

WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOAR MEETING
TRUSTEE'S NOTES
OCTOBER 25, 2016

ATTENDEES: Mark Messick, Gregory Rainbolt, Margaret Young, David Pollard, Mary Sue Kane and Mary Lou Habicht

Board meeting was called to order by Greg Rainbolt at 6 PM followed by the first order of business which was the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greg: Next order of business is Approval of WRT Board Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2016 and August 9, 2016. I would like to make this a joint approval if that is alright with the board members.

Dave: I don't have any problem with it.

Peggy: That's fine.

Greg: All three members said that is fine so we will open up that. Do we have any discussion on either minutes?

Dave: I don't.

Greg: Basically it just highlights what has transpired as to who opened and who closed and what was approved or not. Any discussion on these?

Dave: I'm alright.

Greg: Hearing no discussion I will ask for a vote. All those in favor of accepting June 22, 2016 and August 9, 2016 WRT Board Meeting Minutes, say Aye (all board members said aye). Three ayes, the minutes are approved from June 22, 2016 and August 9, 2016. We will close that order of business. We will have to sign all of these. The next order of business is WRT Resolution 2016-05, Adoption of WRT 2017 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies. I am going to go ahead and make a motion to open up this and then we will have Mark go thru it.

Dave: Second.

Greg: Having a first and a second I will open up the WRT Resolution 2016-05, Adoption of the WRT 2017 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies. I will hand the floor over to Mr. Messick.

Mark: At the last meeting you were given Budget Form 1 at the Public Meeting and this is where we will start. Nothing changed in the salary area. You guys have it in front of you so I will take questions from you. We will start on the General Fund first which is the first page down to about midway. You have salaries, office supplies, repairs and maintenance. Do you have any questions?

Greg: Have you highlighted your, do you have last year's numbers with you?

Mark: I don't have that with me. I gave that to you at the last meeting.

Greg: Let me grab mine.

Mark: You want to grab that out of the minutes book from the last meeting (Mary Sue)?

Greg: Ok go over the highlighted areas where there was a change. Repair and Maintenance was \$7,500 and it is \$7,500 current.

Dave: Isn't that under Professional Services?

Greg: That is under Repairs and Maintenance Professional Services was \$7,500 last year and \$7,500 this year.

Mark: Ok I have that in front of me. The first change is under Printing and Advertising, we added \$500 there because we have to publish the Annual Report in the paper and I thought we were not going to have to do that but we have to so that is the reason for the \$500 under Printing and Advertising. The next change was where we took Repairs and Maintenance to \$35,000. In the previous year it had been \$7,500. That was to get the air conditioners fixed.

Greg: That is the main one I want to talk about.

Peggy: Didn't we just appropriate money for that?

Mark: Not for the whole ball of wax.

Peggy: Well it was \$20,000.

Dave: \$26,000.

Mark: That was for the roof...

Peggy: An additional Appropriation of \$20,000 for the roof, \$6,000 for the air conditioner.

Mark: For one air conditioner and the roof. That is just for one and also to get a copier. We don't have enough money to do the copier and the furnace. Forest Hills had a meeting in here and the air conditioner did not work at all. How hot did he say it was?

Mary Lou: 88, I don't know what it was but he kept calling me telling me it was hot in here.

Dave: Open a window.

Mary Lou: They did.

Peggy: They did not have to pay anything to rent it.

Mark: Anyway, they need to be replaced. What we have in the budget this year what is left if I buy a copier and we had to play with the copier again tonight to get it to work for tonight's meeting. That is a necessity and I have to get that done no matter what we do and we have to maintain the building and have heating and air conditioning. We are not raising the tax rate or levy this year in our budget. We are just asking for the money that we have to be appropriated so that we can do the job.

Peggy: And again are you going to get 3 estimates?

Mark: I can get as many estimates Peggy as you want me to. The law says I can do it without getting any estimates because it is under \$50,000. But I will take the board's advice and I will get 3 licensed bids before we do any work. Other than emergency repairs until we decide how to get it replaced.

Greg: Ok now you have money in the budget this year on that. I think there is about \$10,000 left.

Mark: There is \$10,455 left as of today.

Greg: That would go towards funds for one furnace and air conditioning and the copier.

Mark: Can't do both, that is not enough money to do both.

Greg: Right.

Mark: So the difference the \$35,000, you have to take \$7,500 because that is about what we spend every year.

Peggy: That would be \$27,500.

Mark: So that is about what it is going to take even with the money that is in the budget. I'm not inflating it. We are just trying to get 5 furnaces and 5 air conditioners.

Peggy: You're saying you have \$10,000 left in the budget plus the \$27,500.

Mark: \$6,000 of that is going to go towards the new copier.

Greg: What is your consensus on your investigation in getting a lower cost unit?

Mark: I think we are at about \$5,500 that is what I think the final number on the copier is going to be. I don't know that until the gal comes in and says that we qualify, she is trying to make us qualify for a government rate.

Greg: That seems like a lot of money because I actually was going thru the minutes and stuff and when you first approached this subject it was like \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Mark: That was what I thought but that is not what I can get it done for.

Peggy: There still looks like there is \$31,500 left.

Mark: That won't get the furnace and air conditioner replaced.

Greg: When you are talking about air conditioning on the appropriations but in the bid it is called for furnace and air conditioning.

Mark: Right that is what I'm talking about. It is like \$5,600 a unit. There are 5 units.

Peggy: That would be \$25,000.

Mark: That would be like \$28,000.

Peggy: You have \$31,500 left over.

Mark: That is 28 thousand.

Peggy: That is what I'm saying, I have \$31,500. So you have the \$10,000 left from this year.

Mark: I don't have \$10,000 left from this year. I need \$7,500 taken off of the \$35,000 before you even start.

Dave: Why?

Mark: Because that is what it takes to maintain this building no matter what. We spend about that amount of money every year maintaining other things like fixing walls, and fixing things around here.

Greg: Yes that is \$7,500 but part of that cost that we put in the budget in the last couple of years was in case a furnace or air conditioner went out that is what it was levied for.

Mark: We are not going to spend any money that we don't have to spend. I feel like the budget is a fair budget as presented but you are the board and you get to decide. We can have additional appropriations if that is the route you want to take.

Peggy: I think that is what we should do. I think you should get the 3 estimates to find out how much and that is my opinion.

Greg: And do all of them have to be replaced, that is the next question. You can always replace one at a time as the need arises.

Mark: For some reason there is a disconnection with me and you, there is a trust issue there. So I guess the best thing to do is to have you guys designate somebody to come in and when I get the furnace guys here you guys meet with them, I will step aside, I will let you guys micromanage it if that is what you want to do.

Peggy: I am going to micromanage the money. My opinion is I think you need to get 3 people who are licensed to come in and give you an estimate. I don't have to be here to watch them look at the coils.

Mark: I have been told that we need to replace all of them, I have been told that already. So somebody is not believing what I'm telling you.

Peggy: I don't remember that question being asked except just now.

Mark: Just now and I said it before, the last time I met with you I said that they all need to be replaced.

Dave: Who told you that?

Mark: Bond Heating and Plumbing. Dave Bond is his name. I'm being told that, I am not coming up with that. I have no idea if the filter needs to be changed or not. When I pull a filter out and if it is dirty then it needs to be changed, other than that I don't know if the filter needs to be changed or not.

Greg: Everything is about up sell.

Mark: Two years ago we had Air Comfort come in they gave us a bid of 50 some thousand dollars and I just threw it in the trash.

Peggy: I think if you have 3 different people come in and give you a bid to look at the units and say do we need new ones or do we not? Then you compare the 3 bids because I will guarantee that there are heating and air conditioning companies out there that will up sell come in and they will say yes, that unit right there needs replaced and then another HVAC company could come in and say well no not really.

Greg: I know on my personal dealings on my residence that is the way it is. I went thru 4 or 5 air conditioning and heating places and finally I got one that was reputable and he said no your heat exchange is good and it will last for another several years. You can replace the control panel in the furnace and you will be good to go. So that is what I'm getting at. We are spending a lot of money on this and that is where my position is.

Mark: So what would the board like me to do?

Dave: Get 3 bids.

Mark: No, no we are talking about the budget. We have to approve a budget.

What would the board like me to do? Strike that from \$35,000 to \$7,500?

Peggy: Yes and then if we have to reappropriate I mean with Dave Bond saying that all 5 units need to be replaced and then if 2 others or whomever.

Greg: I have said this many many times and at many many meetings about the balance between things and I have expressed my concerns on that and I know the function and how hard it is to get assistance but when we are only allocating, most of our assistance budget is probably going to burials. You know, so it is miniscule what we are allowing for assistance and when we are doing things and I understand maintaining the building and things but the core function is to take care of the poor in assistance and cemeteries.

Peggy: If they qualify for sure. I just want to go back to what you said Mark about the micromanaging. You know we came in several meetings ago and you had the attorney here and you wanted to throw in our face that you could spend \$50,000 so at that meeting I assured you yes you may have the law on your side to spend \$50,000 but if it is not appropriated, you're not going to be able to. So I guarantee you yes we are going to be watching the money.

Mark: So there have been instances that you felt like I spent money that should not have been spent?

Peggy: You have not had the money to spend.

Dave: I think you have.

Mark: When and where?

Dave: \$12,000 if I remember right back when the school wanted to buy this and you spent \$12,000 on a house or somewhere in Greenwood someplace investigating and hiring an engineer or something.

Mark: I spent \$2,200 for an architect.

Dave: Yes.

Mark: At the time the previous budget had \$38,000 in Professional Services and all I did was see if it would make sense for us to do that and we would have been far ahead if they would have done that. That \$2,200 is nothing compared to what our savings would have been.

Greg: I don't agree with the landscaping. You have a different opinion you're the trustee. But when we spend that little of amount on assistance and when we are landscaping and planting trees and things, I have a problem with that. We just want to be prudent. That is where my problem comes is the township fund versus the assistance fund.

Mark: If you read the Indiana Code we have dual duties, we have duties to maintain the properties that we own and manage those and the office and we have duties as it relates to standards for setting our standards in giving assistance. In township government, I don't know of any township out there that spends less money on the township portion of it than they do on assistance.

Greg: I understand that.

Mark: If you look at ours per capita, we out of 100 and some the last time I checked we were #11 per capita, #11. That is taking the whole budget, not just the assistance.

Dave: That is pretty good.

Mark: That is taking the whole budget into consideration, how much money we spend to operate this whole office, not just assistance. If you look at assistance we might be even lower per capita because we live in a very affluent area and we go by the standards. That \$35 that we spend every time we have a case that we are thinking about approving saves us so much money it is ridiculous.

Dave: The investigation?

Mark: Yes. We uncover things that we would not know. It can go the other way too. We had a case this week that I was not sure if we were going to help them or not since they had gotten some money in June. When the investigator came back and said these 2 ladies are doing everything they can and we need to consider what you are doing with this case because I believe every word they tell me after the investigation and what I see and hear they have spent their money the best they could. So I approved them.

Greg: That is what I like to see.

Mark: We do everything we can to be prudent with the township money.

Peggy: I appreciate that. I appreciate the investigations.

Mark: If you go out and look I think it is the DLGF has a site out there and see all of the per capita report and look where we are compared to any of our neighbors in Johnson County for sure and you can go out and look even further than that. Our per capita cost is amazing. In Union Township they don't help anybody ever because they are never open.

Greg: I want to strike a better balance if possible. I understand everything you are saying, I do. But looking at it I look at the report every month. At some point we are going to have to make a decision as a community, as a board, as a trustee about how much money we will sink in a place.

Mark: I have a meeting coming up with the superintendent and the assistant superintendent about repair work out here and some stuff that needs to be looked at. Every time I meet with them I make them aware all they have to do is come in and offer us and we will move to a smaller building. I have no problems with a smaller building.

Peggy: But please do not tell them that I am adamantly opposed to anything.

Mark: I have never done that Peggy, ever. As a matter of fact I challenged Dr. Arkanoff on that, I said when did I ever say anything?

Greg: That is where we are at and I concur with Peggy.

Dave: I do too.

Mark: So if I'm hearing the board right, you would like to take the Township Fund to \$122,530 that is reducing it by \$24,500. We had to put \$500 in there for the printing.

Greg: We are talking Repairs and Maintenance.

Mark: We are taking that to \$7,500 from \$35,000. That is \$27,500. So it would be \$119,530. Is that what you are saying?

Peggy: Yes.

Mark: \$119,530. I have no problem adjusting that to \$119,530.

Greg: You know our thoughts and you spoke your thoughts and it is on record.

Mark: I would like to be on record too, if there is anything that you are not comfortable with call me, talk to me, let me know. I don't think there has been a single time that I have gone against the board.

Greg: I guess that is where I need to step up a little bit more. If I'm uncomfortable with something I need to come up and say, I don't want to cross the boundaries, you're the trustee and we're the board. Once the money is allocated you know.

Mark: I don't have a problem even after it is allocated. I don't think we have to spend all of these monies and we don't spend all of these monies. We need them there because there are obligations that we have to be prepared to step up to with the cemeteries and the building itself. I had some fences repaired this year.

Greg: Speaking of that I just looked at the report and you must have repaired a fence at one cemetery.

Mark: I had to reset some gates that weren't working anymore at all and in Messersmith I had to replace like 60 feet of fence that got ran into by a car and the police department never got a police report.

Dave: Where is that?

Mark: That is on Peterman, at the top of the hill as you are going towards Fairview, between Smith Valley and Fairview. Then the second part of the Budget is the Township Assistance. We increased burials. I think that is the only one we increased. We increased that to \$10,000 and that brought the total to \$55,100.

Peggy: How much do you have left right now in burials?

Greg: Zero.

Mark: Zero. I had to move money from a different part of assistance because we spent more than we had allocated. We have done that the last 2 or 3 years.

Dave: How much did you have in it last year?

Mark: We had \$5000.

Dave: So you doubled it?

Mark: Basically because we are seeing that amount of burials. We have a heroin problem that could really jump up and really bite us. It has not bitten us like it has some of the other townships. When I went to ITA this year there were townships that had spent nothing the year before that were spending \$20,000 to \$30,000 on burials. They got hit all at once. They had 6 or 7 people die.

Greg: In Scott County they had breaking news report about so many overdoses in an hour or two.

Mark: It may hit us and if that happens we may have to come back and do an additional appropriation. If we don't we won't. So I have asked that you approve the \$55,100 for the Township Assistance.

Greg: I have no problem with that.

Dave: I don't either.

Greg: Besides that I would like to see a balance as much as possible. I understand how that works.

Peggy: I appreciate that we are following the guidelines; we are not just throwing money. With the investigations, I'm happy with.

Mark: If my addition is correct, that would make the total budget \$174,630.

Greg: Just a little bit above last year's budget, not much.

Peggy: \$174,630 that is what I have.

Mark: So with that in mind I will change this and then I will date it and ask you to adopt it.

Greg: Ok.

Mark: I may need you, I will ask SBA, they won't let us print this until we, I have to show that this is what you are going to adopt. I'm striking those numbers out. They may want me to reprint this clean which I would like to do but go ahead and sign them tonight and then I will get with each of you to sign them later.

Greg: We can come in individually to do that.

Mark: I am going to initial what I changed.

Greg: In Marion County their burial costs are very miniscule.

Mark: If you go up to Washington Twp. it is more than us. You go to Center Township they almost force people to do community burial. They dig a pit and bury people in there and they keep burying people on top of them.

Dave: It won't be long until all cemeteries will be that way.

Greg: So if we had a community pit here we could possibly do that, not that we would ever want to do something like that.

Mark: I read the law different than they do and so does Mr. Buschmann. The law says that we are supposed to bury them and offer them a service. We can't force them to be cremated. The funeral homes that we use they have to report to the FCC, I think that is what it is, what their lowest rates are and they cannot charge us anymore than their lowest rates that they have published. Most of the ones that we are getting done is less than their published lowest rate.

Peggy: Well they are helping the community too.

Mark: I tell you what the one that I was amazed at we got a little girl buried for \$500 and the family was able to take care of it and we did not have to do it. A little baby, a one year old or something like that. Greenlawn Cemetery donated the opening and closing, Batesville Casket gave them a casket and Swartz did everything they could for \$500.

Dave: That's amazing.

Mark: That was a tough one.

Greg: I'm not saying that we should do anything that Center Township or anybody else does.

Mark: I agree.

Greg: I'm not saying that but I'm just saying there is such a wide variance.

Mark: Are you ready for me to read this?

Greg: Go ahead.

(Mark then read the Ordinance or Resolution For Appropriation And Tax Rates – see attached copy)

Greg: Is there any other discussion on the Budget?

Mark: The thing that you are signing I cannot compute the tax rate or the levy because it is going to change it is going to be lower. When we get the revised one that is what it will show you. The tax rate and the levy is less than last year without the changes, so it should go down even more.

Greg: I'm going to ask for a vote and we will sign it anyway. Those in favor of this Budget as proposed, the changed Budget, indicate approval by saying Aye (all board members said Aye). This amended Budget is passed and we will sign it.

Mark: We have more business to take care of before the end of the year. So I'm asking when do you want to have that last meeting? At the last meeting of the year we will need to adopt our standards for 2017 and we will need to adopt our resolution for salaries. I don't think the resolution for salaries is going to change.

Greg: WRT 2017 Budget Estimates and Tax Levies has been adopted, and WRT Resolution 2016-05 was approved. Next order of business is any other business that may come before the board.

Mark: We need to adopt, I think we have 4 things now. We will have to have you sign that we adhere to the nepotism policy.

Dave: We have to do that every year?

Mark: Every year. You will have to sign Form 17 which is our salary resolution and we will have to adopt our Standards for 2017. It looks from our survey on rent; I don't think we are going to be changing anything in our standards. I think the standards are going to maintain the same as they were this year. In other words, we are not increasing the amount of money that we are willing to assist with based on...

Greg: What standards are you going by Mark?

Mark: The 2016 standards will probably be adopted for 2017.

Greg: I mean as far as what is in your guideline for your standards?

Mark: Our standards stay the same. It is page 34, the amounts. After we did our survey, we did a survey to see what the high and the low is we average them and then we take a percentage of that and that is what we offer.

Greg: The high and low of Johnson County or all counties?

Mark: Just WRT. Actually we offer more money for rent than Pleasant.

Greg: Oh you are talking about housing assistance, I'm talking about qualifications.

Mark: The qualifications have not changed.

Peggy: Are those federal?

Mark: No they are really state. They are basically what the state, and if you look at your township manual it is pretty verbatim.

Dave: We don't fool with that do we?

Mark: No the only thing we fool with is the amount of monies and also I don't have what the food stamps amounts are yet, that tables, it's the tables that change.

Greg: So normally this is a December meeting correct?

Mark: Yes.

Greg: I will be out of town in the middle of December.

Mark: Just before the end of the year.

Greg: Do you want to set up tonight or do you just want to wait until...

Mark: I would like to set something tonight because I want to plan my vacation.

Greg: Do you have a time slot for your vacation?

Mark: No. When is school out? We could do this meeting at 4 o'clock or anytime. We are just basically doing standard stuff. You're signing paperwork.

Greg: I'm going to be out of town Dec. 14-Dec. 18. The week of Christmas, I can do the 21st.

Mark: What is that Monday?

Peggy: The 19th.

Mark: Do you want to do it on Monday, Dec. 19th?

Dave: I can't do Monday. I can do any day but Monday.

Peggy: Do you want to do that Tuesday, the 20th?

Greg: Tuesday, Dec. 20th?

Mark: What time can you be here Greg?

Greg: I can't be here, it would probably be 5 and that is pushing it.

Mark: The 20th I have a board meeting with Greenwood Public Library.

Peggy: What about the 21st, Wednesday?

Mark: Wednesday would be perfect.

Mary Sue: You can do it the first week of December too.

Peggy: Yes I can do it the first week of December.

Mark: What I like to do I like to pay you and I don't like to pay you too early.

Peggy: I could do the 21st.

Mark: Let's do it the 21st and you will get your check.

Dave: 21st at what time?

Mark: Let's say the 21st, the time to be determined.

Mark: There is one upgrade that I did that cost us \$5, is that what it cost us?

Mary Sue: Yes.

Mark: We had so many people who were used to getting WiFi here and the school cut it off so I needed to get it so we would have WiFi in the building, wireless, it costs us \$5.

Greg: Did you get a new sweeper?

Mark: Yes we got a new sweeper and a cleaner. I got tired of renting one. Because the rent, we can clean anytime now.

Peggy: We don't have school on the 21st.

Mark: We can do it during the day if you want to.

Greg: How about Wednesday, Dec. 21st.

Mark: At 10 o'clock?

Peggy: Ok.

Greg: 10 o'clock on December 21st. Does anybody have any other business?

Dave: No business.

Greg: I make a motion to adjourn.

Dave: Amen.

Greg: Having a first and second, all of those in favor of adjournment say Aye (all board members said Aye). Meeting is adjourned.