

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10748

SPECIAL SESSION HELD AT

Held 95 E. Wilson Bridge Road _____ 20 _____
December 6, 2022

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Fire District Funding

The meeting was called to order at 6:33am.

Trustee Kunze led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kunze called the roll. Attending the meeting:

Trustee Laura Kunze, Trustee John Oberle, Trustee Tony Palmer, Fiscal Officer Michael Farley, Chief Tuchfarber, Supt. Tom Kayati. (Legal counsel, Peter Griggs joined via phone during the meeting.)

Oberle noted that legal counsel is of the mind that the deadline established by the City of Worthington in their letter is not the true deadline. Oberle stated that the Township should communicate to the City that we believe the existing contract has not been triggered by disagreeing—as the Township has not yet disagreed.

Kunze noted that source material noted in the letter should be looked at. Kunze has been advised that the millage numbers represented from other townships are not accurate.

Kunze has also been told that the Township should not be penalized for the Bristol in the OVC.

Oberle discussed that the time period should be sometime in February.

Kayati asked if the City has notified the Village of Riverlea.

Palmer asked about the reference to the primary service area and why there was not a specific reference to Riverlea. It was explained that Riverlea is part of the Fire District. Trustees agreed that the City should notify Riverlea. Palmer asked if the Township should reach out to Riverlea?

Discussion occurred about the service areas. Reference to Metro Parks, I-270, State Route 315, and the Bristol and how these areas should not be necessarily included in service numbers counted against the Township.

Palmer discussed the triggering provisions in the existing contract.

Legal counsel, Pete Griggs called in and Oberle introduced Counsel to the group at 6:55am.

Counsel provided guidance on timeline and the agreement. Counsel noted that the 45-day trigger is not initiated by the letter from the City of Worthington.

Palmer asked about the City's language and the possibility of phasing in of the amount. Counsel noted that the approach is rational and supported.

Counsel noted that there must be a disagreement in order to trigger the 45-day window in the contract.

Counsel explained that he does not believe that a government entity can be compelled to place a tax issue on the ballot by arbitration.

Farley confirmed with Counsel that no taxes would be collected until January 2024 for any levy passed in 2023.

Counsel noted that Worthington has an arrangement with Perry in that 81% of the proceeds of the levy are given to Worthington for fire service. This levy has not been increased in at least ten years.

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Oberle asked when the 45-day period triggers. Counsel advised that the Township should communicate that the date listed in the November 28, 2022 letter from the City of Worthington is arbitrary. Oberle noted that the Township has until the end of January to place the matter on the ballot.

Counsel did state that fire revenues could be used to pay for the direct cost of placing the fire levy on the ballot.

Counsel advised that inclusion of the Metro Park and highways is not appropriate to consider for purposes of determining service area.

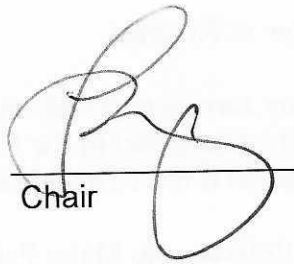
Oberle laid out the parameters of communication back to the City of Worthington.

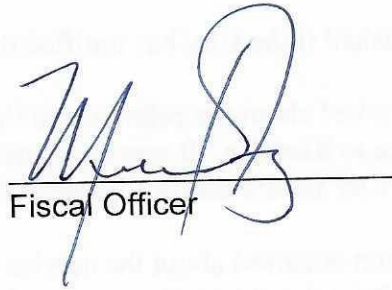
Palmer and Oberle discussed the prospect of having two special meetings in January.

Trustees discussed potential levy options and timing. Trustees also discussed the need for a robust plan to communicate with residents and receive feedback on the issue.

Palmer moved to adjourn at approximately 7:25am, Kunze seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12/14/22
Date


Chair


Fiscal Officer