

Pierce Township Trustees
Special/Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021

The Board of Trustees of Pierce Township, Clermont County, Ohio met for a Special/Work Session Meeting virtually at 12:00p.m., Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at the Pierce Township Administration Building, 950 Locust Corner Road.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Allen Freeman called the meeting to order. Trustee Nicholas Kelly, Trustee Pete Kambelos and Chairman Allen Freeman were present at roll call. Administrator Loretta Rokey, Attorney Tom Keating, Police Chief Jeff Bachman, Fire Chief Craig Wright, Service Department Foreman Cody Smith, Planning & Zoning Administrator Eddie McCarthy and Fiscal Officer Debbie Schwey were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Joe Garrett from Trebel LLC. led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

The purposes of this meeting are to hold a work session to discuss Energy Aggregation, Waste Levy, Street lighting updates, and review zoning fees and to discuss such other matters as shall come before the Board.

WORK SESSION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Energy Aggregation Program: Administrator Rokey updated the Board of discussions with Mr. Joe Garrett of Trebel LLC., for electric and natural gas aggregation that was first passed by the voters November 2018.

Mr. Garrett proposed to the Board his recommendation to go with Energy Harbor and Volunteer Energy for 24 months contract for electric and natural gas. Discussion followed residents may opt out or in at any time.

Trustee Kelly made the motion to enter into a 24 months contract with Energy Harbor to provide electric generation to the Pierce Township electric aggregation program. Seconded by Trustee Kambelos. Roll call: All aye.

Trustee Kambelos made the motion to enter into a 24 months contract with Volunteer Energy to provide natural gas to the Pierce Township natural gas aggregation program. Seconded by Trustee Kelly. Roll call: All aye.

Trustee Kelly made the motion to have the administrator or any elected official to sign contracts on behalf of the township. Seconded by Trustee Kambelos. Roll call: All aye.

Waste Levy: Chairman Freeman proposed to the Board action will need to be taken regarding the waste levy now that the former Village of Amelia has come on board. Discussed was to remove multi-family and how that will save us some money. (attached chart) Chairman Freeman ask the fiscal officer to contact the auditor's office to see which would be best either to renew or increase the levy. (Spread sheet prepared by Assistant to the Fiscal Office Claudia Carroll.)

Street lighting Updates: Planning & Zoning Administrator McCarthy presented to the Board a map showing the breakdown of lighting in the former Village of Amelia. (attached map) Administrator Rokey stated that petitions were mailed and have received back 76 from Sedona Ridge out of 505 mailed. Also discussed one solution for the residents to provide their own lighting.

Administrator Rokey has been in contact with Duke Energy regarding the electric bills. Also agreed upon the gaslights at the old municipal building and the lights in front of Fox & Fox (Pierce Township side) should be removed.

Review of Zoning Fees: Planning & Zoning Administrator McCarthy presented information to the Board proposed fee changes and comparison of other townships regarding zoning fees. The Board proposed to have a resolution drafted and prepared for the April 14th regular trustee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fiscal Officer Schwey requests a motion to rescind Resolution 2021-006 and replace it with Resolution 2021-008, a resolution authorizing adoption of an alternative method of apportionment of the undivided local government fund for calendar year 2022 that per the Ohio Revised Code section 5747.53 excludes the approval otherwise required of the legislative authority of the city located wholly or partially in the county with the greatest population. Trustee Kambelos made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Kelly. Roll call: All aye.

Fiscal Officer Schwey requests a motion to move \$200,000 from Fifth Third Bank to new account at Park National Bank. Discussion, leaving Fifth Third Bank because of high service charges. Trustee Kelly made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Kambelos. Roll call: All aye.

Service Department Foreman Cody Smith requests a motion to approve the appointment of Jake Ober as a full-time maintenance worker (MWIV) for the service department effective April 12, 2021 at the established rate pending successful completion of all pre-employment requirements and a one-year probationary period noting that all associated expenses related to these requirements be that of the township. Trustee Kelly made the motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Kambelos. Roll call: All aye.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Freeman discussed legislation regarding the American Recovery Plan. The House posted their version of the plan regarding the unincorporated jurisdiction and the Senate left out townships. They have 60 days to get this done.

Chairman Freeman discussed the Dissolution Bill. Creating a path of how to dissolve a village going to townships. Where to put funds either into the general fund or back into the restricted accounts. Chairman Freeman stated his disagreement with placing the funds back into the restricted accounts, if the State Auditor requires us to place all funds into the restricted accounts, there would be no way to make needed improvements to Amelia Infrastructure quickly in order to stay ahead of future demands.

PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSION:

No public comment.

AJOURNMENT:

Trustee Kelly made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:58p.m., seconded by Trustee Kambelos. Roll call: All aye.

ATTESTED:

The Pierce Township Board of Trustees approved the foregoing minutes on. April 14, 2021

Chairman Allen Freeman, Pierce Township Board of Trustee

Debbie Schwey, Pierce Township Fiscal Officer