

**WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**APRIL 24, 2009**  
**EMERGENCY MEETING**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
(As amended 6/18/09)

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Jim Likley called to order the emergency meeting of the Westfield Township Board of Trustees at 1:05 p.m. Trustee Sims, Likley and Kratzer were present. The purpose of the emergency meeting was for discussion of receipt of Fire Chief Snoddy's resignation.

**Trustee Kratzer made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the discussion on the Fire Chief's Employment. It was seconded by Trustee Sims.**

**ROLL CALL-Kratzer-yes, Sims-yes, Likley-yes. Motion carried.**

The Trustees went into Executive Session at 1:06 p.m.

**Trustee Kratzer made motion to come out of Executive Session. It was seconded by Trustee Sims. ROLL CALL-Kratzer-yes, Sims-yes, Likley-yes. Motion carried.**

The Trustees came out of Executive Session at 1:43 p.m.

Chair Likley stated that the Trustees were in receipt of Fire Chief Jack Snoddy's resignation which was given to the Village of Westfield Center, faxed to the Township, to him as Chairman and to each individual Trustee.

Trustee Sims asked that the resignation letter from Chief Snoddy be read for the record, Chair Likley read as follows: "To the Westfield Township Trustees: Effective immediately please accept this letter as my resignation as Chief of Westfield Fire and Rescue. Respectfully, Jack Snoddy." It was received April 24, 2009 and was stamped as such. Trustee Sims asked when it was received and who received it? Chair Likley stated it was received at 9:40 a.m. Mayor Horwedel accepted Chief Jack Snoddy's verbal resignation and asked Jack to prepare a written letter of resignation. The resignation letter received was handwritten by Chief Snoddy. Chair Likley continued that Mayor Horwedel in turn called him and relayed the information. Chair Likley added the circumstances behind Jack Snoddy's resignation are uncertain. Chair Likley stated he attempted to call Jack Snoddy after learning this information and has not received a response from him. Chair Likley stated prior to this meeting he called Ass't Chief Mike Carson and asked him to take the necessary steps to inform the other officers of the Dept. that service to our residents was being met to the best of his ability. Ass't Chief Carson accepted this responsibility. Chair Likley stated he felt confident that the Ass't Chief could handle the

**Page 2 Westfield Township Trustees Emergency Meeting 4/24/09**

responsibility by working with the members of the Dept. to fulfill our responsibility to our residents.

Trustee Sims asked if it was Chair Likley's understanding that during the time the resignation was received and the call of this meeting a fire call came in and went unresponded to by the Westfield Fire Dept.? Chair Likley stated he was of the understanding that this was true for whatever reason. He could not say what the call was or why it was not responded to. The call was met with mutual aid from a surrounding community.

Chair Likley stated he would like a motion to accept the resignation of Fire Chief Jack Snoddy. Trustee Kratzer again asked if there could be a discussion with Jack to get more information as to what occurred and possibly get him to reconsider his resignation? Chair Likley stated he has attempted to call Chief Snoddy and added it was important the residents are comfortable in the meeting of the Fire Dept. responsibilities due to the lack of a Fire Chief at this time. If that meant the Ass't Chief is just an interim Chief in covering this opening that is up to this Board as to how we proceed. Trustee Kratzer stated he would not make a motion to accept Jack Snoddy's resignation but the Trustees could move Ass't Chief Carson in as interim. Trustee Kratzer added that there is a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday regarding employment contract and the Trustees could formally accept the resignation then if we could not get Jack Snoddy to reconsider. Trustee Kratzer stated if Trustee Sims and Chair Likley do not want to get Chief Snoddy to reconsider that was up to both of them. Again Trustee Kratzer asked if the Trustees had to accept the Fire Chief's resignation or could the Trustees speak with Chief Snoddy about reconsidering his action?

Trustee Sims stated she felt that it was appropriate for Trustee Likley to make the motion given he is the Board Chair and on the Fire Committee.

**Chair Likley made a motion to accept the written resignation of Jack Snoddy as Fire Chief as presented. It was seconded by Trustee Sims.**

**ROLL CALL-Kratzer-no, Sims-yes, Likley-yes. Motion carried.**

Chair Likley stated it was important as a Board to present to the Ass't Fire Chief his responsibilities and to officially name him as interim Fire Chief.

**Chair Likley made a motion to make Ass't Fire Chief Mike Carson interim Chief and to perform the duties as such during this interim period. It was seconded by Trustee Sims.**

**Discussion on the motion**

Chair Likley stated Mike Carson has been Ass't Chief for some time. It will take this Board, working with the Village to pursue the filling of the Fire Chief position.

**ROLL CALL-Sims-yes, Kratzer-I believe I need to abstain. Trustee Sims asked on what basis? Chair Likley asked if there was a basis...Trustee Kratzer stated no. Trustee Sims stated if there is an abstention there has to be a reason given so the reason for the abstention in order to vote again to understand the reason for your abstention has been resolved or has resolved itself. You cannot refrain from making decisions because they are difficult. Trustee Kratzer stated then I vote no, Miss Know it all. Likley-yes. Motion carried.**

Chair Likley stated there is a special meeting scheduled on April 29, 2009 that was made prior to the scheduling of this emergency meeting where Bill Thorne from the Pros. Office will be present and hopefully can shed light on this situation and how best it should be handled.

Trustee Sims stated the Trustees have been placed in a very uncomfortable position due to this untimely and unexpected situation and we should all reserve the opportunity as we understand more as to what lead to Jack Snoddy's resignation. However emergency steps had to be taken to ensure the continuous safety of our residents, the command or our Fire Dept. and to ensure our commitment to the Village in providing fire protection. Trustee Sims asked that a phone call be placed to Mayor Horwedel and the interim Chief as to the actions that have transpired as well as Bill Thorne and to keep this Board posted of any further information. She added that the Village should be contacted about the emergency exercise on Wednesday that Chief Snoddy was in charge with. Chair Likley stated Rick Robbs from Village Council has been involved in this through his personnel regarding the exercise scheduled for next Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> he has been given the information to communicate with Ass't Chief Mike Carson and he would also contact Buck Adams accordingly. Trustee Kratzer stated he contacted the EMA and told them there would probably be a new person at the helm for the emergency response drill on Wednesday and Buck Adams would need Mike Carson's contact information. Trustee Sims asked if Trustee Kratzer did this before this emergency meeting? Trustee Kratzer stated yes he did. Chair Likley stated he would follow-up with Buck Adams and all other pertinent parties

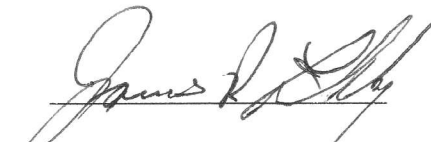
**Trustee Kratzer made a motion to adjourn the emergency meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Sims. ROLL CALL-Kratzer-yes, Sims-yes, Likley-yes. Motion carried.**

The emergency meeting was officially adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

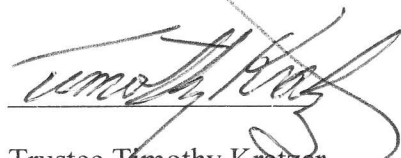
**Page 4 Westfield Township Trustees Emergency Meeting 4/24/09**

Respectfully Submitted,


Kim Ferencz-Westfield Township



James Likley, Chairperson



Trustee Timothy Kratzer



Trustee Carolyn Sims