

Record of Proceedings: April 11, 2023
West Chester Township Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting

Convene: Chairperson Becker convened the meeting at 5:01 p.m.
Roll Call: Mrs. Becker, Mr. Wong, and Mr. Welch responded.
Pledge of Allegiance: Repeated by those present.

MOTION made by Mrs. Becker, seconded by Mr. Welch, to amend the agenda so as to move Personnel Items 9 through 12 to immediately after Citizens Comments. Discussion: none.
Motion carried unanimously.

At 5:03 p.m., Mr. Wong motioned to recess the Regular meeting and go into Executive Session with legal counsel for the purpose of: (1) Considering confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance (provided both of the criteria specified in O.R.C. 121.22(G)(8)(a) and (b) apply). O.R.C. 121.22(G)(8). Motion seconded by Mr. Welch. Mrs. Becker said the Board would return to adjourn the Executive Session and to resume the Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**
Mrs. Becker declared the meeting in recess.

Post Executive Session/ Adjournment

MOTION made at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Wong to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the April 11, 2023. Regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Welch. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Citizen's Comments

Patrick Barnett, 7986 Tylers Way, commented on Mr. Welch's proposal that the Township contribute to promoting the country music festival scheduled to be performed this summer, noting the event promoter previously hosted a campaign fundraiser for Mr. Welch. He also said he didn't see that listed on Mr. Welch's campaign finance report. Mr. Barnett characterized that as corruption and said Mr. Welch should resign.

State Representative Jennifer Gross, 7350 Lakota Springs Drive, provided a quarterly update on current activities in the Ohio legislature. She also noted her upcoming monthly Town hall meeting next month in Fairfield. In response to Mr. Wong's question, she said she was opposed to the proposed property valuations and will work to fight them.

Personnel Items

Mr. Burks introduced the Personnel Items consisting of, (1) Approving a 4% merit pool for the 2023 merit performance increases; and, a not to exceed 4.5% individual increase for qualified non-contract exempt and nonexempt employees; and, authorize Township Administrator to approve and apply said merit performance increases effective the pay period closest to July 1, 2023; (2) approving the promotion of Officer Dustin Parrett to the rank of Sergeant, effective April 16, 2023, at the bi-weekly rate of \$3,742.29; (3) approving the promotion of Officer Scott Lovett to the rank of Sergeant, effective April 16, 2023, at the bi-weekly rate of \$3,742.29; (4) approving the promotion of Detective Robert Obermeyer to the rank of Sergeant, effective April 16, 2023, at the bi-weekly rate of \$3,742.29. These were identified on the agenda as Personnel Items 9, 10, 11, and 12 respectively.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, to approve Personnel Items 9 through 12, seconded by Mr. Wong Discussion: The Trustees each expressed praise for the West Chester Police Department and the service they perform. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Thereupon, Fiscal Officer Jones administered the Oath of Office to Police Sergeants Parrett, Lovett, and Obermeyer, accompanied by Colonel Rebholz and Chief Herzog, the later of whom pinned the new Police Sergeants.

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 March 28, 2023. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve the Trustee Special Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2023. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve payment of bills, March 17, 2023 through March 30, 2023. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Then and Now certificate. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Requisitions – Greater than \$7,500.00

- 1. Adm \$28,997.70 Frost Brown Todd LLC - Legal Services through February 28, 2023 (Police Department)
- 2. CIT \$29,446.00 Butler County Sheriff's Office - Purchase annual radio maintenance
- 3. Police \$33,427.40 Vance Outdoors, Inc. - Purchase 60 duty shotguns (CIP# 1804)
- 4. Police \$17,890.56 Galls LLC - Purchase 16 bulletproof vests
- 5. Police \$15,327.94 Lenco Industries, Inc. - Purchase replacement glass for the

6. Police \$8,984.00 ballistic-engineered armored response (BEAR) vehicle (CIP# 1588) Architectural Glass & Metal Company, Inc. - Install replacement glass in the ballistic engineered armored response (BEAR) vehicle (CIP# 1588)
7. Services \$133,163.95 Baker Vehicle Systems, Inc. - Purchase Jacobsen HR800 Wide Area Mower (CIP# 197)
8. Services \$26,250.00 Benchmark Land Management LLC - Plant ornamental grasses at the UCB DDI landscaping area

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve payment of requisitions 1 through 8. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Items

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to consider letter of acknowledgement for requested TREX permit transfer for L&M Spiceporium, dba Sawasdee Thai Cuisine; and, authorize Township Administrator to execute documentation necessary to effectuate the TREX. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to advertise Request for Proposals on depository and banking services for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028. Discussion: In response to Mrs. Becker's question, Finance Director Ken Keim addressed the Board. He explained the protections afforded the Township's deposit, noting the Township has its deposits 105% collateralized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve service agreement between West Chester Township Board of Trustees and Pinpoint Behavioral Health Solutions not to exceed \$100,000.00; and, authorize Township Administrator to make non-substantive changes with Law Director approval. Discussion: Ms. Brown had explained the program to the Board prior to the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Statutory Resolution 18-2023 authorizing the acceptance of the proposed Settlement Agreement and Release Resolving United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Case No. 1:23-Cv-00079. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve Statutory Resolution 19-2023 accepting the agreed Court Order with Kings Furniture and Mattress located at 3105 Dixie Highway. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Statutory Resolution 20-2023 accepting the agreed Court Order with Kayden Clark located at 6964 Forest View Court. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve Statutory Resolution 21-2023 declaring a 2010 Ford Expedition is not needed and unfit for public use and authorizing the sale of said apparatus by public auction. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to purchase a 2013 E-One Rescue Pumper from Monrovia, Alabama Volunteer Fire Department for \$425,000.00, pending award of bid and completion of vendor documentation (CIP# 1921). Discussion: In response to Mr. Welch's question, Chief Prinz said he drove to Monrovia and personally saw the pumper before buying it. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to apply for the 2023-2024 U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Grant; and, authorize Township Administrator to accept said grant if awarded. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Statutory Resolution 22-2023 declaring surplus items for disposal. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to advertise Request for Qualifications for consultants for small project selection. Discussion: Mr. Burks explained that a list of qualified consultants is maintained and utilized for projects under \$50,000. **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

Patrick Barnett, 7986 Tylers Way, said Mr. Welch cannot use the Township's attorney, noted the cost of parking, and said he believed it was a little late to contribute money to the festival.

David Corfman, 7568 Kirkwood Drive, maintained his interest in lighting on I-75 at night by an internet pharmacy, suggested a portion of the UCB overpass wall could be used for promotional purposes, and, lastly, asked Mr. Jones and the Trustees explain the misconceptions surrounding increased property valuations.

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

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

Discussion Items & Elected Official Comments

Mrs. Becker suggested Mr. Barnett discuss traffic controls that will be implemented at the country music festival.

Mr. Wong said our property tax went up 20% and now it will go up another 20% plus. He said the property taxes are going up too much, and attributed it to "waste, fraud, and abuse".

Mr. Welch commented on comments/accusations made by Mr. Barnett to the extent Mr. Welch said the event promoter asked for the contributions for marketing purposes. Mr. Welch proceeded to provide examples of marketing funded by other area governments. He also noted fundraisers are common practice. He concluded by saying West Chester is always competing with other communities.

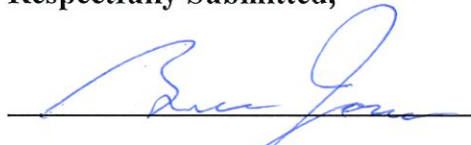
Mr. Jones questioned the requisitions pertaining to purchasing and replacing the glass in the ballistic-engineered armored response (BEAR) vehicle. Chief Herzog addressed the Board and said the glass is beyond the warranted ballistic rating. He gave examples of when BEAR has been used. Mr. Jones also gave a synopsis of recent increased property valuations and the January tax bill. He asked the Board to support the County Commissioners in their effort to represent Butler County property owner's interest.

Mr. Burks asked Mr. Jones to keep them apprised of the property tax valuation issue in Butler County. He also expressed concern that businesses may be disinclined to relocate to West Chester when the property taxes significantly increase.

Adjournment

MOTION made at 7:18 p.m. by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to adjourn the April 11, 2023 Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Jones, Fiscal Officer

Approved,



Ann Becker, Chairperson