

Westfield Township Board of Trustees

Special and General Business Meeting
January 22, 2018

Trustee Schmidt called to order the Special and General Business meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
Roll call: Likley – aye, Horner – aye, Schmidt – aye,

A joint meeting was held in early December with the Westfield Township Trustees, Westfield Center Village Council with Chief Fletcher and Assistant Chief Williams.

- It was decided to postpone putting the Safety Service Building levy (“levy”) on the ballot until November, 2018.
- There was not a reflection of lack of support of either the levy or the Westfield Fire and Rescue District.

Comments from the Floor

- Several members of the Westfield Fire & Rescue District were in attendance of the meeting.
- The question was posed “How do we communicate the proper message to residents?” to gain their support of the bond levy.
- Trustee Likley submitted a letter to the editor of the Medina Post stating that the levy would be delayed. He also sent an e-mail to the department membership.
- A concern was raised that all need to be on the same page to bring everyone together.
- There is no interest to reduce the cost or square footage, 12,000 square feet, any further.
- The feeling is that the current plan is at the level of need with the possibility of future expansion.
- It is likely that at least 20% of residents will not or can not support the bond levy.
- In a previous levy, it took 3 attempts to support a 1 mil increase, this levy is asking for a 1.9 mil bond levy.
- The WFRD membership posed the question as to why the message can not get out to the residents in the next 90 days. The next primary election date is May 8, 2018.
- It was also stated that this is not just an Association issue/problem.
- Trustee Likley stated the example of the school levy success being driven by the parents of the district.
- Kevin Rich, expressed the need to go door to door.
- The first levy failed 72/28, the second levy failed 57/42.
- The question of what happens if it fails again? The group stated it goes back on the ballot.
- There seems to be a disconnect between the need and perception.
- Trustee Schmidt stated the committee needs people with no vested interest in the levy passing so it is not a personal agenda item.
- The question was asked if we do not go on the ballot are we sending a message that there is no urgency.
- There was concern that not much has been done since the levy failed in November.
- “Who is ultimately responsible?” was asked. Trustee Likley confirmed that it is the Westfield Township Trustees.
- All stakeholders need to be represented in this process.

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- Member Anderson stated the Association did not meet with the Trustees or Village Council and communication was delayed or lacking during the last 2 levy campaigns.
- Trustee Likley stated Assistant Chief Williams prepared an excellent presentation explaining the levy.
- A resolution needs to go the Medina County Auditor to place the levy on the May ballot.
- A question whether to wait or go again was asked. No definitive answer was established.
- The site on Virginia Drive is questioned for the new building.
 - A resident wrote a strong letter against Virginia Drive. Trustee Likley spoke with the resident on 3 occasions to clarify the choice.
 - The Township Hall land does not have the capacity to support a 12,000 square foot building.
- The Ohio Revised Code dictates the amount of debt allowable. A Fire Station has a lower debt than a multiple use building. This is the reason it's a Safety Services Building.
- Karen Martin suggested the following:
 - Levy supporters need to be recruited to speak on behalf of the levy.
 - Negotiables and non-negotiables need to be established.
 - If we wait the message could be perceived, "we don't need it."
- This is a \$3.3 million-dollar levy for 20 years – 1.9 mil.
- There were significant differences in the results of the levy failure. North Township = 40% aye/60% nay, South Township = 32% aye/68 nay, Village defeated the levy by 1 vote.
- The Virginia Drive location concerns need to be addressed.
- Ron Oiler stated that there is a big job for the Township and it's going to take a lot of commitment.
- The message to the residents is to emphasize the need.
- Rory O'Neill believes the waiting to the November General Election will bring out more voters.
- A concern that a failure in May could cement a negative perception with residents.
- The campaign committee will need to be trained on the message.
- Assistant Chief Williams stated that the Association won't be ready for May but if it goes forward, the Department must be united.
- It was also stated that new residents probably do not have any information regarding the need or the levy.
- A straw poll vote was take amongst the attendees to determine if the levy should go on the May ballot. It was overwhelmingly voted to support May.
- A committee will be established to develop the message and identify the issues.
 - Trustee Likley & Karen Martin will begin the process of identifying committee members.
 - An e-mail will be sent to organize the committee.
- Gayle Foster, Post contributor, will be informed of progress to place in Post articles.
- The Township does not have the funds to produce a newsletter.
- A Committee Report will become part of each Trustees meeting to report progress.

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Likley makes a motion to support the levy on the May ballot; Schmidt seconded. Roll Call – Schmidt – aye, Horner – aye, Likley -aye. The motion passes.

Likley makes a motion to approve resolution 2018-04. A resolution requesting the Medina County Auditor to certify the current tax valuation of Westfield Township and tax millage rate required to produce \$3,300,000.00 for the purpose of building, financing and construction pursuant to code ORC 505.262 to be placed on the May 8, 2018 ballot. The levy is intended as an additional levy in excess of the Ten-Mill limitation for 20 years; seconded by Thombs. Roll call: Schmidt –aye, Likley – aye Thombs- aye. The motion passes.

Roll Call – Horner -aye, Likley – aye, Schmidt – aye. The motion passes.

Schmidt makes a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM; seconded by Likley. All said aye.

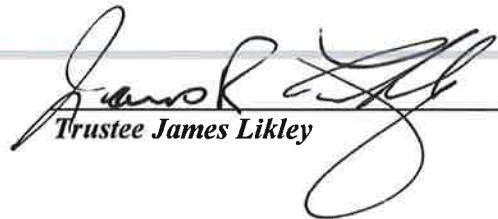
Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle English

Date approved: 2-5-18



Trustee Michael Schmidt, Chair



Trustee James Likley



Trustee Craig Horner