

Madison Township Board Meeting

April 14, 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 – Election of new Board Secretary

- Jim Miles make a motion to elect James Johnson, as the new Secretary of the Township Board.
- Kenny Johnson 2nds motion.
- Motion passes 3 to 0.

2nd Order of Business – Reading of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Miles reads previous meeting minutes out loud.
- Miles states in the minutes where Mr. Ellis is listed it should state Larry Ellis

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- *Trudy Ellis – stated regarding the Fire Chief's salary being paid out of the Township Fund, instead of the Fire Fund, Becky did say that was a mistake and she would correct it.*
- *Trudy Ellis – stated that it should say that deposits should not be put down on vehicles and others at the meeting agreed with her.*
- *Susan Johnson – would like to know how the credit card problem had been resolved.*
- *Trustee McDonough – said that he has been working with the credit card company for several months, to get the cards cancelled and new cards issued.*

Old Business

3rd Order of Business – PTO Policy

- Jim Miles read the policy out loud.
- Jim Miles stated that the time they have for notification is a short time.
- James Johnson – Does not think that they should be paying excess hours out. They should use it or lose it.
- Chief Lang – stated that per the state, if it is earned, then it has to be paid out. We can cap it or not cap it. If we cap it we have to pay it or force them to take time off. Whatever you award, you have to pay. Looking forward, to next year, splitting it up to Vacation time and Sick time may be the way to go. However we have to get that in policy form. What you have in front of you now, is what has been in place for the past couple of years, with the exception of a few changes to things to protect the department. Plus wording from the Department of Labor.
- James Johnson – Can we work on doing something for next year? We need to make sure it is fair to employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *Trudy Ellis – How can they take their PTO time? Is it in full 24 increments?*
 - *Chief Lang – It has to be in a minimum of 6 hour increments.*
 - *Trudy Ellis – Is there enough money in the budget to pay for all of this?*
 - *Chief Lang – This is something that we have manage, going forward.*
 - *Jim Miles – we haven't gone over budget in the past 4 years, with this policy.*
 - *Chief Lang – employees can monitor their PTO time thru their online account with the payroll company. In addition, administration keeps records as well as the Clerk.*
- Jim Miles – makes a motion that we should approve this as it is written, with the expectation that it will be changed for next year.
 - Chief Lang – would welcome anyone on the Board that would like to sit in on those labor management meetings.
 - James Johnson – would like to sit in on those meetings.
 - Jim Miles – this will be addressed again in September for 2016.
 - James Johnson – 2nd the motion. Motion passes 3 to 0.

New Business**4th Order of Business – Additional Appropriation –**

- Trustee McDonough – this requested additional appropriation it to allow us to spend insurance money that we have received from an accident. Also, money that has been received from assets that have been sold.
- Chief Lang – the request also included county LOIT money that was not included on last year's budget. In addition to the December payment for PERF that was not paid out last year because PERF did not get started by the end of the year.
- Chief Lang – we received \$20,000 for the old rescue and \$3,150 for the sale of the Durango.
- Chief Lang – the \$70,000 out of Cumulative Fund, are for the new Tahoes that were purchased. We had the ability to take it out of the Rainy Day Fund and we did that. However we made Jim Miles aware back in January that these would need to be purchased and he recommended that the money come out of the Cumulative Fund.
- Jim Miles – yes we want to spend this money out of the Cumulative Fund and leave the Rainy Day Fund alone.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *Trudy Ellis – The budget was approved for \$195,000 for the Rainy Day Fund. You have \$60,000 in the Cumulative Fund that you can spend. Now you want another \$70,000 out of the Cumulative Fund? Our assessed value has dropped and we said at budget time you would need to make cuts.*
- *Chief Lang – This money in the Cumulative Fund, we already have. \$30,000 was from selling assets. This is money that is in the bank, but is above the \$60,000 that was budgeted. We have no intention of spending any of the \$195,000 in the Rainy Day Fund.*
- *Trudy Ellis – When you do an additional appropriation, they can spend the money.*
- *Jim Miles – I trust their word, to do what they say they are going to do.*
- *Trudy Ellis – our per capita rate is outrageous in this township. Our budget is unbelievable. Now this additional appropriation is more money that you are spending.*
- *Chief Lang – The \$6069 in Capital Projects 2014 Fund, will be spent on equipment for the tanker or rescue, that they failed to purchase last year. The loan as already taken and we can't spend this money on anything else other than what the loan was taken out for.*
- *Trudy Ellis – other townships that are similar to our size are still operating a fire department with a reasonable amount of funds.*
- *Deputy Chief Buckrop – They are also running their department with volunteers and an average response time of 15 minutes and they do not run an ambulance.*

- *Chief Lang – The issue at hand, is what level of service do we provide? Madison Township, provides an ambulance 24 hours a day, within our own county. This all came about because in the mid-nineties, we couldn't get volunteers. Currently we only have 3 volunteers. Volunteers have to do hundreds of hours in training to continue to be a volunteer. In 2003 the choice was made to provide an ambulance. In 2005 we took the next step to provide Paramedic service. This has all happened over multiple administrations.*
 - *Jim Miles – We want to make the service much more efficient. I came in 4 years ago to make it more efficient, and we are going to continue to try. In September, I would like to start the conversation about consolidation down to one fire house.*
 - *Chief Lang – If we look at tax rates in this township, regardless of budget, our rate has gone down each year. Our tax rate has gone down each year, for the last four years straight.*
 - *Jim Miles – We have inherited what we have. It runs pretty well so far. My goal has always been to lower it marginally as we go along. Make it more efficient. We have accomplished quite a bit. Give us some time we are doing the best we can with what we've got.*
- Kenny Johnson – I do understand what they are doing and we have to trust them to do what they say they are going to do. I make a motion to approve. Jim Miles 2nd the motion. Motion passes 2 to 1.

5th Order of Business – Temporary Transfer of Fund

- Jim Miles – reads the resolution out loud.
- This is a temporary transfer of funds from the Rainy Day Fund, to the Fire Fund for up to \$195,000. This is for cash flow purposes, and has to be paid back by December 31, 2015.
- Chief Lang – the State Board of Accounts require that we keep positive balances in all funds. We use this as a tool for cash purposes instead of taking tax anticipation warrant, which we have done in the past, but costs money.
- Jim Miles – Makes a motion that we accept this as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *Trudy Ellis – does not think that we can borrow the money when there is not \$195,000 in the Rainy Day Fund today.*
 - *Chief Lang – states that this does not mean we will do the transfer until there is \$195,000 in the Rainy Day Fund.*
 - *Kelly Alcalá – states that once the check for the new vehicles transactions is changed to take the money out of the Cumulative Fund, then that will put the balance in the Rainy Day Fund over the \$195,000. Then this transfer can be completed.*
- Kenny Johnson – 2nds the motion to approve this transfer. Motion passes 3 to 0.

6th Order of Business – Resolution to sell 2010 Dodge Charger

- Resolution is to sell 2010 Dodge Charger VIN#2B3AA4CV8AH232117
- James Johnson – what is it worth?
- Trustee McDonough – Between \$5,000 - \$7,000. It has 54,000 miles on it.
- Chief Lang – Will send out a notice to all fire departments that this is available for purchase, to see who is interested. We have to offer it first to other departments. My personal opinion is that the reserve will be too high and it won't sell to other volunteer department. Then we open it up to the public for purchase.
- Chief Lang – this vehicle was purchased out of the Cumulative Fund, so the money must go back in to that fund once it is sold.
- James Johnson – makes a motion to approve the resolution. Miles 2nds. Motion passes 3 to 0.

7th Order of Business – Tornado Siren

- Jim Miles – would like to get a tornado siren for the south end of the township. Can we put that in the budget for next year? I think it would be a good thing to do. We are hoping that we can get REMC, to donate a pole to put it on.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Susan Johnson – who maintains the siren?
- Jim Miles – the county will take it over and then they maintain it. Emergency people for the county take care of it.
- Trudy Ellis – at Station 31 there is not a lot of population right there. Down farther of Kitchen road there are more people, and it would better to be closer to those that need to hear it.
- Jim Miles – You have to pay for whoever’s property you are putting the pole on.
- Trustee McDonough – He would like to put it into the budget for next year.
- Jim Miles – would like to get this done next year and I will bring it back up in September when we start the budget process.
- Trustee McDonough – would like to confirm with EMA for Morgan County that they will take it over and maintain it.

Good of the Order –

- James Johnson – who do you get dispatched from?
- Chief Lang – The Morgan County’s Sheriff’s Department in Martinsville.
- Rick Harrison – Now that we have a competent Clerk in the office, why not let her takeover and do the payroll for the department?
- Trustee McDonough – is looking into that.
- Trudy Ellis – why were there so many voided checks last month?
- Kelly Alcala – states that it was because a problem with the accounting software, that was causing duplicate checks to print. Software company does not know why it is doing this and our current work around, it to unplug the printer right before you print checks and then plug it back in and print immediately. Since doing this, we are not having the duplicate check problem.
- Trudy Ellis – asks about the money that was left in the Debt Building Fund, which was transferred to Rainy Day Fund back in 2014. She cannot find a resolution authorizing that transfer.
- Kelly Alcala – will go back to the Meeting Minutes, and locate that Resolution and email it to her.
- Jim Miles – would like to set the next meeting for September 15, 2015 at 7pm.

Motion to Adjourn

Kenny Johnson makes a motion to adjourn meeting. James Johnson 2nds the motion. Motion passes 3 to 0. Meeting is adjourned at 8:51pm.

Scott McDonough – Township Trustee: _____

Jim Miles – Board Chairman: _____

James Johnson – Board Secretary: _____

Kenny Johnson – Board Member: _____

Respectfully Submitted by:
Kelly Alcala
Madison Township Clerk