

The Special Meeting of the Hamilton Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Chris Hann.

Members Present: Blackstone yea                      Armstrong yea                      Hann yea

Visitors Present: Gwen Young, Marvin Young

Trustee Hann opened the meeting by stating that the purpose was to prepare documentation for presentation to township residents describing the township's need for the replacement of two expiring operating levies.

The Board of Trustees was concerned about recent posts on social media regarding the need for levies that did not contain accurate information.

One particular post from a resident of Hamilton Meadows mistakenly stated the levy was being placed on the ballot to provide additional services to the new development at Warner farms in Obetz. Trustee Hann stated that he had left a message for the resident, explaining that this is incorrect, and received no response. However, the post was updated to reflect more correct information regarding the levy.

Trustees also stated that the spouse of an employee is posting derogatory comments to social media regarding the Board of Trustees. The board acknowledges that this is not something that they have control over, but noted residents are always encouraged to attend open board meetings to discuss any concerns.

The board discussed with Chief Shillingburg the issue of not having a ladder to reach the third floor of the apartments being built. Shillingburg stated that while the township does not have equipment that would reach the top floor, there were ladders belonging to neighboring departments that could be on the scene of a fire in a matter of minutes.

There was another issue of the taxes that are being collected through the TIF approved on the Warner property. The township has no representation on the CRA panel. To date, there is no plan in place to reimburse the township for the loss in revenue. However, this property has not been built out, so the impact on township Fire/EMS services is minimal.

The board noted that the previous fire chief had requested assistance in purchasing a ladder with the City of Obetz and they responded that we should rely upon mutual aid.

The board stated that they were in negotiations with the City of Obetz regarding potentially providing property to construct a new fire station. Nothing has been finalized to date.

Captain Edwards suggested that the township would benefit from keeping three medics in service at all times. This has not been possible due to staffing issues. Perhaps the board would consider adding three more medics in the future to accomplish this.

Trustees explained that adding staffing was not in the plans in the near future. The goal of the levy is to remain at the same level of service. If these levies did not pass, the township would face cuts.

Trustee Blackstone asked what could be done to keep the township equipment in the township and available for the residents. Edwards stated that he would push for the third medic to be classified as "Level One" for dispatching, meaning it would only leave the township for the most serious calls.

Trustee Blackstone stated that he had asked for this to be done over a year ago and was told it could not be accomplished. His desire is to keep all emergency equipment in Hamilton

Township and reduce the runs to the City of Columbus. The fire chief stated he did not think this was possible.

The board discussed with the chief the impact of the new multi-family development on Rathmell Road in Columbus. The Chief stated that when an incident is reported, the closest available equipment would be dispatched. This could be Hamilton Township, if Columbus's equipment were not available (in-service).

Wade Edwards asked the board what they intended to do with his present position once he retired.

Trustee Hann asked Edwards when he intended to retire, he stated he would let the board know by May, he would be retired by summer 2023.

Trustees informed Edwards that per the contract, it is the desire of the board to convert the EMS Coordinator job to an assistant chief position. Edwards asked who would do the community paramedicine duties. The board stated that the unit captains have all been trained to do this function. It is the board's intent to have the captains assume this duty. Edwards stated that of the three captains that were trained, one has resigned, one is not showing interest, but there is one captain extremely interested in the job. Edwards believes this position is a valuable public relations tool for the township and was disappointed that the township was not keeping it in its current capacity.

The board inquired on the status of the EMS Training class offered in partnership with Hamilton Local schools. Edwards stated that he currently has five students in the program. Of the five, one is planning to apply at Columbus Division of Fire, two are going to be nurses and only two are pursuing this as a career at some point. To date, the township has not been compensated for Edwards time by the board of education. Trustee Hann advised Edwards that he could continue this as a private contract with the school after he retires. The board does not plan to provide an instructor for the program in the future.

The board also advised Chief Shillingburg that no employee has been authorized by the board to function as chaplain for the fire department. It is the board's decision to use the chaplain services available through Franklin County Sheriff's Department in this capacity.

(2023-95) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at hand, T. Blackstone made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. G. Armstrong seconded the move and the vote resulted. M/C

Blackstone yea

Armstrong yea

Hann yea

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fiscal officer