

**LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**  
**Special Meeting – Levy**  
**July 17, 2023**

This was a special meeting of the LaGrange Township Trustees to consider options for renewal of the levy. Canfield called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with all members of the board present followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Attendance**

Kelly West, Jill Wendelspecht, Mike Hornby

Canfield stated the purpose of this meeting is to go over the financials of the Township and prepare four resolutions that have to get to the auditor's office. In order for us to make the November ballot we have to get this into the Board of Elections by August 9, 2023. Sonja, from the Auditor's office, has agreed to start processing this as long as we get it to her by tomorrow. Normal turn-around time for this is 10 days, so they are going to have to work hard to get these processed and back to us.

Canfield requested the Fiscal Officer prepare four (4) resolutions: renewal at the current rate of 3.5, replacement at the current rate of 3.5, renewal with increase to 4, and replacement with increase to 4. The township needs to take a serious look at this Fire and EMS because our community is growing and the rate of inflation has put us in a bind. We have to pay our staff at a rate to keep them here and we need to address our finances to continue. If the levy fails this upcoming election, we will have to put it on for next year; but, if it fails then we will be in a very precarious financial position.

Poling provided a worksheet financial budget with 2021 being actual numbers for revenue and expenses, 2022 being actual numbers, 2023 are still the estimates from last year, 2024 shows a 5% increase and the EMS Squad. Also, provided the Wage Reports with 2022 full year is \$392,234.00, 2023 shows January through June is \$218,000.00 which is \$33,603.00 over last year. There is \$457,792.00 allocated for 2023.

Trustees agreed that with the wages where they are for the first half of 2023, that it will exceed the allocation. Canfield said that doesn't account for the longevity given and will continue to increase. Overtime is also still an issue.

**Resolutions:**

2023-06 – Replacement of 3.5 with increase of .5

Burnett motioned to accept resolution 2023-06 as presented, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carries.

2023-07 – Replacement of 3.5

Canfield motioned to accept resolution 2023-07 as presented, Burnett seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carries.

2023-08 – Fire and EMS Levy Renewal of 3.5

Gardner motioned to accept resolution 2023-08 as presented, Canfield seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carries.

2023-09 – Fire and EMS Levy Renewal of 3.5 with increase of .5

Burnett motioned to accept resolution 2023-09 as presented, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carries.

Poling to hand deliver the resolutions to Sonja at the Auditor's office tomorrow.

Gardner motioned to adjourn, Burnett seconded the motion, roll call – all yes.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.

\_\_\_\_\_Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_Kimberly Carter, Secretary