

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes
Special Meeting
September 8, 2022

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees held a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at the Williamsburg Emergency Services Building, for the purpose of providing information on the Fire and EMS Tax Levy on the ballot November 8, 2022. This was the only business conducted at the meeting and it was informational only. Mr. Henning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., 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, Doug Lefferson and approximately 40 others associated with Williamsburg Emergency Services and the community at-large (sign in sheet available at Township Hall).

Mr. Henning introduced the Trustees and Fiscal Officer. Mr. Jordan spoke about the failure of the levy on the May ballot. He stated it was the first levy in 20 years and that the Township could have prepared better. Hind sight is a great teacher and we now move forward. Mr. Jordan turned the meeting over to Fiscal Officer Doug Lefferson for an informational PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Lefferson's presentation included levy facts (5 mills, Continuing, estimated annual revenue \$645,000), estimated cost to homeowners, the need for additional full-time and part-time staff, a \$100,000 per year operating deficit, a new staffing design, use of the levy funds, revenue generated from the Joint Economic Development District (Nestle' Purina and Design Within Reach), and the ballot wording. Mr. Lefferson indicated his presentation in its entirety will be posted on the Township website.

There were numerous questions and comments from the audience. There was a question about knowing how the new funds would be actually spent. Mr. Lefferson discussed the controls in place and indicated his goal was to be transparent. One audience member inquired about the current staffing model. Mr. Henning outlined our current structure. A question was raised about a plan B if the Levy does not pass. Mr. Lefferson stated that in the short-term the annual deficit would continue to draw down the Fire and EMS Funds and that dollars may have to be reallocated from the General Fund to cover expenses. This approach would only keep the staff and coverage we have which is strained and is not a sustainable approach. Some audience members thought the Township should emphasize the safety issues of the Levy not passing. There was a statement made about not enough medics. It was also suggested that specific run time data and how it has changed in recent years be presented in future information. Additionally, there was a concern about potentially higher homeowner insurance rates if our emergency ratings are changed.

Incoming Fire Chief Jason McCarthy made some comments regarding the rich history and tradition of the Williamsburg Emergency Services which included honoring former Fire Chief Dick Malott who was in attendance. Mr. McCarthy's desire is to be able to continue this rich tradition and build on it. He passionately outlined the importance of providing these life and death services and that ultimately it is not about money.

The Trustees and Fiscal Officer thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Henning motioned to adjourn at approximately 8:30 p.m. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson