

Record of Proceedings:

July 11, 2017

West Chester Township Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting

Convene: President Welch convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Welch, Mr. Lang, and Mr. Wong responded.

Pledge of Allegiance: Repeated by those present.

Citizen's Comments

Cathina Hourani, 7606 Tylers Place Boulevard, handed out materials for the Trustees and commented on concerns made at the previous meeting regarding Sharia law. She said it was her duty as a Muslim to clarify some of the terms that were used. Ms. Hourani said Sharia law was a code of law for Muslims, providing examples, equating it to Christian law and Jewish law. She said "Jihad" is usually mistranslated into "holy war", adding that it simply means to struggle. Lastly, she said "infidel" is not a term used in their community and is not in the Qur'an, but she found it in the Gospel. She said it means non-believer, and in the Muslim community they simply say Muslim or non-Muslim. She said her family is Christian, but they are not infidels. Ms. Hourani concluded by saying their jihad would be to be united, and combat hate and extremism.

Jeremiah York, 5373 Blossom Street, began by saying he supports and defends the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. He said he participated in a recent protest called March Against Sharia at the West Chester Islamic Center. He said Sharia law is Islamic law based upon the Qur'an and is totally incompatible with Constitutional law. He proceeded by giving examples of Sharia Law from the Qur'an.

Presentations

Mrs. Boyko first introduced Mr. Larry Fronk, who sat as an observer at the dais, as the new, interim Administrator for West Chester Township, hired by the Trustees at the last meeting.

Mrs. Boyko explained that the Board requested a presentation from Jonathan Granville, Executive Director Butler County MetroParks, pertaining to a special project MetroParks has earmarked for the next several years.

Thereupon, Kelly Barkely, Senior Manager of Communications and Community Relations for MetroParks, began by providing the history of the development of the VOA Park, and a video of the proposed amphitheater and an athletic complex at the park. Jonathan Granville then presented: He observed that the MetroParks and West Chester Township have previously collaborated on the development of this park. The creation of a large performance venue has been on the drawing board for many years, and their proposal entails seating for 10,000 people. He said it's important to first know if it would make economic sense and be sustainable before pursuing partners and sponsors for the projects. He observed regional competition. He asked the Board to consider contributing to a feasibility plan along with other area partners, the total cost of which would be between \$60,000 and \$65,000. He said MetroParks is willing to contribute the majority of the costs, but is looking at least four other entities to partner with it in this cost. He identified all that the feasibility study would provide, including construction, and ongoing

operating costs and management. He emphasized that it shouldn't be built if it can't be sustained. He commented on current and projected economic impact.

Action Items – For Approval by Motion

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve the Trustee Meeting Minutes for June 27, 2017. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve a lighting district in the Oaks of West Chester, Section 3, as illustrated in the attached plan documentation. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Boyko submitted the following requisitions greater than \$2,500:

Requisitions – Greater than \$2,500.00

1. Adm \$31,250.00 A & A Safety Inc. – Purchase two transportable electronic message boards for public safety and traffic management notification (CIP# 1282)
2. Adm \$13,506.94 Frost Brown Todd, LLC – Legal services through May 2017 (various departments)
3. Adm \$5,000.00 Boys and Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty – Contribution for community outreach and youth development
4. Fire \$233,901.66 Stryker Sales Corporation – Purchase six battery operated and powered patient cots (PO# S171964 & S171971) (CIP # 1247)
5. Fire \$9,840.00 Ambulance Maintenance Co. Inc. – Install battery operated and powered patient cots in ambulatory vehicles (CIP# 1247)
6. Fire \$7,465.00 Jon D. Hines dba Hinson Roofing and Sheet Metal Inc. – Repair metal roof on Station 75
7. Services \$15,990.72 Best Equipment Co. – Purchase replacement camera for storm water Pipe inspections (CIP #1251).

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve payment of requisitions 1 through 7. Discussion: **Motion carried unanimously.**

Personnel Items

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item saying this item provides the Township with a professional leader relative Human Resource matters. Ms. Tumlison has 40 years experience in quasi governmental, not-for-profit organizations, and has an MBA and a law degree from N. K. U. **MOTION** made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to hire Mrs. Joan Tumlison to the vacant position of Human Resources Manager effective July 12, 2017 at the annual exempt salary of \$75,500.00 with a one year probationary period contingent upon successful completion of applicable testing and procedures and pursuant to the attached terms of employment

Discussion: Mr. Wong observed that she's very seasoned. Mr. Lang noted Ms. Tumblison is of high quality and character. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item by saying, relative the OpenGov initiative that the Board approved pursuing, the Township had purchased Budget Builder software module to link our accounting software to key performance indicators and budget targets. The creation of the following position enables the Township to manage and maintain ongoing data, as well as compliance.

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to reclassify a Finance Assistant/Accounting Clerk position to Budget Coordinator; to approve the job description; to revise the Township's organizational chart and the exempt and non-exempt compensation program to reflect the changed position; and to authorize the Township Administrator to amend or revise other organizational documents and procedures to effectuate the reclassified non-exempt position. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to hire Ms. Michele Hunkler to the newly created non-exempt position of Budget Coordinator effective July 17, 2017 at an hourly rate of \$22.50 with a one year probationary period and contingent upon successful completion of applicable testing and procedures. Discussion: Mr. Lang said this will enable greater transparency. He noted other government entities accepted the "off the shelf" OpenGov program, but West Chester is pursuing a program that will be more powerful for our businesses and residents. He said West Chester will be creating a custom OpenGov model for other communities to emulate. Mr. Lang credited Mr. Jones for originally bringing the idea to the Board. He said Ms. Hunkler is the perfect person for the job. Mr. Welch said Ms. Hunkler has the skills to optimize what OpenGov has to offer. Mrs. Boyko interjected that personnel from OpenGov, a corporation performing work throughout the country, said West Chester's OpenGov initiative - with key performance indicators, performance measurements, and data analytics - is unlike anything any other local government is doing. Mr. Lang said there'll be a lot of soft savings to the taxpayers as information is shared internally. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item saying the swearing in ceremony will be performed at a subsequent date, noting the July 25th Board meeting has been cancelled.

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to hire Mr. Adam A. Bernard, Mr. Cody L. Hall, Ms. Margaret M. Clem, and Mr. William P. Schlie to the vacant positions of police officer effective July 31, 2017 at the annual salary of \$56,685.77 per the collective bargaining agreement with a one year probationary period, and contingent upon successful completion of applicable testing and procedures. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Items

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item saying the purpose for the contract was to fill the Township Administrator position.

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve contract with The Novak Consulting Group in substantially the same form as attached not to exceed \$25,000.00 for professional executive search services and ancillary recruitment costs for replacement of the West Chester Township Administrator position and to authorize the current Township

Administrator to make non-substantive changes with Law Director approval before execution by the Board of Trustees. Discussion: The Trustees expressed their support for the recommendation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Lang that, having reviewed the staff report and affidavit, we declare the properties listed on the West Chester Township Board of Trustees meeting agenda dated July 11, 2017 to be public nuisances as authorized by the Ohio Revised Code.

Staff is directed to cause removal of the nuisances identified, and monitor the properties for 90 days to require continued compliance. An administrative charge of 25% shall be added to the contractor fee for these properties. Motion seconded by Mr. Wong. Discussion: none. (Fiscal Officer Note: The four subject properties were 5275 Fieldstone Court, 7903 Crossings of Beckett Drive, 7925 Crossings of Beckett Drive, and 10170 Summit Avenue.) **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve School Resource Officer Agreement between the West Chester Township Board of Trustees and the Lakota Local School District Board of Education for the 2017-2018 school year and to authorize the Township Administrator to make non-substantive changes with Law Director approval and to execute the agreement. Discussion: In response to Mr. Wong's question, Mrs. Boyko said the term of the contract was for the school year.. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve School Resource Officer Agreement between the West Chester Township Board of Trustees and the Butler Technology and Career Development Schools Board of Education for the 2017-2018 school year at the Bioscience Center and to authorize the Township Administrator to make non-substantive changes with Law Director approval and to execute the agreement. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to not object to a new D5I liquor permit for Matt the Millers West Chester LLC, dba Matt the Millers Tavern, 9558 Civic Centre Boulevard, Suite A. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

First Reading of Resolutions & Reading of Emergency Resolutions

Mrs. Boyko read Resolution No. 23-2017 adopting the 2018 tax budget and declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. The Board had no questions.

Citizen's Comments

Sylvia E. Pacheco McGuire, 6531 Wilderness Trail, advised everyone to recognize warning signs of hate and violence. She said the same groups that protest at the Islamic Center protest against illegal immigration. She said people could google The Pyramid of Hate to see the escalation of hate in the holocaust "which ended with genocide". She said the warning signs of the escalation of hate are the acceptance of bullying or stereotypes, laughing at belittling jokes, assigning blame to a group of people, not recognizing positive contributions from that group of

people, starting rumors or attaching behind somebody's back. It escalates to being verbally hostile, harassment, then threats or violence.

Randy Simmons, 5924 Owl Nest Drive, wrote a poem entitled "Behind the Title", a tribute to Mrs. Boyko, and read it to her.

Marianne Penska, 6864 Gregory Creek Lane, commented regarding two citizens comment from the previous meeting in which the speakers warned of the dangers of Islam and encouraged equal protection for all under the constitution. She was alarmed by their statements and the handout they provided. She said she believes they have the best interest of the community in mind, however she termed their information misinformation. She said their information was from frontpagemag.com, she termed a right wing islamophobic source, published by a group which was an "anti-Muslim hate group" in the opinion of The Southern Poverty Center. Ms. Penska said the speaker's concern was that Sharia Law was not consistent with constitutional law. In response she said the Five Pillars of Islam were faith – there's only one God, prayer – a commitment to pray five times a day, charity – giving alms based on cumulative wealth, fasting during Ramadan in order to be nearer to God, and a pilgrimage to Mecca. She continued, there are six beliefs: One God, the prophets, his books, his angels, his decrees, and a final judgement. She said nothing in the pillars or beliefs she described contradicted the constitution any more than any other tenant of Judaism or Christianity. She said she's attended the Meet Your Neighbors event at the Islamic Center four times this year where people can participate in an open discussion, and encouraged people to attend. She concluded by saying people shouldn't hold onto fear and lose the foundations on which this country was built.

Dan Richards, 6677 Station Road, referenced the Barbary Wars, saying Muslim pirates enslaved the occupants of U.S. ships, and that's the reason the U.S. has a standing Navy. He said there are several parts of Sharia Law that are not compatible with the U.S. Constitution, citing female genital mutilation and cruelty to animals.

He said the Board should adopt a Resolution declaring that the Board would defend the constitution, including against Sharia Law. Mr. Richards said he's not against Muslims. He said there's already "no go zones" in Detroit, like many parts of Europe.

Patrick Barnett, 7986 Tylers Way, said he's been watching all of the meeting videos of this council and was very impressed with Mrs. Boyko, he didn't know much about city government before watching the videos, didn't know her job existed, and praised her performance.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Wong, to declare Emergency Resolution No. 23-2017 an emergency and dispense with the second reading. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Resolution No. 23-2017 as read and as already declared an emergency. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Items & Elected Official Comments

Mr. Wong said he deals with roads, local businesses, cemeteries, police, and fire as a township trustee. He said the Board has business to conduct and some of the issues people bring to the meetings do not pertain to the township. He said service in the military is proof of loyalty to the country and patriotism. Mr. Wong related how he joined the Army, putting himself in harms way, after he was attacked by someone in Chicago in the 70's, believing Mr. Wong was Japanese. He said there have recently been radicals come in from outside that cover their face in black, but he deals with local issues and he wasn't going to vote for any resolution.

Mr. Lang noted that there would be a public reception for Mrs. Boyko the following Tuesday, paid for by the trustees - not taxpayers. He, as well as Mr. Welch, subsequently reflected at length on Mrs. Boyko's career with West Chester Township, her many contributions, attributes, and successes as West Chester Township Administrator. They expressed their love and appreciation for her. Mr. Lang commented how fortunate Hamilton County will be to have Mrs. Boyko as their Assistant County Administrator. Mr. Welch expressed his confidence in interim Township Administrator Larry Fronk.

Gary Cates was in attendance and was invited as a former trustee to comment: he related antidotes about his service on the Board and expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Boyko. Mrs. Boyko then expressed her pleasure for having served the community, and expressed her appreciation for the tremendous staff working for West Chester Township. She thanked the Board for its confidence and patience.

Mr. Wong then expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Boyko's professionalism and hard work.

Recess to Executive Session

At 7:39 p.m., Mr. Welch asked for a motion to recess the Regular meeting and go into Executive Session with legal counsel for the purpose of considering and discussing (1) personnel matters: (a) discipline, termination, promotion, hiring, or transfer of a current or candidate public employee; (b) provision of benefits for public employees, (2) Acquisition, sale, or swap of real property, (3) Pending or current litigation. Motion made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong. Mr. Welch said the Board would return to adjourn the Executive Session and adjourn the Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Welch declared the meeting in recess.

Post Executive Session/ Adjournment

MOTION made at 9:05 p.m. by Mr. Wong to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the July 11, 2017 Regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Lang. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

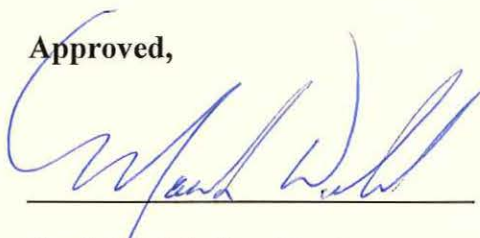
MOTION made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong, to adjourn the July 11, 2017 Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Jones, Fiscal Officer

Approved,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Welch", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Welch, President