

Madison Township Board Meeting
September 29, 2015
Meeting Held at: Station 32 - 7047 Landersdale Road, Camby, IN 46113

Attending:

Scott McDonough – Trustee
Jim Miles – Board Chairman
James Johnson – Board Secretary
Kenny Johnson – Board Member

Call to Order:

Jim Miles calls meeting to order at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance:

Lead by Scott McDonough

1st Order of Business – Reading of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Jim Miles reads previous meeting minutes out loud.
- Kenny Johnson, makes a motion to approve. James Johnson 2nds motion. Motion passes 3 to 0.

2nd Order of Business – Public Hearing on 2016 Budget

- Trustee McDonough – explains that the 2016 budget is the same as 2015, plus the 2.6% growth factor that the financial consultant told us we could expect.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *Tony Perry – Is opposed to Station 31 closing. Response time will be more than 8 minutes. We need to have two stations.*
- *Trudy Ellis – If we have not been spending the full budget for Township Assistance each year, why are we not lowering the budget?*
- *Trustee McDonough – We need to leave the Township Assistance budget as it was this past year because we found out we were not following the correct income guidelines.*
- *Trudy Ellis – What is the \$3,800 in Township Fund for Community Services*
- *Kelly Alcala – That is the amount budgeted for the Fireworks Celebration.*
- *Trudy Ellis – We spend over \$500 a week on fuel. Can that not be cut?*
- *Chief Lang – We are well within the budget on fuel. We record mileage when we get fuel and when maintenance is done.*
- *Trudy Ellis – The salary for clerical help is unreasonable, and I have offered to do the job for much less.*
- *Jim Miles – Can you please explain the need for the chief's to have response vehicles?*
- *Chief Lang – Those of us with department vehicles will respond from home. We respond from anywhere we are. We are following the policy that has been in place for the past 10 years. The car does no good sitting here at station. We need three because we operate a part time administrative staff.*
- *Jim Miles – So it would slow you down if you have to go to station to pick up a car before you can respond on a run correct?*
- *Chief Lang – Yes*
- *Greg Terhune – What are professional services for? Are they for the Township Attorney or Accountant?*
- *Kelly Alcala – they both would be paid out of that line item.*
- *James Johnson – Is someone doing the care of the cemeteries under contract?*
- *Trustee McDonough – Yes, but I will be opening it up for bid next year.*

Good of the Order –

- Tom Whitley – On the front of the newspaper it says that Station 31 is closing. Is anyone working there?
- Chief Lang – Yes it is open and is staffed with 3 people. If they are not there, they may be on a run or out on training.
- Tom Whitley – I don't see how you can close Station 31 which is in the center of our township. It took me 8 minutes to get from Station 31 to Station 32.
- Jim Miles – We have budget restraints. We are looking at ways to save money. Station 31 is in bad shape. With the past administration, we were looking at putting a new station down there. They didn't get it done and the previous Trustee decided not to move forward with the project. Up here at Station 32 it is where the population center of the township is at. Having 3 guys respond on a run is unsafe.
- Chief Lang – the guys will do the best they can, but it is unsafe.
- Jim Miles – We want to get input on what people in the township really want. The building is in bad shape. To remodel it will take almost as much to build a new one.
- Vince Devalece - I think we should look at the issues of the building and see about remodeling. I would put some money into it and repairing it. It is a good location, and it has done a good job for the money that was put into it originally.
- Jim Miles – We are not going blind into this blind. We had an engineering firm that came to the conclusion that it needs to be replaced.
- Karen O'Connor – Do you have a time frame? We don't know what is going to happen if 69 comes thru.
- Dick Geiger – I live and have a business on the south end of the township. You will not get to my place within 7 minutes. I think that human life is worth a little bit. We don't know what will happen if 69 comes thru, and we need fire service down there. A house could be fully evolved before you could get there if coming from Station 32. Primary duty of the Trustee and Board is to provide fire service. Do not close it, let's wait and see what happens. I care about the people that work for me.
- Cara Miner – my husband is a firefighter with IFD for the past 29 years. It would detrimental to us and others on the south side if the station closes. We do not want the station to close. You keep talking about Paramedics, and they are important.
- Chief Lang – All of our paid staff is FF/Medic or FF/EMT, we have one that is just a Medic only that works part time. We will take all the volunteers that we can get. We have 3 or 4 that are active right now. We have trouble finding them. That is a nationwide problem. It is an 8 to 9 month process to get trained. Because of the requirements that takes 100s of hours to get started. We can't get volunteers.
- Larry Ellis – If some of the major problems with Station 31 is mold and water, have we looked at mold remediation and a retention pond? If we put an ad in the paper, we might get some volunteers to do some of the work.
- Jim Miles – We know what the problems are in the building. There are also structural issues as well. We paid a lot of money to have prints drawn up for a new station down there. The previous administration chose to not move forward with the project.
- Mike Bowman – If you have to put in a new septic and retention pond, we will help. We will help do fundraisers. I hear engines go by my house all the time. I want that Station open and available to help keep my family safe. I will do all I can to help.
- Chief Lang – Thank you all for coming out. We are not pushing this issue. The fire department came to the board asking for direction. In August of 2014 the previous Trustee pulled the plug on the project to build a new station. No matter if there is a new or remodeled station there, we will not get another penny to help staff these stations. The bigger picture is how to properly staff to stations. We have a small group of taxpayers that want budgets cut. We are here to provide the best service we can with the budget we are given. We need the community here that is ready to back better service. If we only have people that show up to meetings that are concerned with the budget and cutting the budget, then we have to lower the service. This is the predicament that we are in. Trying to provide the best service we can, with what we have. We do have to do something with the building soon.
- Jerry Montgomery – Is there grant money available?

- Chief Lang – Harrison Township received a grant in 2009 for a new fire station. They are the only ones in the area that have received a grant like that. Station 31 is pole barn construction. There are water and mold issues. Post have been deteriorating. What appears good from the outside is really not good when you get inside and start looking at it. There is poor drainage, and a poor septic system.
- Mark Husk – I heard in the previous meeting minutes, that you wanted to close the station.
- Ester Mester – The newspaper said it was closing at the end of last month.
- Jim Miles – We agreed to a plan to close that station.
- Tony Slusher – I am worried about firefighter’s safety. Our second engine could be 13 or 14 minutes out. The same two or three people are here at every meeting. We need the same support we see here tonight at all our meetings. Everyone in this area has staffing issues. Everyone is working together. Chief Lang’s number one goal is our safety.
- Eric Brown – Are you leaving the station open and leaving the staffing at 8 per day?
- Jim Miles – We are going to continue to look at a central location.
- Eric Brown – What can we do to educate you that one station will not work? Madison is 27 square miles.
- Larry Ellis – You need a short term goal and a long term goal. Do what you can with the station, then move on with a long term plan.

Motion to Adjourn

James Johnson makes a motion to adjourn meeting. Kenny Johnson 2nds the motion. Motion passes 3 to 0. Meeting is adjourned at 8:48pm.

Scott McDonough – Township Trustee: _____

Jim Miles – Board Chairman: _____

James Johnson – Board Secretary: _____

Kenny Johnson – Board Member: _____

Respectfully Submitted by:
Kelly Alcala
Madison Township Clerk