

LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

June 26, 2023

This was a regular scheduled meeting of the LaGrange Township Trustees. Canfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with all members of the board present followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Burnett motioned to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting as presented, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes.

Public Participation

Jill W. said she is just sitting in on the meetings to support and learn.

LCSO Deputy Osborne and Deputy Fuller were present. Deputy Fuller announced that she will be assigned to our township. She reported there were 73 calls which include 17 traffic, 7 suspicious conditions and 5 welfare checks. She also reported that they have not seen the semi on Hidden Canyon and continue to check. Discussions on whether tickets are given on the traffic stops. Deputy Fuller said that most of the tickets are probably due to the NBI grant which she doesn't have the data on but will get it. NBI is a grant that the LCSO has received. Deputy Osborne said they have a land and boat patrol which land patrol are looking for human trafficking and stuff like that. Deputy Fuller said that it's the National Border patrol and they give grants for us to look for those things. Burnett said he has a white pickup truck that flies by his house twice a day real fast. Canfield reported that there have been a couple residents stating concerns of ATV's and side by sides on Diagonal Rd and Biggs Rd after evening and those vehicles don't have lights or reflective signs. She explained to the residents that they need to call the LCSO, but requested the LCSO keep an eye out in the area. Deputy Fuller suggested they call when it's happening so they can send a car out.

Road and Cemetery

Kyle was present and reported the following:

Brush pickup still going, roadside mowing is done, top dressed some roads, worked on poles with Grafton, continuing working on road signs and trimmed trees at 301 & Biggs.

OTARMA Insurance List – Need to copy the cemetery maps and get the final building inspections which will complete the list.

LCP Project – Need to setup a meeting with the Village of LaGrange and Crossroads Asphalt to paint the roadway and do the repairs. Thought they could start doing repairs this month, then let it sit for a month then chip and seal in September. Has to be done by September 15th.

Driveway to EMS/Shop – The contract stated that the driveway is the responsibility of the township, but needs to be addressed with Kerricook Construction. Canfield inquired as to what percentage of the driveway will need to be done. Kyle estimated at least half of it. Kyle said that they will need to dig, put some base in, put some hot mix down then chip and seal or grind and repave. Gardner asked if there is enough base to do it and any drainage work that will need done. Kyle feels there is enough base and said he put in a French drain to resolve the drainage issues. Kyle will get a comparison cost for next meeting. Burnett asked where the asphalt would stop. Kyle said they go right through their parking lot so, Kerricook needs to want to fix theirs too. Canfield said the trustees need to have a talk to Kerricook about the parking lot while Kyle is getting some cost breakdowns. Canfield asked how the conversation with the three township consortium coming along. Kyle reported he hasn't heard anything. Canfield has talked to Jared Smith at the county township meetings and will get ahold of him to move things along.

Cemetery – Finished all foundations, finished leveling grades and put seed and straw down. Canfield inquired about quotes for the gutters and siding. Kyle said he will check with Vince.

Equipment – Working on installing stone roller on truck. There is a stick welder at the shop, but there are some projects coming up where it would be beneficial to have a mig welder. Kyle did some research and found a Hobart for about \$850, a cart for it for about \$140 and will need a tank, wire and some tips which will all be no more than \$1,300. Kyle said Rural King has it the cheapest. Canfield said he can use the credit card for the purchase

Canfield motioned to allocate up to \$1,400 for a mig welder and the accompanying accessories, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carries.

Aldrich Property – Gary and Kyle to go look at the drainage to get a plan together.

Fire Station Flower Bed – Burnett said that the weeds need pulled and it needs mulched. Kyle will put it on the list to take care of.

EMS and Fire

Todd Straub was present and reported 66 runs in May which puts it at 381 run YTD which puts us on pace for last year at about 800. Todd had the annual review with Medicount regarding billing. The rates were last raised in 2020 and we are still in line with surrounding agencies. The BLS rates are on the lower end and ALS rates are on the higher end. The majority of our revenue, which accounts for about 65%, comes from Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare pays \$350 for ALS and \$300 for BLS including mileage. Medicaid pays \$150 for ALS and \$95 for BLS. Didn't see a reason to raise rates right now, but can be revisited at the beginning of the year. Todd suggested we look into raising the BLS rates by \$50 or \$75 if we had to raise rates. Canfield asked what percentage of runs are private insurance. Todd said that Medicare and Medicaid account for 65-70% and the rest is private insurance. Todd said Medicount collects data from Groups 1 & 2 this year and Groups 3 & 4 next year and then they will analyze the data and make decisions on raising rates. Canfield asked how many people are running for the Township. Todd said there are 24 currently on the roster. Canfield expressed concern about seeing more overtime and would like to see more people filling shifts. Gardner asked if this is the largest roster the township has had and Todd said they are normally in the 20-25 range. Todd said that people come in and disappear for a while, but CJ that was last hired looks like he will be a good addition. Canfield understands that there are agencies all over struggling with this and will do the best they can. Burnett said it's hard when one guy gets 90 hours of overtime when there are other people available. It hurts the budget. Todd said that the only other option is to not fill the shifts and utilize mutual aid. But, mutual aids are having the same staffing issues so there are no guarantees.

Mike Hornby was present and presented reports for the month of May for fire. They've had 86 calls YTD, last year we were at 150.

Radios – Mike presented quotes for the radio systems and the request to purchase 10 of them. Mike said that since the county has backed out on them, Harris has talked with Cleveland Communications and they are willing to move ahead with a discounted rate. The Chief is requesting 10 of them because 3 of our mutual aid departments have gone with the Harris radios which will allow us to communicate directly with them as well as communicate with our current systems. Canfield said she got confirmation that they will be compatible, but asked about maintenance contract on the radios. Mike said that it shows a 3 year maintenance / warranty on the quote. Canfield asked what that covers. Mike saw in the paper that Wellington spent over \$240,000 to upgrade their radio system. Canfield questioned why it has Port Lorain Fire on the quote and not the Township. Mike said it's probably with the quote because the county fire Chiefs went back to them and asked if they could get a discount if we moved ahead and

purchased by June 28th. Canfield asked who negotiated this deal and Mike said that the county Fire Chief did as far as he knows. Chief Wetherbee from Wellington did a lot of negotiating. Canfield questioned why the Trustees are just getting this quote today when it was written on June 2nd and there has been a meeting and a special workshop since then. Mike said he was handed the information on Saturday. Canfield said she assumes the Chief had this information since he attended the Chief's meeting. Mike said that he attended the Chief's meeting. Canfield said she doesn't object to the purchase of the radios but expressed disappointment with the way this has been handled. The communication chain was a little tired and it would've been nice to have this information earlier so that questions could be answered and research done in advance rather than getting hijacked the day prior to pulling the trigger on a big expense.

Canfield motioned to expend \$41,830.00 to purchase ten(10) of the Harris radios according to Quote #PortLorainFireMic dated June 2, 2023, for Cleveland Communications Inc., Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. Mike confirmed via text from Chief Rader that there are no maintenance agreements involved, just a 3-year warranty. Gardner said that this is the frustration that we could've researched more about these had the information been presented earlier.

Recall – Mike corrected information from last week and said that the recall was for Truck 38 (not Truck 37) – the Squad so it is handed off to Todd.

Garage Door - Mike reported the garage door opener in the end bay was not working properly. Canfield stated that the garage door opener was fixed for about \$1,700.00. We were notified that it was not working consistently and it's critical to have that open when there is a call.

Educational Opportunities – Mike said he has two attendees for the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) class on electric cars. As of July 1st, if each department has not filled their 2-person quota then it's a free for all, so we've already submitted a request to have 2 more attend. Also, Mike has been working with Glen Thompspon, Chief of Grafton, on planning a table top exercise in December for train derailment with a group comprised of fire departments, prisons, schools and the health department. Since the East Palastine dereailment, Glen is concerned because he has 9 crossings in Grafton. Mike said we have just as many here, so we will be an active part of the training. Canfield said she received an email from James regarding training that Jerry Norton went to. It was preapproved and also offered to anyone on the department that wanted to go. James' contention was that the timesheet wasn't filled out correctly and it wasn't preapproved. Canfield confirmed it was preapproved and she will sign off on the time sheet and it needs to be kept in the file. Jerry attended training at the National Fire Academy and brought back quite a bit of information with him. When Jerry dropped off his information, he mentioned that a couple of guys are interested in doing the training later in the year. He also mentioned that the train systems are offering a special training coming up. Mike said that Jerry talked to him about a training at Findley University, but that Norfolk Southern is also putting on a class in Lorain in September and there are 3-4 people already signed up. Canfield said to make sure we were tracking training hours for all employees. Canfield requested Poling get a complete file copy of Jerry's training records to keep in his file and ensure he gets paid for his hours. Canfield said that the Trustees always encourage training and don't turn anyone away for training opportunities. Mike said that 9/25-9/28/23 Firehouse Magazine is having an expo in Columbus with special classes. Cost for a 3-day pass is \$425.00. Mike asked for permission to attend with overnight lodging. Canfield requested he get the information to the Trustees and be sure all others in the department are aware of the opportunity.

Zoning

Canfield said that Vince dropped all his stuff off prior to the meeting.

Roger Kuhl was present and reported:

Resolution 2004 – inquired as to whether the 2004 Resolution referencing construction standards should be incorporated into the zoning book. Burnett said the county is in charge of the

subdivisions, so they adopted those for us because we couldn't adopt them ourselves. They did let us write them which they approved and adopted. They never got into our zoning, but they should have. Canfield thought it was already in our zoning when it was submitted to the county.

Burnett motioned to incorporate the 2004 Resolution from the county referencing subdivision rules into our zoning, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carried.

Public Hearing – Roger reminded the Trustees that a public hearing needs to be held to rezone Rich Beran's property on Rt. 301. The zoning commission already had their public hearing on 4/17/23.

Canfield motioned to have a public hearing for rezoning Rich Beran's property from residential to commercial on 07/10/23 at 6:00pm with a regular meeting to follow, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussions, motion carried.

Title for Fire Truck – Roger asked if the title has been located and ready. Burnett said that they can't locate it and the lady at the BMV is unable to find it in the system, but he is going back down to try to resolve.

Fiscal Officer

Kathy Poling was present and reported:

Bills amounted to \$40,791.71.

Burnett motioned to approve the bills as presented, Gardner seconded, roll call – all yes. Discussions about the water bill, but it was the correct amount.

Budgets – Poling said the estimated budgets, revenue and expenditures need to be in by 7/2/23. She stated that last year they did a 3% increase. Discussions about whether to remain at 3% or increase the percentage. Due to inflation continuing and rising costs, suggested increasing to 5%.

Canfield motioned to increase the estimated budgets, revenue and expenditures 5% to be submitted, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carried.

PO for EMS Squad - Kathy said that a question was asked regarding whether she did a PO for the EMS Squad refurbish. She said that it's for next year and one can be done this year, but we do not have that money allocated as a fund for the amount of \$245,607.00. If we want to do a PO, I will check with Amy Richards, but I think we have to go to the auditor for permission or wait until we redo the budget and put it in there. Canfield said we need to take a hard look at our funds and budgets because we have been working on multiple projects for a long time and some are getting close to pulling the trigger. Need to make sure money is allocated properly. Poling will check with Amy for the best options.

Star Ohio – Kathy had sent information to the Trustees and said that if we decide to go with that option, we will need a resolution. Burnett asked if we have time to wait until the budget. Canfield explained that Star Ohio is like a money market with a better ROI that is about 5% which is administered by the state of Ohio and allows for instant access and same-day transfers. Suggested we need to be smarter about how we work our money with the big projects coming.

Canfield motioned to fill out paperwork to become a member of Star Ohio as of today, Burnett seconded the motion, roll call – all yes. No further discussion, motion carried.

Tax Levy – Poling emailed tax settlement about the levy. When they email me back, I will forward the information to the Trustees.

Low-Interest Loans – Poling did some research on low-interest rates for loans. There are a lot of different agencies and loans for different things. If we narrow the scope we can get better information. Canfield said they want to know about any and every low-interest loan available to them.

Correspondence – presented estimate from Z Protection for fire extinguishers, a letter for fleet reporting and letter from Big Brothers Big Sisters for Vince to put on the website. Discussions about the fire extinguishers and which fire extinguishers the quote covers.

Trustees Comments

Canfield reiterated that the township has a long-range plan and some opportunities that we have been working on for years that are ready to bloom so we need to really look at the budgets.

Rural Water

Canfield reported that there was issues with the mail and a bunch of payments came in late which were assessed with a late fee. Suggested you look at your water bill and call them if you were charged a late fee.

LORCO

None

Park Board

Roger reported that they've had two successful tournaments and the one for next month cancelled. There are going to be some significant changes next year in regards to cost and invoicing. He talked to Bill a couple times at Crossroads Asphalt to schedule. Mary Kay from the Village suggested closing the park for three days rather than work around traffic. Bill said that if it's possible to close it, he could have it done in a couple days. Roger said he would run it by the board to discuss and make an educated decision. Canfield spoke to Mary Kay and it was suggested having people park at Vet's Park and walk over to the park. Mike Hornby asked about access to the landing zone in case of an emergency. Canfield said maybe they could leave one side accessible for emergencies. Roger also said that Tom is working on the by-laws and Debbie is having her attorney review them pro bono.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Canfield motioned to go into executive session at 8:19pm to discuss the sale and purchase of property, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes.

Canfield motioned to go back to open session with no action taken at 8:33pm, Gardner seconded the motion, roll call – all yes.

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

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

_____Chairman

_____Kimberly Carter, Secretary