

WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2019  
TRUSTEE'S NOTES

ATTENDEES: Mark Messick, Margaret Young, Dick Huber, David Pollard, Mary Sue Kane & Mary Lou Habicht

GUESTS: Greg Rainbolt & Larry Davis

Meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Peggy Young followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Peggy: First order of business is the approval of the December and January Board Minutes. Do I have a motion for discussion?

Mark: Do you have the December Board Minutes?

Peggy: No just January.

Mark: Did you think that Peggy was making them?

Greg Rainbolt: I never got them transcribed. I don't know, if you would like for me to...

Peggy: I just need to get them and do them I guess. So January, discussion for January Board Minutes.

Dave: I don't have any.

Dick: Second.

Peggy: Hearing none do I have a motion to approve?

Dick: I thought that was what we did.

Dave: So did I.

Peggy: That was for discussion. Do I have a motion for approval?

Dave: Yes.

Dick: Second.

Peggy: All in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye). It carries with 3 Ayes.

Dick: Am I supposed to be keeping any kind of official book? Is that precedence the chair person?

Mark: It's the chair person.

Dick: Ok.

Peggy: The next order of business is the Presentation of the 2018 Annual Financial Report for WRT. I am going to turn it over to Mark Messick.

Mark: Messick: If you were to look this is what you would find on Gateway. It has been uploaded to Gateway. This is what we are submitting. On the 1<sup>st</sup> page that just tells you pretty much that our beginning balance was \$570,928.21 and our ending balance was \$616,582.93.

We dispersed more money in Township than we brought in and we spent quite a bit less than

we brought in for Township Assistance. Year-to-date though we increased our balance quite a bit. Are there any questions on the funds?

Dick: This doesn't have anything to do directly with this but how much detail do we want in the minutes?

Greg: I can get with you after the meeting if you would like Dick.

Dick: Because we don't want all of this in the minutes.

Greg: No you don't.

Dave: It is all recorded Dick.

Dick: Yes I know but in the minutes that we just signed...

Peggy: Greg will get with us for what needs to be in there.

Dick: I'm sorry. You were on Page 2.

Mark: Not a problem. On Page 3, that shows the monies that were collected for Township and Township Assistance. It is a total of \$196,980.97. Those receipts are reflected also on Page 2. It just gives you more of a breakdown as to where the money came from. Are there any questions on detailed receipts?

Dick: This is what you're saying goes out for assistance?

Mark: No this is receipted, monies that were collected in taxes.

Peggy: For the Township and for the Assistance.

Mark: Right. What we received in order to operate. On Page 4<sup>th</sup> this is by fund distributions and there again that correlates with Page 2, the combined statement of \$151,326.25. There again that is broken down between Township and Township Assistance. Are there any questions on Page 4? Then the next thing you have is Page 5 thru Page 7 and that is just a listing by individuals that received money from the township. You will find your own names in there. You will find anybody that we paid monies to their name will be listed in there. That is by category also. The first page and a half is monies that were dispersed by the Township. The next page and a half is monies that were dispersed by Township Assistance. Those number also correlate with what you see on Page 2 where you see the \$113,550.02 and you see the \$37,776.23 for disbursements. Is there any individual disbursement that someone would like to ask a question about?

Dave: Yes, I thought we quit the Daily Journal.

Mark: No. We get it every year and also the Daily Journal is where we have to do our advertising that is where this will be published. So every year until they do away with that requirement that the Annual Report be published, it will be there.

Dick: You have two lawn care services?

Mark: We have Robard's who takes care of our property as far as spraying and that type of deal and then S&S takes care of our property and our cemeteries for mowing and that type of business.

Dick: Robard's is mostly just herbicides?

Mark: Robard's strictly takes care of the fertilizer, insecticides and herbicides. Hearing no other questions, I can still wait if you want. If I don't hear anything else do you want me to move forward Peggy?

Peggy: Yes.

Mark: Ok, Page 8 is blank for a reason we don't have any debt. Page 9 is blank because we don't have any leases. Page 10 shows what our land and building are worth according to our insurance agent. So that has increased over the last year. This year we are up to \$1,612,000.

Peggy: Does the County Assessor assess this area and is there a difference?

Mark: No because we are not on the tax roll, we don't get assessed. I believe there was an appraisal done back when we did the property swap. I think that is where they started with the appraised value for the property and then since then it just goes up whatever number that the insurance states with the growth. Page 11, we have no Accounts Payable or Receivable. Page 12, we do not give financial assistance to non-governmental agencies. Starting on Page 13 thru Page 16 that is your Statistical Report and all that does is report to you the numbers that the township gives assistance with and also the numbers that we are able to get from outside sources. This is called a TA-7, it's not an auditable deal because as I put this together I'm talking with SS Francis & Clare, Mt. Pleasant and Salvation Army trying to get an idea of how much money they spent in assisting our residents, Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County, St Thomas Clinic, Windrose and those type of things. So these numbers that were given are not auditable and the only thing that is auditable about it is the part that we say the Total Number of Requests was 118, we can prove that. Some of the other numbers we can't prove.

Dick: That is down from the previous year of 166?

Mark: Yes.

Dick: Why?

Mark: Nobody called and applied. We have unemployment down to the lowest level that we have had in 20 years. That is why our assistance was down again this year. You can actually track it according to the economy if you look at the dollars that we spent on assistance versus what the unemployment rate is. Alright the last thing in the report is the questionnaire on pensions and we don't have any pensions. So they are all no.

Peggy: What is the total value of healthcare provided on Page 14?

Mark: The number who were assisted by sources other than township funds.

Peggy: Ok, so that would be St. Thomas and all of those?

Mark: St. Thomas, Windrose, Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County.

Peggy: Ok.

Mark: Most of those numbers come from Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County.

Dave: Did they make up the biggest of part of the \$173,000?

Mark: Yes they made up almost all of it.

Dave: Really?

Dick: Thru the clinic?

Mark: They have a lot of services that they do. It is amazing and that goes back you remember several years ago we had Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County come and see if we would do a \$10,000 service contract with them. At the time we said no. I don't think the dollars are as much this year as they were last year but I can't remember how much they were last year. So that is that.

Dick: Page 15, these number do not mean a whole lot to me unless I compare them to something and I'm looking at No. 13, in 2017 we had 2 for a total \$1700. Now we have 1 for \$4,700.

Mark: Right, the difference there is simple. The 2 were for cremations with no services so they were around \$800 dollars and the 1 was a burial that required a casket, embalming, a cemetery plot, a burial vault and all.

Dick: Who determines whether it is cremation or burial?

Mark: In Indiana the law is that the person will be buried unless there is approval from all family members for cremation. You cannot cremate somebody in Indiana without having the approval of all of the family. If anybody in the family objects, you can't cremate with township money. Any other questions? Ok we have what they call a certification and I always read this.

Peggy: Can I ask you a question? I want to go back to page 15, 24 Ai and Aii, so the investigator investigated 166 clients?

Mark: The number of investigations that we actually had was 20. That was the total hours would have been 166.

Peggy: Oh hours, ok. So the investigator was paid \$53,000?

Mark: No, that is the value of the case management, that doesn't have anything to do with the investigator. That is the combined hours of Mary Lou, Mary Sue, myself and the investigator.

Peggy: Thank you.

Mark: That is the value that we put in. When we do TOMS we record hours and then we take that by a multiple of a dollar figure and that is where we come up with that.

Dave: While you are there what is the 25?

Mark: That is the total number of investigations that were done this year, 20.

Dick: Is there a difference between housing?

Dave: It says housing inspections.

Mark: That's the investigations. That is where they go out to the house and do a physical investigation.

Peggy: Only 20?

Mark: Yes. If you look back to what Dave got paid it should be \$800.

Dick: But there were more people that applied than that.

Mark: We don't investigate every case because if it is known that they are quite a bit over income or if I know for sure that they are not going to get assistance there is no reason to send

the investigator and waste township funds. So we don't investigate every case. We investigate every case if a determination needs to be made.

Dick: But every investigation does get a home visit?

Mark: Correct.

Dick: Ok.

Mark: Now the last part of this is the Certification (Mark read the Certification). The Certification was signed by me. That needs to be affirmed by Peggy that I signed it. Then the Board has 2 options. The Board has Option 1, to receive the report, accept the report and approve the report or they have Option 2, they can receive the report, accept the report with exceptions. We have always done Option 1 but that is pretty much up to you.

Peggy: I need to ask for a motion to discuss?

Mark: Motion to discuss Option 1 or Option 2.

Peggy: Do I have a motion to discuss Option 1 or Option 2.

Dick: I make a motion.

Dave: Second.

Peggy: Hearing a motion and a second it is open for discussion. Any discussion?

Dick: Again, summarizing Option 1 is to...

Peggy: Option 1 is to receive this and accept it and Option 2 is to receive it, accept it with exceptions.

Dave: We voted on Option 1 didn't we?

Peggy: We haven't voted yet. We're discussing. Do you want to make a motion?

Dave: I thought you made a motion, I'm sorry.

Dick: As a newbie tell me what kind of exception we need to consider?

Peggy: I have no clue.

Mark: Here is where you make an exception and it is rare, all the years I have been here I can't remember making an exception except for one year in which we did not, we had to change from Dan Maple to Jay and we had...

Peggy: We're talking about the report, do you want to make any exceptions to this report?

Dick: Right.

Mark: And at that time we didn't know what that starting balance was that Jay inherited. So we made the exception that we accept what Jay did in its entirety with the exception of what the starting balances were because we didn't know, we had no clue.

Dick: I move that we receive and accept Option 1.

Dave: I second that.

Peggy: Ok, all in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye). Friends would you introduce yourselves?

Audience: I'm Larry Davis. I ran for a position on the Board and got beat out by a couple hundred votes and I think I voted for two of you so I contributed to my demise.

Peggy: And then Mr. Greg. Do we have any other township business for consideration?

Larry Davis: Are we allowed to ask any questions at any point and time?

Greg: They will open it up for questions.

Peggy: Do we have any other township business for consideration?

Dick: I still want, is it too late to ducktail in something with his report? It doesn't have anything to do directly with his report.

Peggy: Ok.

Dick: Again some of these numbers don't mean much unless I can compare them with something. I got this off of Gateway. This is Expenditures Per Capita per person and you can see on the second page where WR is. We are very low compared to some townships. I don't know whether that is good or bad.

Dave: It is good. That means our people are taking care of themselves.

Dick: Ok.

Dave: Right?

Mark: I have always said that you get the most for your buck, we don't overspend and we don't underspend either but we definitely don't overspend.

Dick: I just don't want somebody accusing us of ...

Mark: We don't have a township car, we don't have a township expense report, we don't have township things that a lot of the other trustees do. We are very prudent with our money.

Dave: You don't want people accusing us of what?

Dick: Saying that we are not helping very many people, we are not providing much assistance.

Peggy: But they still have to follow guidelines.

Dick: Right. But again when you look at that number you can say we are not...

Peggy: They are not getting the whole story then.

Dick: Right, ok. The second one I passed out, this is for 2018 but if you notice at the top there was less than 500 out of over 1000 units. So this merely tells us what the average is for like the total number of requests. The average is less than 160 units but it is only about half of the townships.

Mark: The thing that you have to understand about this report yes it is 160 but you have townships that like Center Township that have a few hundred thousand people who live in it and Calumet Township and Lake Township up in Lake County that have huge populations and then you have townships that may have 25 to 30 people who live in them. This statistical report, that is why we as trustees have asked them to do away with it and come up with another type of way of reporting because you can play games with this however you want.

Dick: I wasn't trying to play games with this.

Mark: I mean anybody can. That is the problem.

Dick: But for me it just helps you know are we in the ballpark at all? Are we one extreme or the other extreme, where are we? That is the only reason I was looking at it.

Mark: In other business that I have for you since we are there. Here is your informational report. It kind of ducktails on what Dick is talking about. In February we have had 1 appointment and we did not assist that person. In January we had 4 appointments and we only assisted with \$683. That represents 3 different people. So that is your report there. And as I always do here is as of today your Budget. There is no discussion there. It is just showing you where we are as of today as an annual report and where we are as percentage of the budget.

Dick: So this is kind of a year-to-date statement?

Mark: Right, that is as of today. That is all I have for you.

Dick: So are we looking at this to say where we are out of balance again, where are we high or low, there is no problem that you see here?

Mark: If you look at the trustee's salary, what percentage of the trustee's salary has been spent and that is where we are for the year. So anything that has been spent more than, what is it 88% left? If you look down at insurance and it is like 4 or 5 percent left.

Dick: Because you paid most of the year.

Mark: We paid the whole premium for the year. So if you are looking at it and you are wanting to see how we are doing, if I was sitting in your chair I would be looking for numbers where we have spent more than what we have spent percentage wise for the trustee because that is where we are in the year.

Dick: We want to look for numbers greater than 100 percent.

Mark: You want to look for numbers that are less than the amount of money that has been spent for the trustee as far as percentage. That is where you get the percentage because the trustee is paid up to date and that kind of gives you the percentage to look at. That is how I look at it. Any other questions? I know Larry wanted to ask a question. I don't know if he wanted to ask the trustee or the board but I'm willing to take a question.

Peggy: Go ahead.

Larry Davis: I have 3 if I may.

Mark: Sure.

Larry: Does the SBA ever review or audit your work?

Mark: They did last year. They are supposed to every 2 years. But I think this last one was a 4 year review wasn't it Greg?

Greg: I'm not quite sure on that.

Mark: They have gone to according to Mr. Joyce who is over SBAs they have gone to auditing based on risks. Because we have not had any exceptions...

Larry: Low risks.

Mark: This last audit they did they never stepped foot on property. We submitted everything to them electronically and they didn't even come out. So that is how it kind of works.

Larry: Related to that does the Board then see the results of their audit?

Mark: The chairman will get the same report that I...

Greg: I don't believe I got that report.

Mark: We didn't get a report because they said no exceptions and when they publish the report Greg will get one because his is the email that was used as chairman and he was the chairman at the time of the audit and I'll get one.

Larry: So it is not shared with the Board then?

Mark: When we get it we share it with the Board. We don't have to but we do share it with the Board.

Larry: Ok. The second then is does the Board or any member of the Board ever see the outside evidence of these bank balances such as the bank reconciliation and things like that?

Mark: Every month the Board Chairman gets a copy of not only the reconciliation but of the bank statement.

Larry: Ok.

Greg: It is a report of the bank statement; I never see the bank statement.

Larry: You never see the actual bank statement that actually supports the balances there?

Greg: No.

Mark: I didn't know that.

Mary Sue: We just send him the report.

Mark: I'm fine with making a copy of the bank statement to give and adding that to that report.

Mary Sue: Ok.

Mark: I agree that we need that backup.

Mary Sue: Alright.

Larry: That seems like a good thing. I see on the January and February report that you sold and purchased investments of \$375,000. So of this \$616,000 some or all of that is invested in securities of some sort?

Mark: The \$375,000 is invested in CDs. What is in the checking account is an interest bearing checking account.

Larry: Ok so the \$616,000 that you show as of Dec 31 includes some of those CDs?

Mark: It does include the \$375,000.

Larry: Ok so not all of this is in the checking account?

Mark: We normally have about \$240,000 or \$250,000 in the checking account.

Larry: Thank you.

Mark: I don't know exactly what it is now. Is there anything else?

Greg: Peggy and the Board we passed a resolution because of mismanagement of some records about getting the chairman's book back to the next chairperson and I'm handing over to Mark 2015 and 2016 all of the records. They have been taking copies of so I have not been diligent in doing my filing so I have a whole stack of things that I need to go thru yet. I just picked them up, I'm been busy because I knew that everything I have it's here, everything I have ever signed. I'm going to give 2015 and 2016 complete to Mark, it is filed. I don't want to have him to go



thru all of the stuff but my suggestion would be to make filing more efficient, keep the chairman's book here and then give her a copy also or something. All of this is here already.  
Mark: We do a little overkill on that because what we keep in the office is not required as far as the minutes book and stuff like that but we do that because of audits. Because in the past when we had secretaries that hadn't done their job the way it needed to be done and you weren't able to get the records and therefore it is an audit situation so we started keeping an audit book here. The actual statute says that the Chairman of the Board is supposed to keep an accurate account of everything that goes on.

Greg: Right.

Mark: That is what the statute says.

Greg: I have that. But it is not filed.

Mark: We have it in there.

Greg: Right so I wasn't diligent in doing my part and that is what I'm saying.

Peggy: So you're telling me to stay on top of it?

Greg: Yes.

Mark: I think what might be well served for the Chairman and what may serve the Board well is when we have our annual meeting that the year before chairman book be given and we give a new book out so we only have one year out at a time.

Greg: Right. That is something new that we did and I've seen what has happened with me, I have gotten busy and thrown things to the side and put it underneath here and there. In the summer I started going thru things and I didn't get thru things and stuff. I am going to give it to him but I would like copies of that also for my records. I'm giving you 2015 and 2016 Mark and you can go thru there and see what you actually need. That is just a suggestion.

Dick: These come back to you?

Greg: I would like to have copies because if someday they come back to me and they say you signed this and I gave those copies away so that is what I would like.

Dick: Is he required to show that stuff after he is...

Mark: After he is no longer chairman he is not required to divulge anything to the public. The chair person is responsible to have the records of the township.

Dick: Of her tenure?

Mark: Her tenure.

Dick: So not a previous though.

Peggy: Is there any more business?

Dick: I want to talk a little bit more about our website. Dave as I'm understand you don't use...

Dave: You see what I have done? I turned it over. You know why?

Dick: But your name is on there.

Dave: I didn't put it on there.

Dick: I emailed you the other day and I haven't heard back from you.

Peggy: If you emailed here I don't because I didn't want those.

Dick: I emailed myself to tell the service what a nice guy I was and I got a permanent error back. So are we in order for a motion that we do not list these emails because nobody is going to be using them and just list the office? If somebody wants to contact us why couldn't they just call the office and you let us know that there is a message for us.

Dave: Who said we had to put them out to start with?

Dick: It is on the website. I'm just telling you what is there.

Dave: Who put it on the website?

Peggy: Mr. Veldkamp right?

Mark: At the time we were trying to become more transparent to the community and make it so that people could if they wanted to complain about the trustee or the trustee's office then they had an opportunity to do that without coming thru the office. So they could have the opportunity other than dealing with myself or my staff which could be influenced not to take your complaint about us seriously and that is why it was done. I tested it myself like I said at the last meeting and it didn't work. I had Jody work on it and I tested it again and it still is not working. So your point is well taken but very few people use the website.

Peggy: Peggy Young will not be on the ballot in 2022.

Mark: So anyway just to say the website is not required. It is something I think helps the public in having an easy access because if they go out there and they want to know something about our budgets or if they want to know something about our annual report it is there and it is easily accessible. If they want to see our minutes and stuff it is there and they are easily accessible. If they want to know if somebody is using the Community Room it is there and is easily assessable. There are some links on there to other activities in the community but with that being said if this is going to be a major thing and a major point of contention month after month time after time, I'll take the website down.

Peggy: I think the only concern is if they are sending an email I'm not getting it and I'm not checking it and if there is public out there and they are thinking what is that Peggy Young doing?

Dave: Well you're not by yourself because I don't either.

Dick: I think the public ought to be able to say I want to contact a board member, why can't they call the office and say I want to contact so and so and the office say I'll have him call you.

Mark: Here is the problem with that. Dave is up at the lake or with Jeanne over at Aspen Trace right now. He does have a messaging service and we could leave message after message after message and unless we just get lucky, we would never get ahold of him. Then they would think that the ladies here aren't forwarding his messages to him because they run into him on the street and he will tell them the truth I got no message.

Dick: What are they told now when they email us and they don't get a response?

Dave: If somebody emails me and they don't get a response they will say he doesn't want to talk to me and I'll talk to anybody.

Mary Lou: I would call the person back and say I can't get ahold of him and I will continue to try but he doesn't have an answering machine.

Peggy: We have 2 wonderful public members here and this is the first in a long time, usually it is empty. So I would guess there probably aren't a lot of people trying to get ahold of us.

Dick: No but I still think...

Peggy: I understand your point.

Dick: Ok.

Dave: The whole township knows that we have meetings, it is published in the paper, if they have a question they can come to this meeting at any time and they will be acknowledged and they will get an answer right or wrong. That is why I don't see any reason to have a website. We are open to anybody all they have to do is come.

Peggy: I like the idea of having the minutes and everything on there but can we get our names off? I'm not checking that.

Dick: I'm not for getting rid of the website, the website has good information but I just don't like this contact information on here.

Dave: I don't want my name on it. Nobody is going to contact me, why put it on there? I cannot be contacted by email.

Dick: But if somebody calls and says I want to talk to Dave...

Mark: I have control over that and all you have to do is ask me and I'll take your name off.

Peggy: Mark will you please take our emails off? You can leave our names on but not emails. If you need to contact a board member, call the trustee's office to leave a message.

Dave: If they would call here and want to talk to me, I would expect these girls to take their number and inform me so that I could call them back.

Dick: Next item, did anybody attend that I-69 January 16 meeting? I thought it was very informative, did you?

Greg: Yes.

Dick: Who is this ASPIRE and the Johnson County Development Corporation? How is WRT represented or have a voice at those sessions? Here is my point, who is closer to wanting to say here is what we think about WRT than the Board, there is nobody else in the township to do that.

Greg: Actually Doc I sat on that steering committee while it was going on.

Dick: As a Board Member?

Greg: I was invited as a Board Member yes because of my position on the Board. It was something I could have accepted or declined.

Dick: Do you still go?

Greg: Yes, it is closed now, the steering committee is closed and the plan has been approved by the county. Previous before that I was asked to sit on a steering committee for updating the county comprehensive plan for planning and zoning for WRT and I did that prior to that.

Dick: Do you anticipate more meetings?

Greg: On this no. The HWC Engineering and county commissioners decided it was better to go to an outside firm that dealt better with the planning of this I-69 corridor.

Dick: I thought it was interesting just to hear about how I-69 is going to affect our township. Morgantown Road is going to be different.

Dave: Every road is going to be different.

Dick: What I'm asking is, is there some way that somebody from the Board could be at those meetings not to speak for the Board but to say I'm a Board member so that it looks like WR is at least represented?

Peggy: Well he was, we were, Greg was on it. They closed it right?

Greg: Yes.

Dick: There will be more stuff coming.

Mark: I serve on the I-65 70 north split Community Action Committee. It is just that. We meet and we talk about how it is going to affect the surrounding areas because I represent WR on that. That is by invitation. Greg was invited because he was the Chairman of the Board here and I was invited because I'm the Township Trustee. Those committees are by invitation. I don't think you can force yourself on them, you can request to be on it. You can always attend their meetings.

Greg: Aspire and Johnson County Development, they have actual members in the steering committee too but their groups decided to bring it out more public into a bigger public setting after it was finished and submit it to the county for approval. But basically it has been at least 2 to 3 years of my time going to meetings on both of them.

Dick: Can you give us a legislative update?

Mark: Well your job did not go away yesterday. It got defeated, the bill to eliminate township boards got defeated yesterday 70 some votes to 18 votes I think it was. It passed out of the committee but lost big time in the house and no senators are taking it up. So we will have township boards for at least another year. Other than that there is nothing that is affecting township government that is going to pass out of the committee. The other one that was put out there was to move the upkeep of the cemeteries to the county and that thing is probably more dead than the idea of getting rid of township advisory boards.

Dick: This is a selfish request, but our next meeting may not be until August or September.

Mark: Whenever I get ready for the budget.

Dick: As a newbie I feel like I will lose everything I have gained if we wait that long.

Peggy: You may have to wait that long.

Dick: That is over 6 months from now.

Peggy: We will have a conversation.

Dick: Please consider somewhere between there just to keep all of us up-to-date on things.

Peggy: I will consider.

Dick: I know you don't like meetings.

Mark: Here is what you can always do. You can make an appointment to come in and see me; I'm not here all the time. You can make an appointment to come in and see me and I will go over the finances, the annual report and the state of buildings and our properties with you and anything else that I have been approached with.

Peggy: He provides monthly information in our mailboxes.

Dick: How do you get that?

Peggy: You walk over here or drive here and come in.

Dick: Do you come here once a month?

Peggy: I don't but I will now. Do we have anything else? Do I have a motion for adjournment?

Dick: I so move.

Dave: Second.

Peggy: All in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye) Meeting is adjourned.