

Record of Proceedings: May 26, 2020
West Chester Township Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting

Convene: Chairperson Becker convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Mrs. Becker, Mr. Wong, and Mr. Welch responded.
Pledge of Allegiance: Repeated by those present.

Citizen's Comments

Mrs. Brown, Assistant Township Administrator read one email from a constituent as follows: Mathew Montgomery, 7822 Willow run Court, asked why all of the road construction around Beckett Ridge was scheduled for the same time, noting the only ways out is via Eagleridge and Smith Road. He also said their streets needed treatment this past year. Mrs. Brown answered, saying the project on Beckett Road was supposed to be performed last year, but was a larger project than anticipated, so it was delayed until this year. The other road project impacting Becket Ridge is the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Beckett Ridge Boulevard and LeSourdsville-West Chester Road, and that project was scheduled based on the availability of grant money and targeted for summer when school is out. Consequently there's the unintended overlap. Regarding his second concern about street treatment, Mrs. Brown said she didn't know what specifics he was referring to, but asserted the Street Department is vigilant in addressing those issues, and that citizens can submit their specific concerns online.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Action Items – For Approval by Motion

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve the Trustee Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2020. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve payment of bills. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Burks submitted the following requisitions greater than \$7,500:

Requisitions – Greater than \$7,500.00

1. Adm \$169,764.84 Hexagon Safety & Infrastructure - Renew annual license and support of public safety software applications
2. Adm \$51,242.61 Frost Brown Todd, LLC - Legal Services through April 30, 2020 (various departments)
3. Adm \$25,161.24 Butler County Emergency Management Agency - Remit annual fee for operational services
4. Services \$29,574.00 Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment Co - Refurbish 2003 Ford F350 Truck & 2011 Ford F450 Truck (CIP# 1601 and 1549)

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve payment of requisitions 1 through 4. Discussion: In response to Mrs. Becker's question, Mr. Dick said Hexagon Safety & Infrastructure would not refund money for their software if the Township is able to implement substitute software before the conclusion of the current licensing and support period. He also said it takes 9 to 12 months for implementation once a replacement software provider is identified. He added that they expect this to be the last renewal with Hexagon. Mr. Wong noted the increase in legal expenses relative to recent years. Mr. Burks identified sources of increased legal expenses. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Personnel Items

Mr. Burks introduced the next item saying the position was vacated March 22 of this year due to a promotion. He noted Ms. Blom's work experience and qualifications.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to hire Ms. Erica Blom to the vacant position of Secretary effective June 1, 2020 at the hourly rate of \$14.00 with a one year probationary period. Discussion: Mr. Burks said they intended to fill the position earlier, but there's been an emergency and didn't believe they could devote time to adequately train her, so there was a delay in filling the position. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Items

Mr. Burks introduced the next item saying it was time to renew the contract with CareWorksComp. He said they manage worker's comp matters and they save employers money. **MOTION** made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve agreement between the West Chester Township Board of Trustees and CCI Investments, LLC, dba CareWorksComp, not to exceed \$15,450.00 for 2021 third party administrative professional services to manage Bureau of Workers Compensation insurance program. Discussion: Mrs. Becker said this was a benefit of being a member of the Ohio Township Association. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Burks introduced the next item saying this item is pursuant the bargaining unit agreement that the firefighters have a second set of turnout gear, and is designed to reduce firefighter's exposure to carcinogens. He said one bid was received that complied with all of the stated specifications.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to accept bid and approve purchase with Fire Safety Services Inc. for 2020 turnout gear replacement per specifications as advertised not to exceed \$86,611.70 (CIP# 1338). Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Burks introduced the next item saying the ICC provides technical expertise and advise. He said Mr. Aaron Wiegand would be the alternate representative for the Township. **MOTION** made by Mr. Welch Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch Wong, to appoint Mr. Tim Franck, Community Services Director, as Township representative to the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) Intermodal Coordinating Committee (ICC) from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Discussion: Mrs. Becker expressed her appreciation that Mr. Franck would be our representative, noting the demands of the position. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Burks introduced the next item saying this item enable the Township to dispose of items pursuant statute.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Statutory Resolution No. 11-2020 declaring surplus items for disposal. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

First Reading of Resolutions & Reading of Emergency Resolutions

There were no first readings of resolutions or readings of emergency resolutions.

Citizen's Comments

There were no citizen's comments.

Second Reading & Vote on Pending Resolutions & Vote on Emergency Resolutions

There were no second readings, or votes on pending resolutions or emergency resolutions.

Discussion Items & Elected Official Comments

Mr. Burks noted an email from Services Director Franck which advised that the recent rains had created additional washout of the road on Dimmick Road, necessitating a total closure of Dimmick Road until it can be repaired.

Mr. Jones commented on the impact the Wuhan Virus has had on West Chester real estate values by noting the correlation between the numbers of residential real estate showings in 2019 versus 2020 year-to-date. He observed that the virus apparently was the source for reducing the number of showings on residential properties in the greater Cincinnati area beginning mid-March, but the numbers increased in mid-April such that they are comparable to 2019. Mr. Jones also commented on a report from the Butler County Health Department and a graph that illustrated how few Covid-19 cases were being reported on a day-by-day basis, adding that "we have crushed the curve."

Mr. Welch gave data noting the high numbers of COVID-19 related deaths were from nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He also noted the usual number of deaths associated with the flu was substantially lower this year. He also expressed his appreciation for Memorial Day. He also noted not all streets in West Chester are West Chester streets, referring to a Citizen Comment earlier, and praised the condition of the Township's roads, as well as Butler County Engineer Greg Wilkens.

Mr. Wong also praised the condition of the streets.

Mrs. Becker noted there was a Memorial Day Service and expressed appreciation to the VFW.

Recess to Executive Session

At 6:29 p.m., Mrs. Becker asked for a motion to recess the Regular meeting and go into Executive Session for the purpose of conferencing with our attorney with concerns or disputes involving public body that are subject to pending or eminent court action. Motion made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong. Mrs. Becker said the Board would return to adjourn the

Executive Session and to adjourn the Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Becker declared the meeting in recess.

Post Executive Session

MOTION made at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Welch Wong to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the May 26, 2020 Regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Welch Wong. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Hearing 7 p.m.

Cincinnati Dayton Road Landscape Improvement and Maintenance District

Staff report: Mr. Ken Keim noted there's been significant improvements to the Cincinnati-Dayton Road area in recent years. They were paid as project costs, but it was understood the ongoing maintenance would be borne by property owners. He said the Administrator asked him to look into a landscape district for the area and listening to the pros and cons was the purpose for the hearing. Using a PowerPoint presentation to identify the process, affected properties – 56 properties with an average assessment of \$49.38, that the term of the district would be 10 years, and it would collect \$4,000 per year. Mrs. Becker asked her peers for questions:

In response to Mr. Wong's question, Mr. Keim said the assessment would be based on road frontage. Mr. Welch identified the property owner that would pay the most. Additional details were discussed. There was discussion as to what amenities were getting provided by the district. Mr. Welch commented, and Mrs. Becker concurred, that he struggles with property owners paying for the district thought they didn't benefit from being part of the Old West Chester lighting district. Mr. Keim commented that it has not been the practice of the Township to charge non-profits for inclusion in a landscape district, but Mr. Welch suggested they might want to support it given the benefits they would receive. Mr. Welch re-iterated he questions the fairness of the proposal.

Mrs. Becker then asked for comments as follows:

Proponent Comments:

Bill Lendl, 6080 Tennyson Drive, said the street signs would not be replaced, but the poles they're attached to might need replacement and funds would be necessary. He said the poles cost \$500 each to replace and the mailboxes were \$250. He said it would be up to the property owners to have trees planted. Mr. Lendl said it's important to maintain the area or it will degrade over time.

Tim Popp, 8777 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, said he was fine with landscaping as long as they know what they're buying, and suggested they should be able to vote on it. He questioned how "Old West Chester" was developed. He asked additional question; Mr. Keim returned to address them. Mr. Keim said the assessment would be set for 10 years, and it would either terminate automatically or subject to renewal. He said a fund would be established by the township to pay for expenses exclusively in the district.

Opponent Comments:

Victoria Alvarez, 8995 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, complained about the cost of mailboxes and asked what would happen to money in the fund if it's not spent after 10 years. She questioned additional expenses.

Neutral Comments:

Vernon DeMois, 5906 Hazeltine Court, questioned the need and the process, and why it costs \$4,000, suggesting it may or may not happen. He also suggested the Township could pay these expenses for the property owners.

Rod Jerger, 8875 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, said he's more "pro" than "anti". He also questioned what happens to any money remaining in the fund after 10 years. Mr. Burkes believes it would remain in the fund, to be used for its original intent.

Alan Cramer, 8995 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, expressed concern with drivers speeding on the road, asking why anyone was concerned with mailboxes. He confirmed that he was an opponent of the proposal.

Bill Popp returned, asking about the fund balance, to which Mr. Burks responded.

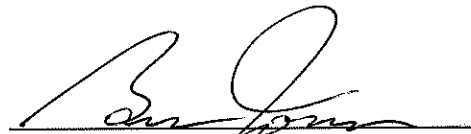
Bill Welly, 8992 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, said the property owners should continue to build on the improvements recently made to Cincinnati-Dayton Road.

Mrs. Becker declared the Public Hearing closed.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to adjourn the May 26, 2020 Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Jones, Fiscal Officer

Approved,



Mrs. Becker, Chairperson