

Pierce Township Trustees
Meeting
Minutes

March 11, 2015

The Board of Trustees of Pierce Township, Clermont County, Ohio met for their Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM, on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at the Pierce Township Administration Building, 950 Locust Corner Road.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Pautke and Mr. Riebel were present at Roll Call. Mrs. Batchler was in the building, but not present during roll call. Also present were Fire Chief Craig Wright, Assistant Fire Chief Scott Light, Police Chief Jeff Bachman, Township Administrator Tim Hershner, Public Works Manager, John Koehler, Legal Counsel, Tom Keating and Assistant to the Fiscal Office, Claudia Carroll.

Executive Session

At 5:30 PM, Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pautke to enter Executive to discuss personnel matters including compensation, and real estate purchase with attorney pursuant to ORC 121.22 (1) and (2) with legal counsel, Tom Keating. Roll call on motion: All aye. Mrs. Batchler joined the session once roll call concluded and was included in the Executive Session.

At 6:32 PM, Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel, to leave executive session, with no action being taken the Board during the Executive Session

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Pautke asked everyone to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chairman Robert Pautke asked Gary Strunk to lead the meeting in prayer.

Celebratory Events

James Swader and Joshua Swader – Recognized for Bravery

Chief Bachman conveyed the Police Department and the Board's appreciation for their bravery and assistance in apprehending a dangerous criminal on February 1, 2015, it was discovered after Mr. Swader and his son Joshua assisted Office Jay Shaw that the suspect was also possibly involved in two armed robberies and a possible shooting which is under investigation by the Cincinnati Police and ATF officers.

Trustee and Administrator Updates

Trustee Bonnie Batchler asked Clarence Roller from the Greenspace Committee to provide an update to the Board and the residents. Mr. Roller informed the residents that Pierce Township has 165 acres in park land and in the Nature Park there is two

miles of a walking trail. Mr. Roller reported that Chris Clingman (Clermont County's Park Director) is exploring a possible grant through Duke Energy. Finally, Mr. Roller announced that he is working on an Invasive Management Plan for the Nature Park and that the Boy Scouts may be utilized to help control the invasive plants such as honeysuckle, with two dates identified, March 15th and April 11th for pruning, and herbicide applications, volunteer residents were invited to attend with pruning and handsaw tools.

Trustee Richard Riebel gave an update on the Closing of Beckjord and the progress on the mining of the clay. Mr. Riebel shared that the clearing of the land of all trees, shrubs and vegetation has been amazing to see.

Trustee Robert Pautke thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts throughout the snow and weather issues and Mr. Pautke also thanked Chief Bachman and Chief Wright for their departments and their own additional efforts also through the recent snow emergencies.

Administrator Tim Hershner provided an update on the progress of the OGSM (Objectives, Goals, Strategies, and Measurement) plan by the Board and the Township employees and Mr. Hershner reported that he is expecting to present some initial results in April. Mr. Hershner also mentioned the upcoming Community/Residential survey and then announced that he had just delivered the results prior to the meeting of the Employee survey which had recently been conducted. Mr. Hershner then provided an overhead presentation of the Employee survey results and then Mr. Hershner recommended that the department heads and Administrator and the Board begin working on action plans to improve the workplace and the working environment.

Finance Committee - Presentation

Fiscal Officer, Karen Register of Pierce Township introduced Greg Ossege, Stan Shadwell, Ben Pugh and Dave Gooch (when he joined the presentation). This committee is composed Pierce Township residents that have years of financial experience and that volunteer their time in helping the Board and Fiscal Office in evaluating financial challenges and weighing financial options. Mr. Ossege began by restating the amount of losses that Pierce Township will experience from Beckjord's closing. Mr. Ossege also explained that the recommendation for failed Fire/EMS levy last November was based on the anticipated losses to Pierce Township of \$900,000.00, however, since the Clermont County Auditor updated and recently provided new figures that anticipate a \$680,000.00 loss (smaller losses, but still substantial), the Finance Committee recommends placing a smaller levy of 2.1 mils on the ballot for the Fire/EMS service before the Pierce Township voters.

Mr. Pugh also explained that the recommendation is for placing a 10 year Fire/EMS levy on the ballot versus placing a continuous levy on the 2015 November ballot, further noting that the Fire/EMS will use and exhaust the carryover balance within eight years to provide Fire/EMS services to Pierce Township residents. Mr. Pugh explained that the age of the equipment, the fact that the equipment is now breaking down that the Finance Committee understood the Fire Chief's need to replace the 1992

pumper and the need to replace at least one ambulance immediately because of continued breakdowns, Mr. Pugh noted that the delivery of a new ambulance takes eight to nine months once the ambulance is ordered.

Mr. Shadwell recapped the total anticipated annual losses of \$680,823.46 to Pierce Township, with the loss to the Fire/EMS department alone anticipated to be \$229,097.94 each year. Mr. Shadwell then outlined the cost to purchase the two pieces of Fire/EMS equipment needed immediately:

Pumper.....	\$500,000.00
Ambulance.....	\$250,000.00

Mr. Shadwell announced that the Finance Committee had established that a new 2.1 Fire/EMS levy will bring in \$704,000 annually and that this amount will be used to replace needed equipment and to help stop the loss/exodus of trained paramedics and firefighters to other departments due to Pierce Township currently being in the lower spectrum of wages compared to surround departments. Mr. Shadwell explained that Pierce Township is spending the time and money on recruiting and training personnel, only to lose the personnel when the recruits get some experience under their belts and when there are openings for other departments which are paying more. Mr. Shadwell explained that the Beckjord losses may be greater than anticipated and that the Finance Committee cannot pledge that the 2.1 mil levy will be enough to last the full ten years, but he stated that neither did the Finance Committee want to advocate for higher taxes.

Mr. Gooch recapped the presentation and noted that as a Pierce Township resident and a father of two that he personally wanted to maintain Fire/Emergency services that were important to protect the lives and property of all Pierce Township residents.

Mrs. Register provided the residents a quick recap by fund the anticipated annual loss which will be realized in 2016 due to the closure of Duke's Beckjord Power Plant with the following losses broken out by fund as follows:

- General Fund = \$34,234.44
- Road & Bridge = \$57,011.25
- Waste/Garbage = \$69,463.52
- Police = \$291,016.31
- Fire/EMS = \$229,097.94

The Board thanked the Finance Committee for their presentation and their efforts and recommendation. The Finance Committee then took questions from the Board as well questions from the residents in the audience. Mr. Mark Cann thanked the Committee for their efforts and then conversation revolved around the ability to communicate the age of the Fire/EMS equipment, question on why the oldest equipment needed to be replaced and the residents recommended informational and educational meetings throughout the township to help inform the residents and to

answer all questions regarding the proposed 2.1 mil levy. The Board again thanked the Finance Committee for their presentation and was grateful for the public input.

Fire/EMS Levy for November Ballot

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler to place a ten year, 2.1 mil Fire & EMS levy on the November 2015 ballot based on the extensive review and strong recommendation from the Finance Committee. It is noted that the Board will adopt a formal resolution regarding a November Fire & EMS levy during the next meeting. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Horton Life Squad Purchase Authorized

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel to authorize Fire Chief Wright to acquire the best loan rate and financing for a five year term for a Horton Life Squad off the state bid for a project cost of \$190,848.62. The Board cited public safety and the recent breakdowns of two life squads during recent runs. The anticipated delivery after a new squad is ordered is nine months or more. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Installation of an All Hazards Siren – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of Township Administrator Tim Hershner that the Board approve expenditure of \$7800.00 from the General fund for the installation of an All Hazards Siren in the area of Stillmeadow Country Club in accordance with the current Township All Hazards Siren plan. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2015 - Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2015 regular meeting minutes as modified. Roll call on motion: All Aye.

Purchase of Two Police Interceptor Vehicles – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of Township Police Chief Bachman, the Board authorize Administrator Tim Hershner to execute the purchase of two 2015 or 2016 Ford Utility Police Interceptor's at or below State Bid Price of \$24,729.00 each with options included for a per vehicle unit cost at or below \$33,136.00 per vehicle with a total cost for both vehicles of \$66,272.00. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Purchase of Police Accessories for the 2 new Vehicles – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of Township Police Chief Bachman; the Board approves the purchase of necessary "police" accessories for the two new Ford Utility Police Interceptors from A & A Safety. These include light bars, push bumpers, prisoner systems, desk center console with computer mount, additional siren bracket, side warning lights, double stand shotgun and rifle holder, and police graphics kit for an amount of \$4263.00 each or a total of \$8526.00 for both vehicles. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Purchase of 2 Motorola Mobile Radios – Approved

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel that based upon the recommendation of Township Fire Chief Wright; the Board approves the expenditure of up to \$8,000.00 from the EMS fund to purchase two (2) new Motorola mobile radios for Township ambulances. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Resolution #015-002 for Paving & Repair of Township Roads – Adopted

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of Township Public Works Manager Koehler, the Board agree and adopts Resolution #015-002 to authorize a 2015 payment to the Clermont County Engineer in the amount of \$221,582.55 for repair and paving of the township roads during the 2015 paving project, the roads listed and are contained on the attached list. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Hauling Salt Cost – Approved

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel that based upon the recommendation of Township Public Works Manager John Koehler the Board accepts and approves the lowest and best bid from Rose Trucking for the additional amount of \$4.95 per ton for hauling of salt for a revised total cost of \$12.60 per ton for the 10/2014 – 04/2015 Winter Season. It was noted that the additional cost is to be reimbursed by the salt vendor. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Purchase of a Tandem Vibratory Roller for Road Repairs – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of Township Public Works Manager Koehler; the Board approves the purchase of a tandem vibratory roller for road repairs from Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc. at the price of \$16,350.00. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Buy Back of Grave Sites – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of Township Public Works Manager Koehler, the Board approve the sell back of graves 7, 8, 9 of section 2-B lot 100 in the amount of \$870.00 from Bonnie M. Pinson Estate, Debra A. Sanders Executor, 7432 Towerview Lan, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Fiscal Office Reports and Motions

The fiscal office included and provided a cash summary by fund, a bank reconciliation report, receipt account status report and an appropriation status report to the Board of Trustees and requested the following motions.

Payment of Bills – February 11, 2015 - Approved

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board approves the bills from February 11, 2015 in the amount of \$167,646.94 as previously provided. Roll call on motion: All aye.

February 11, 2015 - Payroll - Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board approves the Payroll from February 11, 2015 in the amount of \$109,729.99 as previously provided. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Payment of Bills - February 13, 2015 – Approved

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board approves the bills from February 13, 2015 in the amount of \$3,996.87 as previously provided. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Payment of Bills - February 20, 2015 – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board approves the bills from February 20, 2015 in the amount of \$2,755.27 as previously provided. Roll call on motion: All aye.

February 25, 2015 - Payroll - Approved

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board approves the Payroll from February 25, 2015 in the amount of \$132,306.68 as previously provided. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Payment of Bills - February 27, 2015 – Approved

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board approves the bills from February 27, 2015 in the amount of \$103,497.18 as previously provided. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Resolution 015-001 – Permanent Appropriations - Rescinded

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel to rescind the Permanent Appropriation Resolution 015-001 which approved the Permanent Appropriations with the Clermont County Auditor's Office based upon the request of Fiscal Officer Register. Ms. Register informed the Board that the Certificate of Total Amounts from All Sources Available for Expenditures filed January 14, 2015 did not include the Kroger TIF since no funds been received; however, the anticipated revenue for the Kroger TIF was included on the Permanent Appropriation Resolution 015-001. Mrs. Register explained that it is important that the two budget filings correspond. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Resolution 015-003 – Permanent Appropriations - Rescinded

Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler to approve and adopt the Permanent Appropriation Resolution 015-003 for the Permanent Appropriations without the Kroger TIF being included in the Permanent Appropriation Resolution since no funds have yet been received. Resolution 015-003 is attached. Roll call on motion: All aye.

Records Commission Meeting – April 8, 2015

Mrs. Batchler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Riebel that based upon the recommendation of the Township Fiscal Officer; the Board set a Records Commission meeting on April 8, 2015 for 6:15 PM. Roll call on motion: All aye.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:36 PM, Mr. Riebel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Batchler to adjourn the meeting. Roll call on motion: All aye.

ATTESTED:

The Pierce Township approved the foregoing minutes of the Board of Trustees on:

Karen Register, Township Fiscal Officer

Mr. Robert Pautke, Chairman
Pierce Township Board of Trustees