

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
German Township Board of Trustees
Regular Session
February 12, 2019

The German Township Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Dr., Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Clark called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Mr. Clark - present; Mr. Kaffenbarger – present; Mr. Metzger- present
Fiscal Officer: Angela Griest - present

Township Personnel present: Mike Stitzel, Police Chief; Tim Holman, Fire Chief; Mark Bevan, Road Supervisor; and George Degenhart, Zoning Inspector.

Visitors: Jill Acuff and Bill Wolfarth

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

Correction to the minutes of January 8, 2019: Under Roll Call – Mr. Metzger was present.

- A. Motion to approve the minutes for December 28, 2018; January 08, 2018 as corrected; and January 19, 2019:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes- All

Fiscal Officer:

- B. Motion to go to approve payments issued January 11, 2019 through February 11, 2019 - \$129,987.67:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Ayes- All

Mrs. Griest requested an updated employee roster from the Police and Fire Departments.

Zoning Department:

Mr. Degenhart presented the following:

- None

Police Department:

Chief Stitzel presented the following:

- The Blazer has an older model of radar unit. It is time to replace the radar unit. Quote approximately \$1900.00 for a Stalker Radar, which plugs into the computer of the cars.
- C. Motion to purchase the Stalker Radar for the Blazer at a cost up to \$2,000.00:
- Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Ayes- All
- Request to hire a new auxiliary officer: Andrew Quinn:
- D. Motion to approve the hiring of a new auxiliary officer: Andrew Quinn:
- Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Ayes- All

Chief Stitzel administered the Oath of Office.

Fire Department

Chief Holman presented the following:

- On Saint Paris by Pratt Industries, there was a problem with high water. The area by Pratt Industries was annexed into the City, who is responsible for the road?
 - Has applied to 3 grants:
 - FEMA– Fire Truck
 - State Fire Marshalls – Radios
 - State EMS – Supplies and equipment.
 - Request approval of a new hire – Cory Scanlan (retro- active to his first hours worked)
- E. Motion to approve the hire of Cory Scanlan:
- Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes- All
- F. Motion to approve expenses for Karina Emory to attend a class for becoming certified in inspecting car seats. Class is through Children’s Hospital and is held in Delaware, Ohio. Cost \$400.00 to register, plus hotel, food & mileage.
- Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes- All

Road Maintenance Department

Mr. Bevan reported the following:

- The last rain washed a berm out along County Line Road. The County is going to do the repairs. We are putting up a sign warning of the low berm.
- Flooding at Knollwood and Ballentine.
- The hydraulics are back on the truck.
- Colonial Drive – catch basin - Radar's is to do the work.
- Thanks to Mr. Bevan for the hard work plowing during the snow. Thanks to Mr. Kaffenbarger for helping with the plowing, and to Mr. Clark & Mr. Metzger for plowing with the smaller truck.
- It was asked if Miller Road should have been striped after it was chip and sealed. It was discussed, and yes, it should have been, but due to the bad weather, some of the striping was not done (including Ballentine Pike). Will need to check with Clark County.
- St. Paris tree project will need to wait until the weather improves.
- Front-end loader needs repairs. Due to the fact the loader is shared with Clark County, they are going to help with the repairs, cost of tires, and replacing rusted lines. Thanks to the County for their help.
- The signs we received through a grant needs to be put in place by August 1st. This included the reflective stripe that goes down the posts.
- Thanks to Fire Department for helping to put up road closed signs.

Old Business:

- The person we had hired for seasonal part-time work fell through. We still need to look into hiring someone – Seasonal or permanent.
- Mt. Calvary Cemetery situation has been given to our new prosecutor. The Village rejected our last proposal.
- Working on the layout for the Compost, determining the fee.
- QSEHRA: Employees with no MEC insurance are not eligible for insurance reimbursements. Questions concerning whether the children of an employee, who has MEC coverage through their former spouse, would be eligible for reimbursements through the QSEHRA. Send to prosecutor.

New Business:

- Credit Card Policy – Mr. Kaffenbarger stated that at the Township conference there was a information concerning the need to have a new –updated Credit Card Policy in place. Mrs. Griest explained that a major change is that the President of the Trustees, (or all trustees) will have to review each charge on the statement, know what the item was that was purchased , then sign to acknowledge he/they have reviewed the statement and approve. Mrs. Griest to review who has cards, and what the current limits are.
- Cell Phones – If you use your personal cell phone for work purposes, (call, text, email) then your personal cell phone can become public record, and can be confiscated.

Hearing of the Public:

- Mr. Keith Nawman (employee) was present. He was asked to come to the township meeting. Mr. Kaffenbarger asked Mr. Nawman if we are satisfying your requests. (in regards to information requested by Mr. Nawman). Mr. Nawman replied yes for some things that I have questioned.

The following are summaries of statements, responses, comments:

- Statements from Mr. Nawman:

I joined the department 5 or 6 years ago, bringing with me forty-four years in the fire service. I was not made to feel welcome. I joined to help our community, to help pass on some of my experience and training.

After an incident at RC Enterprises – gear (firefighter gear) was destroyed. I found my fire locker was a mess and my bunker pants were gone. I went to Chief Holman and he did not know about it. Mr. Craig was also there, and he said he knew who had it. I should have been notified about the gear being borrowed. If I had wanted to respond to anything, I would not have been able to because the gear that was assigned to me, that I am responsible for, was missing. Three days later, I received a letter that stated Chief Holman was taking my gear. I asked if that was a policy, and if anyone else has had their gear taken from them.

(Statements from Mr. Nawman continued)

It was very disappointing to be treated that way. I spoke with Mr. Craig about whether they have a policy about taking someone’s gear. He made a comment that was unbecoming of an officer. He then got into my face – which is officer intimidation. Mr. Craig had a written reprimand put in his file but was later removed because of a witness.

- Response from Chief Holman: Yes, some gear was reassigned. Gear was lost at fires and it needed to be reassigned. Sometimes people do borrow other people’s gear. However, they are supposed to notify the person and then return it exactly as found.

There was no use in putting the reprimand in his (Mr. Craig’s) file. He admitted his error and apologized. So, I pulled it out of his file.

- Comments from a resident – Bill Wolfarth:
I have been in the military service. Sometimes you have to put the mission first. You have to do what you need to do at the time. I feel Tim (Chief Holman) did address the reprimand, but putting something in writing does not always work. Do not drive a wedge in that culture. Personally, I am very proud of the Fire Department. I do appreciate your concerns, but feel he has listened to all people involved.

- Comments from Chief Holman:
 - Keith we have helped you when your daughter needed help when she was going through training.
 - Your previous employer does not run things the same way we do here.
 - We have a lot of young people here that need to be reined in every now and then.
 - Problems need to be talked about.
 - I have been Chief for 27 years, I apologize that we did not meet your expectations.

- Comments from Mr. Metzger:
I think it is sad that two people with forty years + experience cannot get along. I wish you two would sit down together and talk together like gentlemen. You are both too valuable to be arguing like this. We do not want to lose anyone.

- Comments from Mr. Kaffenbarger:
Mr. Nawman you had submitted a letter in 2018 and again in 2019. The letters have about the same questions. I wanted to have you here to be sure that your questions are answered satisfactorily.

- Comments from Mr. Clark:
I agree with what the other Trustees have said. You both need to mend fences, move on, and get along. Both of you are valuable to our community.

G. Motion to adjourn: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All

Approved by:
Board of German Township Trustees

Recorded in the
Record of Proceedings
February 12, 2019

Angela D. Griest, Fiscal Officer

Robert Clark, President

Rodney Kaffenbarger, Vice President

Charles Metzger, Member