

WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
TRUSTEE'S NOTES
DECEMBER 22, 2020

ATTENDEES: Mark Messick, Margaret Young, Richard Huber, David Pollard, Mary Sue Kane and Mary Lou Habicht

GUESTS: Greg Rainbolt

Meeting was called to order at 9 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark: First order of business is the Approval of Oct 6, 2020 Minutes.

Peggy: Do I have a motion to discuss?

Dave: Yes.

Dick: Second.

Peggy: Is there any discussion?

Dave: No.

Dick: No.

Peggy: Hearing no discussion do I have a motion to approve?

Dave: Yes.

Dick: Second.

Peggy: All those in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye, Minutes for October 6, 2020 are approved).

Mark: The next order of business as is shown on your list is the Approval of our Standards for 2021. This year's standards did not really change with the exception if you turn all the way back to page 34. None of the language changed but on page 34 under income that was increased to be the amount for food stamps which is the same as we do every year. That is the new food stamps amounts. Then the Shelter Assistance has gone up. We did a survey of all of our apartments and all of the people who rent in the area and so that has gone up more than normal but rent has gone up more than normal around here. A lot of places that will not pay the full amount but I think Stonehedge it pays the full amount. Nothing else went up. The Food Assistance and the Supplies Assistance did not go up. Burials did not go up either.

Dave: Did you say you use Swartz on that most of the time?

Mark: We use Swartz but we have used Indiana Crematory, we have used Herrmann's, we have used Forest Lawn in the past. Swartz seems to be the one that is most willing to accept our amount of money.

Dave: They are good.

Peggy: Did you say Food Assistance did not go up?

Mark: Food did not go up. The only thing that went up was the income levels and the amount we pay for shelter. So, I would ask the board to consider that as our Standards for 2021.

Peggy: Do I hear a motion to discuss?

Dick: So moved.

Dave: Second.

Peggy: Everything else remained the same except for what you talked about on Page 34?

Mark: Correct.

Peggy: Do I have a motion to approve?

Dave: Yes.

Dick: Second.

Peggy: All in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye, Resolution WRT2020-10 is approved).

Mark: The next item of business is our salary resolution. The only thing that changed on it was the ladies got a raise of 40 cents an hour. They went from \$17.85 to \$18.25. Everything else is the same. I ask you to consider that for 2021. That still keeps us under budget as far as what we budgeted for salaries.

Dick: Are these amounts different from what we approved?

Mark: That's what I said, the amounts for the part-time employees as far as the part-time clerk and the part-time caseworker went up from \$17.85 to \$18.25.

Peggy: Do I have a motion to discuss?

Dick: Yes.

Dave: Yes.

Dick: But what I was asking did we discuss those figures a month or two ago when you gave us a budget?

Mark: Yes.

Dick: So, we approved it then right?

Mark: Yes, but you have to approve a Salary Resolution which is our Form 17 for the State Board of Accounts.

Dick: These are the numbers that we looked at?

Mark: Right, the same numbers and it actually brings us down below the budget that we approved.

Peggy: Was the increase in the clerks in that original one the last time we did this?

Mark: Yes. It was actually a total dollar figure that we increased them by \$500 but when you look at the cents, that is where it comes out.

Peggy: Do I have a motion to approve?

Dave: Yes.

Dick: Yes.

Peggy: All in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye – Resolution WRT2020-11 is approved).

Mark: The next order of business. Annually you have by resolution you have to adopt the Designation of an Oversight Committee for System of Internal Accounting Control. This is your resolution to adopt an oversight committee. It has been the same ever since we established internal controls, nothing has changed. It is just something we have to do annually. So, I ask the board to approve the resolution establishing your oversight committee for 2021.

Dick: Is this something that is just on paper or is this something that is actually done?

Mark: We actually have an oversight committee.

Dick: Has the oversight committee ever done anything?

Mark: Yes, they have. This last year you all asked for a copy of the statements. Any time you ask questions in a meeting in here about how we spent money, for what this was for or what that was for, that is your oversight. Basically, it makes some township boards that don't do anything aware that they have a responsibility. Fortunately, we have a board that has always taken that seriously to begin with. This actually establishes that you sign knowing that you have oversight. This is mainly on the financials.

Peggy: Do I have a motion for discuss?

Dick: I make a motion for adoption.

Peggy: Ok. Do I have a second?

Dave: Yes.

Peggy: All in favor say Aye (all Board Members said Aye – Resolution WRT2020-12 is approved).

Mark: The next order of business is something that we haven't done since I was Chairman of the Board, so it has been at least 10 years since this was done. We approved an additional appropriation in September I believe or October 1 so that we could get the work done in the cemeteries that needed to be done. The trees have been done. They have started on the fence work but the lady who is going to do the repairs to the headstones has not started her work yet and will not start until February. We didn't put that in our budget for 2021 so what you do in that case is you had it in the budget for this year, and you have a quote for how much money you are probably going to be spending, you encumber that money from this year into next year. So that is all we doing and we have to do that by resolution so that the board knows that we are planning on encumbering those funds. This resolution because we haven't done one was actually prepared for us by our attorney. Are there any questions on that?

Peggy: This will come within the budget that we discussed, I was trying to go back and see.

Mark: Actually, we put \$40,000 as an additional appropriation and we have spent like \$9000 on the trees and then we have fence work that is being done as we speak and then this is \$27,000. So, we are going to be in our budget.

Peggy: Do I have a motion?

Dick: I move for adoption.

Dave: I second.

Peggy: All in favor? (All Board Members said Aye 0 Resolution WRT2020-13 is approved).

Mark: The next item of business is the nepotism certification. That requires your individual signatures. Does anybody have a question about the nepotism policy? The next order of business is the Trustee's CIP Plan for 2021 update. As you can see because we had some funds that were going to be left in this year's that we probably should just take advantage of because we don't know what next year is going to look like, I started the demolition work and some of the stuff on the CIP Plan.

Peggy: What do the acronyms stand for?

Mark: Capital Improvement Plan. We approved \$65,000 and of that \$65,000 I think \$50,000 to \$60,000 was for the CIP plan in our budget. We had funds left over in our account this year so we went ahead and started our CIP plan so that as we get into it, we know we are going to be underbudget. So, we spent \$10,000 on the demolition and the prep work and all of the tiles are

setting in the backroom here. We spent \$10,000 this year on this. The reminder of it will be in next year's budget. The thing that I will say is this that we didn't know at the time whether or not we would be able to do all of the 8 items that we put on there based on the money we put in but we are going to be able to. The bidding, Brickyard Construction's bid was \$70,153.00 which was over our budget. Kane Construction's bid was \$43,420.00. That is a big difference. I did a little interviewing to find out what the main difference was. The main difference was Jerry Dunn's Company was going to bid out all of work. He would have had somebody come in and give him bids on the demolition, somebody come in and give him bids on the painting, somebody come in and give him bids on the electrical and everything else. Whereas Kane Construction does a lot of their work in-house themselves as you can see the trash removal would have been an additional amount of money for Jerry Dunn's group whereas Kane, they have a way to take care of it themselves. So, we accepted the \$43,420.00 to do all 8 things that we have on our list. That is just what I'm reporting to you is that we are going to be able to accomplish everything that was in our plan in this year.

Peggy: So, we are remodeling this room...

Mark: We are going to remodel this room, remodel the restrooms, remodel the kitchen, remodel the entry and the hallway, remodel the workroom, we are going to put a new entry in on the east side, we are going to refurbish the fire alarm system, we are going to install security cameras on the exterior of the building and the last thing was just removal of all of the trash.

Peggy: So, the parking lot is not Kane, that is somebody else?

Mark: We are not doing anything with the parking lot. We will probably be able to do the parking lot this year but all we will be doing is what we do every few years and that is just put the blackcoat down and stuff like that.

Dick: Everything you read is at \$43,000?

Mark: Yes.

Peggy: That is what was on the original.

Mark: Yes.

Peggy: Sounds good, thank you Kane!

Mark: That is just to let you know we are starting on that.

Dick: Along with that I read in the paper where Franklin Township Trustee, they did something with their money and it was in the paper about a month ago and I don't remember what it was.

Mark: They gave quite a bit of money to somebody but I forget what it was but they can't do that.

Dick: They cannot do it?

Mark: No, you can't give money away. We had quite a discussion about that with our attorney, well not our attorney but with Indiana Township Association. So, we asked her to clarify that for us. She had been helping outside of the township funds, she had been helping the State of Indiana with the CARES Act which meant that she helped people get rent that the State of Indiana was going to help with and her office got paid to do that. So, those funds that she gave away represent the income that she received for doing the work for the State of Indiana. Our attorney and the attorney for the State of Indiana does not feel like even at that she can give

that money away. So, that is on her. It is not something that we need to be concerned with. In other words, if I let my two ladies do all of that work for the State of Indiana and the State of Indiana paid us for the work that they did, I would consider that a reimbursement of work that they had done and that would be township funds that the taxpayers actually paid for them to do the work and now we are being reimbursed by the state to do the state's work. That is not how she looked at it, she looked at like that was money found.

Dick: But the money still benefited the township citizens in some way didn't it?

Mark: All I know is that the law says we cannot spend, even if it does benefit the township, we cannot give taxpayer money away unless we have a contract. Now if we had a contract like we talked about in the past with Healthier Johnson County, we could contract Healthier Johnson County by a contract to supply help for our citizens and we could give them X number of dollars but it is a contract that says by us doing this they are going to be do something in return, it is not just a free gift which this was. What she did, she gave the money away.

Peggy: I'm not following that.

Mark: Franklin Township gave away quite a bit of money.

Peggy: To who?

Mark: I forget what the lady's name was.

Dick: It sounded good on paper but I forgot what it was.

Peggy: Money they received from the CARES Act for working for the State?

Mark: Yes.

Peggy: So, it should have been by payment for the services rendered?

Mark: Yes. In other words, her employees and her which are paid by the township too, did work for the State of Indiana.

Peggy: So, they were paid by Franklin Township as well as CARES?

Mark: Right. They did work as Franklin Township not as individuals. Had they done the work as individuals and not on township dollars and time then they could spend that money however they wanted to because that is their money. But they got paid by the township to do the work for the state and the state reimbursed them and thereby they can't give those funds away according to statute but they did, thinking that they had found money.

Peggy: But it wasn't a salary?

Mark: I don't know, I'm staying out of it.

Dick: The reason I brought it up is I know we have to spend down some of that money.

Mark: We cannot give it away.

Dick: But it looks like all that we are doing is spending it on our property and I'm thinking what can we do to directly benefit the citizens of WRT?

Mark: We talked about that and what we can do to directly benefit the citizens of WRT and there were a couple of ideas that I had and we will talk about those again this next year when we come around to the budget time. We could put something like a CARE pantry in here and have a food pantry. It would require that we establish a 403D1 and we would have to establish that that is something the township needs to do. We talked about that before and with the CARE Pantry across the street, I don't think it is something wise that we should do. But that is

one thing that we could do to help the citizens. The other thing is that with the CPI and with it being a CPI plan if we want to do something to help the citizens of WRT, we could make an outdoor area where they could meet in like a shelter. We could build a shelter. Other than that, there is not a whole lot that we can do. We cannot give the money away.

Dick: Our citizens benefit quite a bit I think you said from like Thomas Clinic.

Mark: Yes.

Dick: One time I think you even gave us a dollar amount.

Mark: They benefit greatly from St. Thomas Clinic; they benefit greatly from a Partnership For A Healthier Johnson County.

Dick: Which are about the same?

Mark: Well, they are not quite the same.

Dick: You said we would have to have a contract for that?

Mark: We would have to have a contract.

Dick: What would keep us from having like a one-year contract?

Mark: Nothing would keep us from it other than when I have taken this to the board several times, the board did not feel like that that was good use of township money because Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County and St. Thomas Clinic were going to do what they do whether we gave them money or not.

Dave: Well, they serve a lot of people whether or not they are in WRT don't they?

Mark: Right. If the board wants to agree to revisit that in the fall, I will be more than willing to have a Partnership For A Healthier Johnson County and St Thomas Clinic come in and talk to us about a contract.

Dick: Can I just ask for a poll whether we would want him to do that or not?

Peggy: I would like to see what we can do within this just this community. That is my preference.

Dave: Yes.

Mark: I think when we talked to them, they couldn't do that. We had a lady come in and talk to the board twice.

Peggy: Could we have a contract with like the Education Foundation?

Mark: What would they do?

Dick: What was their name again?

Peggy: The Center Grove Education Foundation. I'm just asking.

Mark: If there is a serviceable deal that they could do for the citizens of WRT, yes.

Dick: That sounds reasonable.

Peggy: I'm thinking like the Fast Track that helps the needy with school supplies and backpacks or even a partnership with somebody that provides food for those students every week.

Mark: I don't think that that would be outside our realm and if they made a proposal to me, I would present it to the Board. I would have our attorney put together a contract that meets the statutes.

Dick: Do all students from our school system live in WRT?

Mark: No, 10 percent come in from outside.

Peggy: But the majority would be from the township.

Mark: Yes. If you look at the numbers that tell you that cross lines, I think annually they put out those numbers and if I remember right, I think it is anywhere up to around 10 percent annually. That is not a whole lot of people. It is not like we are busing people in. These are people who are paying a tuition or using...

Peggy: They are still in our system. They are going to our school.

Mark: Right.

Dick: But they aren't the ones who are likely to be in need of some kind of service from the foundation.

Mark: They may be. You would think Perry Township would be a great place to go to school because of the community up in Perry Township. Perry Township has one of the highest amounts of people who don't graduate, they just don't make it. They also have one of the highest amount of police activities in their building.

Dick: You are talking about Perry Township?

Mark: Yes.

Dick: Which in a few years the high school a majority of them will be the Chins.

Mark: That is the population. But what I'm trying to say is people come from Perry Township to CG because they know it is a safe school. They know they are going to get a good education. They know that 90 some percent of the people who attend CG graduate with a degree, whether that is college prep or not, that is not the point. The point is that we know by looking at numbers if you don't graduate from HS the likelihood that you are going to live in poverty is 5 times greater, you are just not going to make it. The likelihood that you are going to have a marriage that fails is tremendously greater. A high school education is the benchmark to start a young individual on their way to adulthood and a successful adulthood. Without it we have numbers that show that you are just setting yourself up to fail.

Dick: In the foundation when they provide services can they say these are services that we are offering the residents of WRT?

Peggy: I have no idea. I just threw that out to see if that would be an option?

Dick: Do you need a motion from the board to direct...?

Mark: No, if they make a presentation then I will bring it to you.

Peggy: I can reach out and ask them.

Dick: I would encourage you to do that.

Mark: How much money were you thinking?

Dick: How much do we have to use for next year?

Mark: Pretty much the same amount that we used this year.

Peggy: \$50,000?

Mark: Right at.

Dick: We don't have to use up all for that but I think that is one that we ought to consider.

Mark: Here is the other thing that we have been talking about in the Indiana Township Association, we did this plan, we have to do it, they want us to show in good faith that we are going to work the plan but there is a good chance just like it was this last year, that this plan

may go away after this year because a lot of people are upset about it saying that the State should not be telling the township that they have to spend money. That is basically what has happened. You have another government entity telling another government entity that you have to spend money. That may be challenged and if it is, we may not have to go by the plan. That is all I have for you guys. The next meeting is going to be Jan 5, 2021.

Dick: I have several things on one of these statements.

Mark: Sure, we can talk about that but let's go ahead on this real quick. What time do you want to have that meeting? All you are doing at that meeting is organizing the board. Tuesday, January 5th, 2021. Peggy, what time would be best for you?

Peggy: 6 is fine or 5.

Mark: Would 5 be ok?

Peggy: Yes.

Mark: All that meeting will be is to approve today's Board Minutes and to establish your board. Between now and then think about whether or not you would want to be Chairman, think about whether or not you would want to be Secretary. You can't talk to each other about it but you could right now because we are in a board meeting.

Dave: I can give you an answer right now.

Peggy: I'm not doing it all.

Mark: Dave are you willing to be Chairman?

Dave: No.

Mark: Dave are you willing to be Secretary?

Dave: No.

Mark: Dick are you willing to be Chairman?

Dick: I could do whatever needs to be done.

Mark: Dick are you willing to be Secretary?

Dick: Yes.

Mark: Ok, you guys know what you are willing to do.

Peggy: Other business before the board? Go ahead Dave.

Dave: I know we talked about this but I do not remember the outcome and it was concerning the graveyards and cameras were involved.

Mark: We are going to be putting cameras up.

Dave: Did we actually approve that or do we have to?

Mark: You don't have to approve it; it is in the budget.

Peggy: We approved the budget.

Mark: Ok, Dick you had a question.

Dick: I'm referring to the financial stuff that you sent out on Dec. 7. I'm still trying to learn to read this stuff. I'm on Page 4, the Natural High Tree Service for \$6000. Is that what you were talking about for the cemeteries?

Mark: Right.

Dick: Are they all done with that work, the tree service?

Mark: Right. They took out 5 or 6 trees. They took out all of the ones that were down over the fences. They had to do all of that work in order for the fence company to repair the fence.

Dick: Winterbrook?

Mark: That is for Township Assistance.

Dick: Hartshire Lake Apartments, \$529.00.

Mark: That is Township Assistance.

Dick: S&S Lawn Landscape?

Mark: That is a mixture between taking care of the cemeteries and mowing the yard here at our property.

Dick: Is that something that we will be seeing on the next few months or not?

Mark: You will see S&S almost every month because they do our snow removal, they basically do all of our landscaping work.

Dick: On Page 9, it is the Township Fund. I'm looking at the last column and it talks about the percent that we spent for the year but then I go over a few more pages and the percent seems to be not how much we have spent but how much is remaining. I'm confused why is it reported like that?

Mark: Because that is a state form that we send to the Department of Local Government and Finance. What you get there, the DLGF gets every month. That is what they want to see in order to know if they feel like they should audit us. So that is what they want.

Dick: Which one is the state wanting, the percent...?

Mark: They want both. That is their form.

Dick: I'm not looking at a state form, I'm looking at the form that we get from the bank.

Mark: That is right. That is how we balance our checking account and that is what the DLGF requires that we post every month on their website.

Dick: It is just confusing for me, all of a sudden, I'm reading along and the percent shows how much we have spent for the year in our budget, then all of a sudden, a few pages later it doesn't tell you that that is what it means, but a few pages later the percent is how much is still remaining in there but it doesn't tell you that.

Mark: If you can figure out the DLGF, then you have got me by the tail, that is for sure.

Alright, does anybody else have any questions? Guys I have really enjoyed working with you again this year, I know I say that every year but it has been a pleasure. Our ladies, I thank you for officially acknowledging them by giving them another raise, I appreciate that. With that do you want to adjourn your meeting?

Peggy: Do I have a motion adjourn?

Dave: Yes.

Dick: So moved.

Peggy: Meeting is adjourned.

