

Clerk Moreau asked if the bays are heated but not cooled.

Chief Feichtner agreed.

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Clerk Moreau stated that it would be an added benefit to have a new precinct location in this area so they do not have to use Andersonville Elementary, so this is another consideration.

Trustee Hopper suggested that they provide heating and cooling in the office/bathroom area and they could hold the election in that space.

Supervisor Walls asked if they should calculate both stations as part of the millage equation.

Board members confirmed that they want to consider a millage that would provide funding for both stations.

Supervisor Walls stated that he is considering a five year term for the new millage. It gets them “over the hump” with some immediate capital outlay needs and allows for funds to be set aside.

Clerk Moreau stated that if the intent is to expand service and coverage, then the personnel and equipment expense will be ongoing. She believes the Board should look at long term planning, not just the immediate needs.

Supervisor Walls stated that he was thinking long term but was also thinking about a successful millage.

Treasurer Dubre stated that she is opposed to the short millage term. The needs for funding are existing and will only continue to grow. She does not see this as “getting over a hump”. They have four more years to levy the bond and then that falls off.

Supervisor Walls suggested that after the bond comes off, then ask for the additional millage.

Clerk Moreau stated that the proposal should be a change in the coverage and service. It should be for building and maintaining a Station 3 and increased personnel expenses. She stated that it isn’t a short term proposal, it is a long term change in service.

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Trustee Hensler stated that when it comes to a millage question, she pays attention to the amount and how it will affect her, not necessarily the term.

Supervisor Walls stated that he looks at the length of the term. He suggested that they do not spend a lot more time in the term. He asked if in April the Board members wanted to look at language for both replacing Station 1 and a new Station 3.

Trustee Vallad suggested adding language as to when they are going to do Station 3.

Supervisor Walls stated that he will use the architect's number for the anticipated expense.

Treasurer Dubre suggested projecting the costs for building the stations concurrently and doing them separate so the savings could be seen in doing them together.

4. Fire – Personnel Options

Supervisor Walls distributed a list of various personnel options that have been previously mentioned and considered.

Board members discussed the personnel options presented.

Supervisor Walls stated that they have 65-70% of personnel who work shifts. He stated that Chief Feichtner's priority is to continue with shift coverage but provide for full 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

Trustee Hensler stated that she would cross off the second option which is, continue the current shift coverage because she would like it to improve. She does not know which option she prefers.

Trustee Vallad stated that that would eliminate the first two options, eliminate the shift coverage and continue the current shift coverage. He asked Chief Feichtner about the combined shift option with Groveland Township and if Chief McGee indicated that they have an abundance of fire fighters.

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Chief Feichtner stated that Chief McGee has fire fighters that only work shifts. That would allow them to have a pool of people that would love more time, but only work part time for Springfield Township.

Supervisor Walls stated that there are also Springfield residents who work as firefighters in other communities that would like to work hours in Springfield too.

Chief Feichtner replied that they could add them to the pool. He has had people who want to work for both communities.

Clerk Moreau asked whose employees would they be.

Chief Feichtner replied that they would be Springfield Township employees.

Treasurer Dubre stated that she likes that idea and they would be in a different class who might not meet the objective number of runs, etc.

Chief Feichtner stated that he has no problem with someone working a shift in Springfield wearing his Groveland gear.

Clerk Moreau asked if this employee would work a shift at Station 2, but be wearing Groveland gear.

Chief Feichtner stated that they would get them a Springfield Township t-shirt.

Board members discussed these employees, what they would wear and how they would be paid.

Supervisor Walls asked each Board member to rank the options first, second and third.

Treasurer Dubre stated that her number one option is "Add 1 full time fire fighter plus develop combined shift team with Groveland/NOCFA". And then they could add Chief Feichtner's choice of 24 hour coverage on weekends.

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Supervisor Walls asked if Treasurer Dubre was suggesting that the priority should be the team effort. She also said to add Chief Feichtner's priority for full weekend coverage.

Treasurer Dubre indicated that she was looking at the option at the bottom but including the second 12 hour shift on Saturday and Sunday.

Clerk Moreau asked Chief Feichtner if the Department is currently providing 24/7 coverage.

Chief Feichtner replied that right now they are 24/7 during the week days only.

Trustee Hensler asked if this proposal would add one full time firefighter and develop the combined coverage model with the goal being to get to two people per shift all of the time.

Chief Feichtner stated that just to add 24 hour coverage on the weekend, it is going to cost \$15,000 and if the Board agrees, they could start it next month.

Trustee Vallad stated that the Board previously discussed adding a full time firefighter late in the year; he asked if this was still the case.

Board members did not recall a discussion about the time of year that this would take place.

Supervisor Walls confirmed explained that adding a full time fire fighter was shown in the fourth quarter in the memo.

Trustee Vallad stated that then they have time to work on shift coverage on the weekend. He believes that two per shift is the goal. The shift coverage on the weekend is another priority. He agrees with adding the full time firefighter in last part of 2016 and he would like to add another one but they have to see what happens in August.

Chief Feichtner replied that the way that they implemented the shift coverage was great. The pilot program allowed them to make changes and see the effects of those changes.

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Supervisor Walls asked if there was a second choice for priority.

Board members did not have a second choice.

Supervisor Walls stated that with this direction the Board will only have one option to consider at the April meeting.

Treasurer Dubre replied that it does give the Board options because they can cut something out of that plan if needed.

Fire Priorities and Millage

Supervisor Walls stated that his goal is to consider a time line and millage request that will pass. If it doesn't pass in August, they will have to reconsider language for November.

Treasurer Dubre stated that if it doesn't pass in August, the Board would have heard from the voters as to what they don't support.

Supervisor Walls stated that he doesn't think they will know which piece of the plan that the voters didn't support.

Clerk Moreau stated the voters are either going to be in favor of expanding coverage or they are not. The Board will have time after August 2 to reconsider the proposal.

Trustee Hensler stated that residents she has talked to have given favorable responses.

Supervisor Walls confirmed that the Board members wanted a ten year millage term.

Trustee Hopper stated that in ten years, police and fire millages renew at the same time.

Board members discussed the public safety millages and confirmed that the plan is to request a renewal and a new fire millage in August.

Clerk Moreau asked what feedback Chief Feichtner has received.

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Chief Feichtner replied that a lot of people think the station is manned 24/7.

Trustee Vallad stated that he is in favor of a six year millage.

Trustee Hensler confirmed that she wanted a ten year millage.

Chief Feichtner stated that the Fire Department needs a letter of support from the Board to submit for two full time fire fighters in the Safer Grant application. This grant period ends on the 25th. This would be two full time fire fighters for two years.

Trustee Hensler replied that they would then fire them or hire them.

Chief Feichtner clarified that they want to write the grant for two full time firefighters, but if the Board only supports one, they will write the grant for one full time firefighter.

Board members discussed the grant request and confirmed that they support the grant request for two full time firefighters.

Adjourned: 6:22 p.m.

Collin W. Walls, Supervisor

Laura Moreau, Clerk