

Minutes December 9, 2014 Meeting

The Salem Township Board of Trustees met December 9, 2014 in regular session at the Salem Morrow Fire Station Conference Room for the purpose of transacting the business of the Township. President Heath Kilburn call the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with member Ralph Blanton present. Kirk Ramsey was absent. Heath Kilburn led all those present in the pledge to the flag.

Others present: Don Lynch, Mike Kassalen, Woodie Davis, Ron Stratton, Bob Glancy, Chief LaFollette, Asst. Chief Harrison, Lt. Miller and LuAnn Cain.

The minutes were read and approved and posted on the bulletin board.

Cemetery Updates

11/28/14 Betty & Harold Nease Sec 5 Lot 121 #2 NW Stine Cremation
12/4/14 Rudy Mayne Sr Sec 5 Lot 191 Center East Vales
12/8/14 Adalene Lykins Wilson Sec 5 Lot 13 #2 NE Tufts
12/8/14 RoseAnna Wheeler Gilbert Sec 4 Lot 106 NW Edgington FH

Fire Department/Roads

Bill Harrison brought up the issue of health insurance and ways to keep the cost down. Some of the proposals they have come up with are (1) making the spouse of an employee who has insurance through his/her company available, must take that coverage or pay the difference to have coverage through the spouse, (2) deductibles to be increased from 90/10 to 85/15 (3) do away with the health care credit card that requires the employee share of the deductible to be paid on the back end. He stated these changes would save the fire department approximately \$20,000 on the year and the township \$2,000. Also currently the part time employees now have \$110 allowance toward insurance and then they pay the rest. The new proposal would require them to find their own insurance and they would receive the \$110 toward the cost. That would have a possible \$9000 savings in the deductible. After a brief discussion, Heath Kilburn made a motion to approve these changes to the insurance coverage effective with the new plan year and Ralph Blanton seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Kilburn, yea Mr. Blanton, yea

Harrison brought up the problem with lack of man power. Due to the failure of the levy, they cannot hire any additional full timers, and they have recently had two more workers who no longer want to volunteer. They will need to get more help from other departments As other departments are also having this problem, the fire chief's association has set up zones for who to call on a 2nd alarm. They set up a mass casualty alarm for large casualty accidents such as school bus, greyhound bus, and a school disaster that would automatically call in help.

Regarding the need to update all policies, A/C Harrison said he has gotten policies from other fire departments and townships. He will gather all the information and work up something in January and will take it to the prosecutor to be sure it will meet approval.

Chief LaFollette spoke on the man power problem. If there is a squad run, then there are no men for a fire run if one comes in at the same time. Or vice versa, if the men are out on a fire run, no one is left to go on a squad run.

He reported that Gabby Bedinghaus can no longer do volunteer runs. Kyle Jones got a job in Myrtle Beach so has resigned. Ralph Blanton made a motion to accept Mr. Jones's resignation; seconded by Heath Kilburn. Vote: Mr. Blanton, yea Mr. Kilburn, yea

Chief reported that the three trees were taken down this week. Also, he has been notified that the salt will be here by the 15th. They still need a hauler. Heath Kilburn said he will check with Scott Oeder.

Ralph Blanton said he had been working on the wages and he recommended the following changes: Increase part timers and volunteers by \$.25 per hour
Increase the full time men by \$.50 per hour
Increase chief and assistant chief by 2% on base
Increase the 2 full time road crew and the 1 part time (Jon Peters) by .50 per hour
Mr. Blanton then made a motion to approve these increases to be effective with the first payroll paid in January. Heath Kilburn seconded the motion.
Vote: Mr. Blanton, yea Mr. Kilburn, yea

Heath Kilburn brought up the traffic problem caused by the Christmas Ranch display. Cars are backing up on the hill. Heath said he has called to see if the county would loan the township some "stopped traffic" signs. Mark Dawson will look to see if they have any. It was mentioned that there needed to be a flashing light sign as you approach the area. They will look into something permanent for next year.

Donald Lynch spoke on ways for the township to get more money. He suggested contacting other townships to get grants, etc. to help with the fire department expenses.

Lt. Miller from the Warren County Sheriff's office stated there are many break-ins throughout the county right now. He asks if anyone sees anything suspicious to please call it in.

Donald Lynch wanted to talk about lighting districts. He mentioned the four lights on Ward Road and asked who pays for these lights. He said the whole street should have been done. He also mentioned videotaping all zoning meetings. Ralph Blanton told him that in five years the township has only put up one street light and told him there is a process to follow to do this.

Heath Kilburn said he thought there had been a request for a light at the end of Ward Road, but it had been denied.

Mike Kassalen, zoning inspector, had no permits to turn in or any new zoning issues to discuss. It was mentioned that Bobbie Grice, Julia Hayes and Dave Hartman are interested in serving on the zoning commission or the appeals board (BZA). Heath Kilburn did tell Mike that the trustees do want all the zoning meetings taped.

Fiscal Business

The fiscal officer prepared checks #15360-15398, 91837-91838 which totaled 30,808.81. The board examined the bills that were ready for payment and Ralph Blanton made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Heath Kilburn seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Blanton, yea Mr. Kilburn, yea

For this reporting period the fiscal officer deposited receipts in the amount of \$8,759.44, which included receipts #8454 - #8460.

With no further business to come before the board, Ralph Blanton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M. Heath Kilburn seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Blanton, yea Mr. Kilburn, yea