

Fire Territory Board Meeting

Weds., Oct. 11, 2023 - 5:30 p.m. (EST)

New Carlisle Library, 408 S. Bray St., New Carlisle, IN 46552

ATTENDANCE:

Board members:

Brian Gray, Hudson Twp. Board

Tim Creason, Olive Twp. Board

Marcy Kauffman, New Carlisle town council

Bob Middlebrook, Olive Twp. Board

Keith Batzel, Olive Twp. Board

Jerry Colanese, New Carlisle town council

Also:

Josh Schweizer, Fire chief

Will Miller, Olive Twp. Trustee

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Brian Gray, board president.

Motion to adopt agenda by Bob Middlebrook. Second by Tim Creason. Approved 6-0.

Motion to approve minutes of 9-13-2023 by Bob Middlebrook. Second by Keith Batzel. Approved 6-0.

PROCEDURES & MEETING ETIQUETTE: Pete Agostino, fire territory attorney, gave a presentation on proper procedures during a territory meeting.

Pete Agostino states the board is generally in control of its own procedures and rules for meetings. If no rules are adopted, it is basically majority rules, he says. He states township government is different than other forms of government in Indiana, in that citizens have the right to participate and ask questions, whereas other forms of government must conduct business in public, but do not have to allow citizen input.

He states best practice is to have an agenda with all items to be discussed. There are exceptions for emergency situations, of course. The agenda should be posted 48 hours before the meeting. An agenda may be amended at a meeting, but that is not best practice.

During meetings, the preferred practice is for conversation to be directed by the president. This is to control the situation when two or three people are trying to speak at once.

Regarding the minutes, if a meeting is recorded, that recording must be made available to the public. (NOTE: The recordings of all fire territory meetings this year are on file in the Olive Township office.)

Pete Agostino states minutes are to record official actions, not be a transcript of everything that is said. It is most important to record any votes that are taken.

WILLS TOWNSHIP: Josh Schweizer points out that no representatives from Wills Twp. have come to the meeting.

Brian Gray states Wills Twp. has until the end of the year to decide on a contract. Not Oct. 16, as previously indicated. Pete Agostino states he has a draft contract written up, if it is needed. It wouldn't have any significance until there is board approval. Brian Gray asks if he may show the draft to representatives of Wills Twp. if asked before the next meeting. Pete Agostino says yes.

The board consensus is that no further action is to be taken until there is further contact from Wills Twp. Will Miller and Keith Batzel suggest there should be a call made to Wills Twp. trustee to ask what her intention may be. Brian Gray says he will contact the trustee.

Jerry Colanese moves that the board president, Brian Gray, should be directed to contact the Wills Twp. trustee. Seconded by Bob Middlebrook. Approved 6-0.

RENOVATION OF EXTERIOR OF FIRE STATION: Jerry Colanese again states that the exterior of the fire station needs to be spruced up.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Middlebrook. Second by Keith Batzel. Motion approved, 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Creason
Secretary

Bob Middlebrook, Territory Member

Brian Gray, Board President

Marcy Kauffman, Territory Member

Keith Batzel, Territory Member

Tim Creason, Territory Member

Jerry Colanese, Territory Member