**Mad River Township Board of Trustees**

**Special Session – August 24, 2020**

The Mad River Township Board of Trustees met in special session Monday, August 24, 2020 via Facebook Live from the township road department building due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Present: Trustees Bob McClure, Todd Pettit, Jay Young and Fiscal Officer David Rudy.

Trustee McClure called the meeting to order at 8:41 am.

Fiscal officer David Rudy presented the 2021 Tax Budget to the Trustees for review. The budget is in line with prior years. Discussion included the revenue from the levies and the possibility of using a replacement versus a renewal. The increasing costs of the fire and ems departments are using more of the revenue received each year.

Trustee Pettit motioned to approve the 2021 Tax Budget. Trustee Young seconded the motion. Motion carried by a 3-0 vote. (Resolution 2020-016).

At 8:56am, Trustee Young moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Pettit. Motion carried 3-0.

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Present: Trustees Bob McClure, Todd Pettit, Jay Young and Fiscal Officer David Rudy.

Trustee McClure called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

Residents David and Connie Babcock along with Jonathan Krause, a restaurant consultant and architect Craig Gilley were present to discuss the possibility of using the access driveway to the firehouse from N Harrison Street for access to parking. The lack of onsite parking is the last hurdle in a long line of hurdles to obtain permits to build the Last Queen restaurant at the former J & L location. The Babcock’s own the property and their daughter and son-in-law will run the restaurant.

Trustees concern with the use of the access road is the fact that a number of the rescue vehicles exit that way to get to the highway on a response to the run. The additional parking spaces would be accessed from the driveway. Another trustee concern is the fact that prior requests related to the driveway were not granted. The Babcock’s offered assurance that they would do everything they could, including signs and lights. Chief Wendling also had concerns about moving traffic when the department is responding to the highway. Another concern would be if the parking spots are full, where do the incoming patrons park, do they go through the lot of the fire department, which could cause another incident. Trustees stated a compromise might be to use the lot owned by the trustees off Dayton Road next to the barbershop. Trustees did state they would do what they could to help the owners obtain a variance on the number of parking lot spots and the use of the township lot if it would help the business open.

Trustees moved into discussion of hours and pay structures. Fiscal officer had met with Chief Wendling and David DeVore and are transitioning to a 2-week pay schedule starting August 31st, ending September 13th with the check date of September 18th and then every 2 weeks after that date. The last old schedule check date will be September 9 and will cover the August 2020 hours. The employees will be on a 40-hour workweek with overtime being paid over the 40 hours. Currently there appear to be about five members of the department that will be affected. If there is a switch to the 207(k) standard for firefighters, where those individuals who are trained as firefighters and emts the number of hours per week before overtime would be paid would be 53 hours per week. When the part time paid program was established, a benefit to the program was the members ability to pay into OPERS. If the 207(k) standard week is adopted, the cross trained members loose that benefit, and would pay into Social Security. Trustees wanted to know if we could not pay into OPERS for individuals who did not need that benefit. The 1500-hour rule was discussed as well with the inclusion of insurance benefits. The dispatchers will need to be discussed at the next joint meeting, which is schedule for September 3, 2020.

At 10:34 am, Trustee Young moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Pettit. Motion carried 3-0.