

MAD RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Session – February 4, 2019

The Mad River Township Trustees met in regular session Monday, February 4, 2019.

Present: Trustees Kathy Estep, Bob McClure, Joe Catanzaro and Fiscal Officer David Rudy

Trustee McClure called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Estep moved to suspend the reading of the minutes of the January 22, 2019 regular session, seconded by Trustee Catanzaro. Motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Catanzaro moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 regular session, seconded by Trustee Estep. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Enon Fire and EMS

Chief Tim Wendling stated the department participated in ice rescue training last weekend. The training included classroom work as well as training in the water with personnel in dive suits. The department has been on 186 runs year to date.

Hustead Fire

Chief Larry Ridenour stated the department had 5 runs in the last 2 weeks and 15 runs YTD. The runs included a call for an injury where a person had been struck by an auto, a medic assist, 2 sprinkler head alarm due to frozen pipes and an auto accident involving a car and a snow plow. Chief reminded the public to slow down when encountering a snow plow on the roadway. The SCBA tests are almost complete and Larry thanked Enon for their help in the testing process.

Hustead EMS

Chief Heather Kaufmann stated the department had been on 29 runs in January 2019 compared to 41 runs in January 2018. Heather said that even though the runs are down, they have had a number of incidents with severe trauma including 3 times calling out Care Flight. Thirteen members of the department are starting an EMT refresher course. The department is preparing for protocol testing and annual checkoffs for the personnel. Chief attended a PTSD seminar that was very informative, and she plans to share the information to the department. On Saturday the Gold Wings riders used the station for a safety program. The Medic is back in service and running well.

Road and Cemetery

Don O'Connor stated the road salt had been delivered and that there was some yard clean up to do for some residents where the snow plow tore up some grass. Don commended his department for the great job on the roads. All trucks are in good working condition. Don had a number of funerals in the cemetery. Trustee Catanzaro stated that he received multiple compliments on the road conditions in the township during the snow storms.

Sheriff Deputy

Deputy Ben Barrett stated he had worked a high profile assist of a rape suspect with the City of Fairborn. He noted the Fire & EMS and road department had been doing a great job. Ben said he addressed the parking issues in multiple areas. A late 90's Chevy truck was stolen from the Kings Ridge area, so he asked for the public to be on the lookout for it. Ben asked the public to update their routers and firewalls to avoid being hacked. He also noted he would be part of the honor guard procession for the Clermont County deputy killed in the line of duty.

Trustee McClure wanted to thank all the Fire, EMS, Road and Sheriff personnel for their work during the cold weather.

Fiscal Officer Rudy presented the credit card statements for Trustee McClure to review and noted a motion was needed to place the levy on the ballot for May.

OLD BUSINESS

At 7:48 pm, Trustee Estep moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the dismissal of a public employee. Seconded by Trustee Catanzaro, motion carried 3-0.

At 8:34 pm, Trustee Estep moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Trustee Catanzaro, motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Estep moved to separate Steve Schaefer from employment during his probationary period. Seconded by Trustee Catanzaro, motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Estep made a resolution to proceed for the purpose of placing a renewal of an existing .80 mills outside of 10 mills on the residents of Mad River Township (including the Village of Enon) for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings or sites therefore; or the purchase of ambulance equipment pursuant to ORC Section 5705.19 (I) to be placed on the May 7, 2019 ballot for the tax years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Catanzaro, motion carried 3-0. (Resolution 2019-004)

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Estep attended the OTA conference and brought back a lot of good information.

Trustee Catanzaro spoke with Tom Hale about zoning concerns from the township. The current process would be to use the public nuisance route which is a lengthy process before being able to assess the resident.

Trustee Estep noted that after talking with Allan Neimayer, there was a committee that is looking into updating zoning regulations based on issues brought to them by townships.

Trustee McClure noted that the county was needing an estimate for the paving projects the township would like to complete this year so the bid process could be started.

Trustee McClure read a prepared statement about the serious allegations against an employee and noted that no further discussion would take place at this time.

Audience Comments

Mr. Dale Grimm asked about the events that took place on Tuesday, January 29th at the Enon Government Center and why notice was not given 24 hours prior as required by the Sunshine Laws. Trustee McClure stated that there was not a meeting held that evening. A couple of exit interviews were scheduled for employees to be handled by Chief Wendling and Trustee Estep. After the interview was complete, Chief Wendling wanted to brief the Trustees on the situation with the allegations against an employee. Trustees Catanzaro and McClure arrived separately and listened to the information from Chief Wendling. After that, Trustees Estep and Catanzaro left. As President, Trustee McClure remained and decided that due to the serious nature of the allegations he and Chief Wendling should take unofficial action against the employee. The Trustees took official action tonight against the employee involved.

Mrs. Kathy Voytko asked why the events took place at the Enon Government Center and who was scheduled for the exit interviews. Trustees stated that they thought the Government Center would be more comfortable site for the interviews. The exit interviews were to be done with Jim Carpenter and Chelsea Brooks. Ms. Brooks did not show.

Mrs. Voytko asked about the screening process, including reference checks. The normal process is to receive an application, interview and screen the candidate and call previous employers. This process is usually completed by a combination of the Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain Bostick and Captain Werner.

Mr. Ned Clark felt there was a violation of the open meetings act and presented a letter to the Trustees requesting a meeting with him to remedy the situation. He also inquired if Deputy Barrett had been asked to look at the complaints. Trustees noted that a discussion had taken place with him.

At 8:50 pm, Trustee Estep moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Catanzaro, motion carried 3-0.