

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Jerome Township Board of Trustees

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held

December 19, 2023

20

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on December 19, 2023, at 8:18 p.m. following a public hearing. Board Chairman Wezlynn Davis called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Megan Sloat, Barry Adler and Wezlynn Davis answered the roll call. Also in attendance were Robert Caldwell (Fiscal Officer), Brandon Standley (Township Administrator), and members of the public.

Wezlynn Davis presented the agenda which was reviewed, modified as necessary and approved.

Robert Caldwell presented minutes for approval. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Barry Adler that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees waive the reading and approve the following minutes:

- Regular meeting of November 21, 2023
- Regular meeting of December 5, 2023

Being no opposition, the motion carried.

Robert Caldwell, Fiscal Officer, provided the Board with updated financial reports (receipt account status, appropriation status and fund status). Mr. Caldwell presented the pending warrants as detailed in the "Pending Warrant Report," for payment. The Fiscal Officer certified that there were sufficient funds to pay the bills. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Barry Adler that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees approve warrants 44242 through 44291 and 93105 through 93107 for payment.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The motion carried.

Robert Caldwell presented the Board with the 2023 Township Highway System Mileage Certification received from the Ohio Department of Transportation indicating the Township was responsible for 36.927 miles of public road, an increase from 32.021. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Barry Adler that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees accept the 2023 Township Highway System Mileage Certification received from the Ohio Department of Transportation taking responsibility for maintaining 36.927 miles of public roads.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The resolution carried. (Res. 23-112)

Sheriff Jamie Patton was in attendance and presented the Sheriff's Office annual report to the Board. He specifically addressed the staffing challenges facing law enforcement.

Department Reports

Fire Division

Brandon Standley presented the Board with the final version of the Firefighters' contract agreement. He noted the new contract provides for wellness days and a five percent (5.0%) increase in pay for each of the next three years. He also noted the Union had submitted a proposal for minimal staffing levels but based on the fact the Fire Division is just getting fully staffed felt this was not the right time for such a policy. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Megan Sloat that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees approve and adopt the Agreement between the International Firefighters Association Local 3555 and Jerome Township, Union County, Ohio for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The resolution carried. (Res. 23-113)

Brandon Standley presented the Board with the final version of the Fire Chief's contract agreement. He noted the new contract provides for a three percent (3.0%) increase in pay for each of the next two

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Jerome Township Board of Trustees

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 644/224-3339 FORM NO. 10148

Held

December 19, 2023

20

years. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Megan Sloat that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees approve and adopt the Wage and Benefits Agreement between the Township of Jerome (Union County) and Fire Chief Douglas C. Stewart for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The resolution carried. (Res. 23-114)

Administrator

Brandon Standley noted the Township has been working on a branding project over the past two years. Megan Sloat stated that project started several years ago to look at the Township's logo and color palette. She noted a resident survey was conducted which included both modern and historical options. In the end it was decided to merge the two while maintaining continuity with the Civil War monument theme. The Board viewed the logo options. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Barry Adler that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the new logos for the Township.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The motion carried.

Brandon Standley reported that ten submissions had been received in response to the request for qualifications to design a new road department building and event facility noting that the selection of a builder is a separate bid process.

Road Department

Brandon Standley provided the Board with a request from the Road Department Supervisor for the purchase of a new dump truck/snowplow. He noted the request is for a larger truck than the Township currently has allowing for hauling more material at one time rather than using two trucks and provide for improved plowing of rural roads where the Road Department deals with drifting and pushing more snow than in residential areas. The additional truck will also provide the opportunity to have five trucks plowing snow at the same time cutting downs on routes, making turn around times faster, and allowing for more passes on the same route within a given timer period. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Megan Sloat that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees approve the purchase of new dump truck/snowplow in accordance with the proposal provided by Freightliner with an estimated cost of \$210,000 to \$215,000.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The resolution carried. (Res. 23-115)

Brandon Standley also presented the request from the Road Department Supervisor for the hiring of an additional full-time Road Department employee in 2024. It was noted that as the Township continues to grow the Road Department has increase responsibilities including the number of miles of roads to maintain and plow. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Megan Sloat that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees approve the hiring of an additional full-time employee for the Road Department in 2024.

The vote resulted as follows:

Megan Sloat, yes
Barry Adler, yes
Wezlynn Davis, yes

The motion carried.

The Board had been previously provided with preliminary numbers for the 2024 budget noting that the real property tax estimates were yet to be received from the Union County Auditor. The Board discussed

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Jerome Township Board of Trustees

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 044-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held December 19, 2023 . 20

raises for non-union staff. It was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Megan Sloat that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

The Jerome Township Board of Trustees approve a 4.5% pay increase for full-time, non-Fire Division employees for 2024.

The vote resulted as follows:

- Megan Sloat, yes
- Barry Adler, yes
- Wezlynn Davis, yes

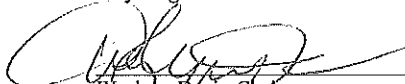
The resolution carried. (Res. 23-116)

Megan Sloat wished to address a letter sent to property owners regarding the special meeting to take place on December 27, 2024, for Case #ZT23-003. She stated that at the last meeting last week, Barry Adler wanted to send out additional letters to residents. She expressed her dismay that she did not have the opportunity to look at this letter before it was mailed. She stated while she is an advocate of communicating with the public, this letter was mailed to sixty to seventy residents while notice had already been sent to the required recipients. She was not aware of the scope to this mailing. She noted there was no map identifying the area attached with the letter and the letter did not contain more information that the overlay does not change existing zoning. She felt the letter could incite extreme concern. She added that interested parties had the opportunity to attend public hearings and an open house and questioned why this letter had to be sent out last minute. She stated this had not been handled correctly at all and with adjustments the letter would have been more informative.

Wezlynn Davis added it was important to inform residents that current zoning is not changing, and the letter is missing key information.

Barry Adler responded that he disagreed with the assessment and contends the letter was provided to the other Trustees.

At 9:35 p.m. it was moved by Wezlynn Davis and seconded by Megan Sloat that the Jerome Township Board of Trustees adjourn. The motion carried.


Wezlynn Davis, Chairman


Robert Caldwell, Fiscal Officer