

**Fairfield Township Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Present:** Township Trustee, Julie Roush; Board Members, Shane Weist and Kenny Rhode; Public, Joy Ley and Jessica Collins were also present. Allen Nugent was absent.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Pro-Tem Chairman Weist called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all, followed by a moment of silent reflection.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting were read silently. A motion to approve was made by Rhode and seconded by Weist. The minutes were approved unanimously and without correction.

**Old Business:**

Roush reported that Alexander Tree Service will begin moving 8 trees from Greenbush Cemetery on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Roush informed the board that DLGF approved Fairfield Township's \$733,000 Additional Appropriation on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**New business:**

- A. Elections were held for Township Board officers.
  - a. Rhode nominated Shane Weist for Chairman of the Township Board; Weist accepted. **Rhode made a motion to elect Weist as Chairman of the Township Board; Weist seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, without objection.**
  - b. Weist nominated Kenny Rhode as Secretary of the Township Board; Rhode accepted. **Weist made a motion to elect Rhode as Secretary of the Township Board; Rhode seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, without objection.**
- B. Elections were held for Board of Finance officers.
  - a. Rhode nominated Shane Weist for President of the Board of Finance; Weist accepted. **Rhode made a motion to elect Weist as President of the Board of Finance; Weist seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, without objection.**
  - b. Weist nominated Kenny Rhode for Secretary of the Board of Finance; Rhode accepted. **Weist made a motion to elect Rhode as Secretary of the Board of Finance; Rhode seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, without objection.**
- C. Roush reported that \$1,675,873.64 as of 12/31/13 was held at Lafayette Bank & Trust in a business checking account and an Investment Sweep Account (see attached detail fund report). The sweep account automatically sweeps excess funds above \$30,000 from the checking account into an investment account. No other investments were made. Roush would like to compare interest rates with several banks in town. **Weist made a motion to allow the Trustee to deposit monies in a bank if deemed to be in the best interest of the township and in accordance to Indiana law. Rhode seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, without objection.**
- D. Roush summarized the Open Door Law, enacted by the Indiana General Assembly, which states that "the official action of public agencies be conducted and taken openly, unless otherwise expressly provided by statute, in order that the people may be fully informed." (IC 5-14-1.5-1) As it applies to township boards, meetings must be conducted in a public place and posted so that the public may be present for all official business. Roush mailed each board member a copy of State Board of Accounts Manual on Public Proceedings and Public Records (see attached).

- E. Roush presented the 2013 Quarterly Fire Incident Reports form the Lafayette Fire Department (see attached report).
- F. Roush met with Senator Hershman on 12/12/13 and discussed many issues of the township. Most importantly, their financial issues pertaining to the frozen levy and the conveyance of Greenbush Cemetery to the Township. She also asked if he would look into a few changes in the law in the next session, which includes township fraud, revision of the application, and the ability for township to charge a fee for Representative Payees. Senator Hershman said he would look into the issues more.
- G. Roush informed Board members of the Indiana Township Association’s Legislative Conference and Convention, February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Indianapolis. Weist requested information and has an interest in attending. Information was mailed to him.
- H. The board discussed township assistance, fraud increases, and the need for agencies and churches to help people in more ways than just paying their bills. Roush believes that welfare recipients lack motivation, encouragement, self-respect, confidence, and education, those things that a “government entities”, for the most part, cannot help with.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m.**

**Adjournment:** Weist made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rhode. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ken Rhode, Secretary.

KR/jr

**Township Board:**

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Shane Weist, Chairman of the board

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Ken Rhode, Secretary of the Board

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Allen Nugent, Board Member

**Board of Finance:**

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Shane Weist, President of the Board of Finance

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Ken Rhode, Secretary of the Board of Finance

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Allen Nugent, Board member