

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

## SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS &amp; SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10178

### SPECIAL SESSION HELD AT

Held \_\_\_\_\_ **95 E. Wilson Bridge Road** \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_  
**November 1, 2022**

**Page 1 of 2**

### Work Session — Fire District Funding Increase Request by The City of Worthington

Meeting called to order at 6:36am by Chair Kunze.

Palmer noted that the Township received a draft proposal from Worthington.

Kunze reported that she is garnering outside opinions about the draft proposal. These outside opinions include other townships and Sharon Township residents.

Palmer wants to know the intention of the City of Worthington as to whether they wish to negotiate on this topic.

Oberle noted that the City has desired to renegotiate the contract. Oberle provided a state of play.

Kunze asked about outside counsel.

Farley proposed development of a framework to address the problem.

Oberle walked through the contract. Oberle noted that there were two contracts. Oberle learned of the second agreement recently and shared that information with the Trustees.

A highlight of the contract is that once they have sought an increase there is a 45-day trigger period.

Kunze mentioned evaluating the provisions of the contract.

Palmer wants to make clear that this is a negotiation. And that any response is clear that there is a good basis for negotiation and reflects the views of the Trustees and the residents. Palmer discussed the need to formulate a process to lay out the issue.

Kunze noted that it would be reasonable to report that the Trustees can have a response by the end of December.

Oberle noted that the City should be at several of these meetings with residents.

Palmer suggested targeted meetings with residents by neighborhood. Kunze discussed the need to inform residents of the issue and potential impacts.

Farley and Oberle noted that each new assessed mill brings in about \$100,000.

Oberle noted the stated allocation of City taxes. And he noted that 2007 was the last property tax increase for the City of Worthington and that 22.5% of Worthington's operating budget goes to fire.

Farley noted the need for a permanent ongoing process to continually review and address the funding of the fire district. Farley also stated that the new process should be in the new contract.

Palmer explained the need to potentially redraft the entirety of the agreement as a preferable outcome.

Kayati provided a historical view of the contract and funding.

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**SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL SESSION HELD AT**

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

**95 E. Wilson Bridge Road**

20

Held

**November 1, 2022**

**Page 2 of 2**

Farley proposed three contextual areas of analysis: legal (contract), fiscal and service area.

Palmer indicated wanting to signal to them a willingness to discuss.

Oberle noted the need for working sessions to include the City, Township and residents.

Chief recommended that something go on the website that fire discussions are occurring and how residents can participate. Kunze noted further communications needed directly with residents. Palmer mentioned that there could be door to door communication with information on learning more about the levy.


There was substantial discussion about timing of the levy request and the cost of putting the issue on the ballot. The cost of putting the levy on the ballot will be borne by the Township. Trustees discussed that it is highly preferable that consensus be reached by Worthington, Sharon Township, and the residents of Sharon Township before a levy request is placed on the ballot to prevent the expense of putting multiple levies on the ballot. Farley stated that the Township is not in a fiscal position to pay for multiple elections. Brief discussion occurred about the possibility of sharing the cost of putting the levy on the ballot with the City of Worthington.


Oberle noted that Worthington should communicate with Riverlea on this matter. Riverlea has a separate contract with the City of Worthington to provide fire service to the residents of Riverlea.

Farley and Palmer volunteered to draft a memorandum to the City of Worthington to capture initial thoughts. The goal is to discuss the drafting of the memorandum at the regular meeting on November 2, 2022. The memorandum is expected to be sent by the end of the week. This topic has been on the meeting agenda for the Township Trustees for several months and it will remain on the regular agenda until the issue is resolved.

Palmer moved to adjourn, Oberle seconded. Motion carried unanimously at approximately 7:40am.

11/16/22  
Date

  
Chair

  
Fiscal Officer