

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

February 16, 2011

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Wednesday February 16, 2011 to transact special business. Chairman Henning called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Guy Bainum, Bari Henning and Gary Jordan answered the roll call. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Gregory W. Carson and Kevin Wiedemann.

Mr. Henning said that we publicized this special meeting per ORC. He said that we need to evaluate the need for a new fire ladder truck and decide if we can afford it. Mr. Wiedemann said that we don't have tall buildings in Williamsburg Township, however a ladder truck can be used for length as much as height for buildings such as Dualite and Williamsburg High School and others. He said that they took the 1968 truck to a fire this weekend and the headlights went out while going to the night fire. He said that the pumper no longer works on the old one and it has potential for many other issues. He said that we have limitations with it due to the age, such as they can't rotate the ladder 360 degrees as they can on the new ones. He said that it doesn't have a rear cab to allow for 4 people to ride like the requirements are today. He said that he has looked at several used trucks and he feels that the 1984 Sutphen is the best deal that he has found. He said that it has more spotlights, brand new generator, brand new engine with 2 year warranty, brand new tires, new brakes, new front rims, new paint job, new LED lights, new Boston seats, a cab has been added to allow for 4 passengers and many other things. He said that this truck should last 15 years and longer. He said that with this truck, we can pull the ladder off of the truck and put it on a new chasis and save close to \$250,000. Mr. Jordan asked if we bought this new, what would it cost and Mr. Wiedemann said that it would cost around \$1 million if it was brand new. He said that we could use this truck a lot more, because it's more versatile. He said that it can be used as a rescue truck, a ladder truck and a pumper truck. Mr. Jordan asked him what the department would need in the next 5 years. Mr. Wiedemann said that this is the highest priority. He said that we would probably need to replace the staff car in the next 5 years and an ambulance, but we have always been on a rotation in ambulance replacement, because that is so important. Mr. Jordan asked if there were any hidden costs with this truck. Mr. Wiedemann said that he doesn't feel that would happen, because we have bought a lot of trucks from them over the years and they have a great reputation. He said that all of the appropriate tests would be done to make sure it is ready to go if we purchase it. Mr. Jordan asked if we are finally sound to purchase this. Mr. Carson said that we have a lot of cash in the fire fund and could afford it at this time, but he is always concerned about cash flow. Obviously if we spend the cash, then it's gone and we're not like a business that can generate more revenue without running a tax levy. However we have been billing for services through our billing company and generating some money and that is why our cash balance has been growing over the past several years. Mr. Jordan asked if the majority of the fire fighters were in favor of replacing the old unit and Mr. Wiedemann said yes. He said that they are ready to get rid of the dinosaur mostly for safety reasons. Mr. Henning said that he has thought long and hard about this purchase. He said that we paid about \$18,000 for the 1968 truck about 7 or 8 years ago and we've put some money into repairs, but it has served us well to help our ISO ratings. He said that the 1968 is very old and the pump is broken and it has an old cable system that runs the ladder and that is potentially very dangerous and he is very concerned about the liability and safety of our members in that truck even if we didn't need to fix the pumper. He said that he talked to Mr. Sutphen and he had bought this truck and was rebuilding it for the township he lives in, but that township can't afford it. He said that he feels that it's a great truck. He said that Mr. Sutphen said that a large town like Worthington uses this type of truck as first out on the scene, because it's so versatile. Mr. Henning said that our ISO ratings are better because we have a ladder truck which helps the businesses in this community. Mr. Henning feels that we can afford it and we should purchase it because it's good for the community and provide the safety services that they deserve. Mr. Henning motioned to approve the specification for the purchase of a 1984 or new 100 foot mid mount aluminum platform apparatus for the Fire Department and to advertise for bid for this purchase. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas. Mr. Carson said that he will talk to the prosecutor about the wording for bidding of the used equipment to make sure we comply with the law. Mr. Jordan said that he struggled with this decision, but agrees that it is a good deal and will provide the safety services that are needed for many years to come. Mr. Wiedemann said that everyone would be extensively trained on this truck.

Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 6:00 p.m. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Fiscal Officer

Chairman