

JAMESTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

September 29, 2014 7:00 p.m.

UNAPPROVED
MINUTES

Supervisor Bergwerff called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., stating that the meeting was called by request of the fire department.

Present: Oskin, Altman, Tacoma, Pruis, Brouwer, Jensen and Bergwerff. Also present were Tom Saladino, fire Chief, Duane Miedema, deputy chief, and the fire commission: Frank Hartuniewicz, Jim Ondersma, and Mike Rose.

Fire Chief Tom Saladino gave some background on the condition of fire station #1 that is in the village of Jamestown. The building was built sometime in the 1960's and is in disrepair and not sufficient for the present needs of the Township. He thinks it would cost too much to repair it as well. He would like to build a new station on 24th Ave. as close to the Baptist church as possible as the DEQ will not allow building on the present site in the village of Jamestown. He is seeking approximately \$1,000,000 for construction of a new building. He informed the board that there is \$250,000 in the fire department operations fund, which the department would like to transfer into a building fund. They would also sell the building and land the present station is on, hoping for \$250,000 - \$300,000 from that sale and put that money in the building fund. He said he had checked with the attorney and that there were no legal problems associated with transferring the money. He asked the board if the Township would bond for the building.

Saladino also suggested that he would like to see the township set up a fund and put a certain amount into this fund each year for buildings.

Bergwerff stated there is no question the building needs to be replaced.

Tacoma asked for some information on new equipment, replacement of equipment, department needs and statistics for the fire station. He requested that the information be written down explaining that this was a lot of information for the members to absorb at one time.

Brouwer suggested that moving \$250,000 from the operations fund to the building fund might cause some problems with the public since it was not stated in the ballot language that they were voting to pay for a new fire station. There might be some public relations problems. He will check with the auditors regarding the transferring of the money.

Jensen responded that building and financing a building is a no brainer. This facility is despicable and we need to do something about it. The citizens expect it. We are elected to use our judgment, not to listen to the naysayers.

Bergwerff said he completely agreed, but that we do not wish to give the perception that we are misusing the funds.

Brouwer reminded those present that communication is everything and we need to use different means to let the people know the situation.

Jensen said that as trustees we must do the right thing, whatever the consequences. He stated that our job as a board is to decide for bonding or other ways to build if necessary.

Pruis inquired if the fire department has asked for donations, stating that many citizens are committed to a good fire department.

Saladino: "Yes, we are waiting for an O.K. for using the fire operations money, the land sale money and bonding or some commitment from the board - but we are in a crisis. I have a goal to keep the fire department with enough money in the operations fund to sustain it for four years in case the millage doesn't pass."

Ondersma asked where the department is with new tankers.

Saladino replied that it is better to get a new truck than to pay a considerable sum of money to refurbish an old one. There is enough money in the equipment fund to sustain it.

Altman asked for a show of hands of those who were in favor of replacing the present station and inquired as to why we need two stations - that this needs to be clarified for the public.

Saladino: "For ISO ratings."

Altman: "People need to know how much is saved on their insurance by the ISO ratings."

Miedema stated that it would really upset people to shut down a fire station in their neighborhood to build one big one elsewhere.

Oskin stated that there are lots of young families moving into Jamestown in the years since she moved here and they are willing to pay for a new station.

Pruis suggested that the fire department get plans and an agreement from the fire fighters and then come to the board with some suggestions. The board is not in the best position to make decisions about what is needed. Also, that it would be nice to have some concrete numbers as to cost.

Tacoma suggested calling the *Advance* and having them tour the Jamestown station and write an article so the public could be informed and see the need.

Bergwerff asked Saladino to be ready with answers at the next board meeting so the public could ask questions.

Tacoma asked how much pavement would be needed stating that is very costly.

Ondersma asked if the water department would still need some space, as they are using the present station for storage.

Saladino said maybe they would make a donation so they could have a room in the station.

Saladino then gave some information on future plans for the department regarding personnel. This will be brought to the board at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ruth Pruis, Jamestown Township clerk