

TOWNSHIP OF SPRING ARBOR
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Spring Arbor Township Board was held on March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present: Supervisor Dave Herlein, Clerk Julia Stonestreet, Treasurer Colleen Gibbs, Trustees, James Buck, Troy Ganton and Josh Walz. Absent: Michael Archer. The Supervisor invited the attending Boy Scout troop to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Opened at 6:00. Rod Hatcher, E. Court Street suggested a book: By the People? – Author: Daniel Brubaker, regarding election integrity concerns.

Reports: County Commissioner Ed Poleski reported county meetings were held and the county commission agreed to add one additional prosecutor. Also, addition of circuit court poly-com system upgrades with ARPA funds. Acquisition of parcels in Horton adjacent to Alfred Snyder Park. They have right of first refusal from the property owner. March 31st is tax foreclosure day. Soil conservation district will hold a tire collection on July 22 at the Fairgrounds. Health emergency is ending soon. SNAP benefits will be reduced. Jury summons issue regarding no show for jury duty as addressed at previous meetings has been moving forward. Judge McBain issued an average of \$50.00 fine to 110 people. In addition, 105 arrest warrants were issued related to jury summons. Question from Buck regarding tire size accepted for collection, Poleski responded tractor sized tires.

Police: Chief Dan Deering reported a busy February. Responded to an accidental shooting on Mathews Road. CSC on Horton Road, search warrant executed and investigation developing and charges still pending for the individual. Suicide attempt call at Spring Arbor University. The evening of the Ice storm had over 200 9-1-1 calls pending, only 99 pending around 1:00 AM in which none were in Spring Arbor.

Fire: Chief Tim McEldowney reported a call regarding a possible active shooter at Jackson High School. The night of the ice storm they handled 77 calls within 48 hours. They were dispatched to 4 potential house fires. They are hosting training academy which will be completed on May 1st. This past weekend they had a training for RIT (Rapid Intervention Training) in conjunction with Concord, Parma, Sandstone fire departments. Sending Chief Woolworth to ropes operations class to train for rescues. 74 fire calls last month were storm related.

Expenditures: Motion was made by Walz and seconded by Ganton to approve disbursements for the month of February 2023 totaling \$1,675,067.33. Roll Call: 6 yes. Approved. Motion was made by Buck and seconded by Walz to approve payment of outstanding invoices totaling \$151,702.89. Roll Call: 6 yes. Approved.

Minutes: Motion was made by Buck and seconded by Ganton to accept the Regular Board minutes of February 13, 2023 with correction. Approved.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Walz to accept the following items under the consent agenda, the General Ledger Report of Revenues and Expenditures for February 2023; the Cash Summary for February 2023 and the Public Safety Report for February 2023. Approved.

Supervisor Report: Library to hold grand opening dedication, Saturday March 18th 11 AM-3 PM. Today was first day of hearings for Board of Review. Majority reviewed were poverty and Veterans exemptions. May 6th is the pancake breakfast for the fire department, May 13th is the tire drive held jointly with Sandstone Township on County Farm Road and are seeking volunteers. May 20th is clean-up day which is being held in the Spring Arbor University parking lot also seeking volunteers for this event as well. Charles Ragain has reached 50 years of active service as a volunteer firefighter. Working with parade committee to honor him in the Memorial Day Parade as well as on our

social media platforms. ROBIN Grant letter of support sent that works for additional funds for broadband expansion. Supervisor Herlein continuing working with other entity regarding expanding Wi-Fi networks within the Township.

New Business: Supervisor Herlein proposes a water and sewer rate increase, effective April 1st, 2023. Rate increase is necessary to complete needed repairs. Authorization given for expense for work on 3 lift stations which will deplete reserve funds. 10% increase for water and 15% increase for sewer. Unable to proceed without resolution. Vote postponed.

Salary for Elected Officials: A motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Walz for Treasurer Salary increase to \$43,571.00. Roll Call: 6 yes. Approved.

A motion was made by Buck and seconded by Walz to increase Clerks Salary increase to \$43,571.00. Roll Call: 6 yes. Approved.

A motion was made by Ganton and seconded by Stonestreet for Supervisors/Assessor Salary increase to \$49,586.00. Roll Call: 6 yes. Approved.

Budget: Proposed budget for 2023-2024 presented. A special budget hearing will be held Monday March 27th at 5:30 PM. Proposed budget is predicated on water/sewer increase.

Budget includes projected \$5.00 increase for inspectors per inspection. March 27th meeting will include new contract details for inspectors reflecting increase to \$70.00. \$10.00 administrative fee will be added for applications which will offset increase to inspectors.

Fire Department needs to replace Scott Air-Paks. Chief McEldowney composed a Grant request. This expense is deemed necessary at a cost of \$272,340.00 to purchase 28 Scott Air-Paks. Amount is figured in budget which would be subject to change barring approval of proposed Grant. Budget includes the cost to replace all 10 garage doors on the fire station at a cost of \$60,154.00. Budget also includes remodeling bathroom on main floor as well add a shower/bathroom to the second floor at the cost of \$10,500.00. Supervisor will reach out to the West Foundation to possibly help with funding.

Police budget expense to purchase new uniforms, as well load bearing vests. Cost of new uniforms \$7,000.00 and \$1200.00 for vests. Software expenses and online trainings as well as leasing one flock camera.

Proposed budget is over by \$122,799.00.

Received letter of resignation from police officer Todd Long today. Rachel Doxtader added as new police officer.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Board Member Comments: Gibbs commented she invested Township monies into a one year certificate of deposit through True Community Credit Union at the rate of 4.75%. Stonestreet stated the Memorial Day parade would be held on May 29th and is requesting volunteers. Herlein commented that a date will be set for a retirement gathering for retiring Clerk, Julia Stonestreet. Details to follow.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:49 PM

PATRICIA BUSH, CLERK

NEXT BOARD MEETING: APRIL 10, 2023