

PERKINS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR SESSION

December 10, 2024

The Perkins Township Trustees met on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in the Township Services Facility located at 2610 Columbus Avenue. The Trustees present were James Lang, and James Ommert. Chairman Ommert opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Mr. Ommert moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MINUTES

Mr. Ommert moved to adopt the minutes of November 26th. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor.

FINANCIALS

Mr. Ommert moved to approve the financials for the period ending December 8th. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-169

Hire Jerrod E. Cook as a full-time Firefighter/ EMT Class B

Mr. Ommert moved to hire Jerrod E. Cook as a full-time Firefighter/ EMT Class B, effective December 11, 2024. Mr. Lang seconded. Fire Chief Murphy gave a brief bio of Jerrod Cook. He is an LCCC graduate, from Lorain County, and is with the Amherst Fire Department. Chief Murphy swore Firefighter Cook into the position. Friends, family, and Perkins Township Firefighters congratulated him and welcomed him on board. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Public Hearing:

To consider the Zoning Commission’s recommendation to amend the text of the Zoning Resolution to exclude private swimming pools as being an accessory building. Planning and Zoning Inspector, Adam Panas, presented the Board with background information and the history of the potential amendment.

Resolution 2024-170

Mr. Ommert moved to amend “Article 3 – Construction and Language, Section 7” by removing reference to a swimming pool deemed as an accessory structure, and “Article 13 – Single-Family Serviced Residential District (R-1), (R-1A) and (R1B), Section 6 Accessory Structures, Subsection 10” by adding language to exempt a private swimming pool as being considered to be an accessory structure but still requiring that a swimming pool comply with all other regulations. Mr. Lang seconded. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Public Hearing:

To consider the Zoning Commission’s recommendation to amend the Zoning Map for nineteen (19) parcels of land in the Homeville neighborhood. Planning and Zoning Inspector, Adam Panas, presented the Board with background information, mapping photos, and the history of the parcels. Mr. Ommert opened the public hearing. Betty and Greg Cook, 505 Dewitt Ave, spoke of their concerns of wanting their property to remain commercial zoning. Planning and Zoning Inspector, Adam Panas, explained that the amendment would not change that.

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Mr. Fox owns property on Dewitt Ave, and does not want it zoned residential per the recommendation. Administrator Boyle suggested that the Board table consideration of the proposed Zoning Map change in order to provide Mr. Fox with an opportunity to meet with Community Development Director Watkins' and Planner Panas. The Board agreed that such an approach would allow staff to meet with Mr. Fox in an effort to resolve the property's zoning.

Resolution 2024-171 Mr. Ommert moved to amend the Zoning Map for nineteen (19) parcels of land in the Homeville neighborhood as noted on the attached list with the exception of the Fox property identified as lot #7 Dewitt Ave, which is tabled. Mr. Lang seconded. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Public Hearing:

To consider the Zoning Commission's recommendation to amend the Zoning Map for property known as 3719 Columbus Avenue (PPN 32-009111.000) and PPN 32-00912.000) from "PUD"/ Planning Unit Development District to "C-2"/ General Commercial District. Ms. Morgan Wadding explained her proposed plans for the use of this property if approved. The Board thanked her for bringing her business to the Township.

Resolution 2024-172 Mr. Ommert moved table the Zoning Map for property known as 3719 Columbus Avenue (PPN 32-00911.000) and PPN 32-00912.000) from "PUD"/ Planned Unit Development District to "C-2"/ General Commercial District. Mr. Lang seconded. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-173

Accept the amounts and rates determined by the Budget Commission, and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Mr. Ommert moved to accept the amounts and rates determined by the Budget Commission, and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle stated that this is a request by the County Auditor's office. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-174

Approve the Erie County Sheriff Office's contract for dispatch services for the Fire Department and Police Department

Mr. Ommert moved to approve the Erie County Sheriff Office's contract for dispatch services for the Fire Department and Police Department in the amount of \$211,110.21 for 2025 and \$219,642.17 for 2026. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle explained to the Board that the rates are based on the proposed contract, with numbers increasing \$60,000 in the first year of the contract. He stated that Fire Chief Murphy is on the advisory committee and noted that rates are to be reviewed quarterly. Chief Murphy stated that the main driving factor is the number of calls received. Jim Lang noted that this increase was significant, and that it includes pay raises for dispatchers. Administrator Boyle assured the Board that there will be ongoing conversations about dispatch costs. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

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Resolution 2024-175

Approve an annual contract with Warwick

Mr. Ommert moved approve an annual contract with Warwick for telephone maintenance using Option # 4 Basic for the Fire Department in the amount of \$2,383.38, and Option #4 Basic for the Administration in the amount of \$4,427.38. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle stated that this contract is annual with a base amount each year. He recommended to the Board that we renew this contract. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-176

Approve an amendment to Ashley Ohlemacher's Schedule A

Mr. Ommert moved to approve an amendment to Ashley Ohlemacher's Schedule A per the attached, effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle was pleased to share how much of a key member Ashley is with the Township and Administration team. He stated that Ashley Ohlemacher is exceptional in all aspects and has taken up project management for the Township as well. Mr. Lang said that Ashley is always available, knows the Township, and deserves this adjustment. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-177

Approve Health Insurance renewal with Anthem for 2025

Mr. Ommert moved to Approve Health Insurance renewal with Anthem for 2025 per the attached (i.e. a 5% premium increase over 2024). Mr. Lang seconded. Executive Coordinator, Ashley Ohlemacher, stated that in the past we have had zero percent increases over four years. This year the increase started at 18% but staff and the brokers worked hard to reduce costs. Mr. Lang was glad to hear that the negotiations worked out. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-178

Authorize the purchase of health insurance for Trustees and Fiscal Officer.

Mr. Ommert moved to authorize the purchase of health insurance for Trustees and Fiscal Officer. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle noted that this was a standard annual resolution. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-179

Authorize purchase of life insurance for all full-time Employees, Trustees, and Fiscal Officer

Mr. Ommert moved to authorize purchase of life insurance for all full-time Employees, Trustees, and Fiscal Officer from Mutual of Omaha. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle noted that this was a standard annual resolution. He added that this carrier offered a better premium and recommends that the Board approve the resolution with the new provider. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-180

Adopt a vehicle Tow Policy for the Police Department

Mr. Ommert moved to adopt a vehicle Tow Policy for the Police Department. Mr. Lang seconded. Police Chief Musser explained that this policy was developed with the prosecutor's office. This resolution would allow for the cleaning up of language and adoption of a new policy. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

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Resolution 2024-181

Approve the attached new Vehicle Tow Fee Schedule

Mr. Ommert moved to approve the attached new Vehicle Tow Fee Schedule, effective December 11, 2024. Mr. Lang seconded. Police Chief Musser explained that this allows for the maximum charge for a tow, there is no change to this schedule, and this will implement the new policy just adopted. Mr. Lang added that this protects citizens from being overcharged. Jim Ommert asked if there was an impound fee charge, Chief Musser explained that it is part of this agreement. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-182

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the FOP, and a pay adjustment for all bargaining unit members in the Police Department

Mr. Ommert moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the FOP, and a pay adjustment for all bargaining unit members in the Police Department per the attached, effective January 11, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle explained that retaining and attracting employees is challenging in public safety departments, and other departments around the area have been paying more to their employees. Police Chief Musser stated that a significant number of agencies are making increases as well, to retain employees, attract additional employees, and keep up with the market adjustments. In other departments in our area. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-183

Approve an hourly pay increase for all part-time Patrol Officers and Evidence Officer in the Police Department

Mr. Ommert moved to Approve an hourly pay increase for all part-time Patrol Officers and Evidence Officer in the Police Department in the amount of \$3.00 per hour, effective December 14, 2024. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle stated that the list of current wages was given to the Board. He added that we rely on our part time employees and evidence officers, as they do a great job. There are staff we do not want to lose; Administrator Boyle recommends this pay adjustment. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-184

Approve an amendment to Jeffrey Musser's Schedule A

Mr. Ommert moved to approve an amendment to Jeffrey Musser's Schedule A per the attached, effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle stated that Chief Musser does an outstanding job in his position. Jim Lang agreed and said this was well deserved. Administrator Boyle also explained that a pay differential is important between command rank salaries. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-185

Approve an amendment to Martin Curran's Schedule A

Mr. Ommert moved to approve an amendment to Martin Curran's Schedule A per the attached, effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle added that this promotion is also very well deserved as Captain Curran is an outstanding officer. Mr. Lang seconded. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

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Resolution 2024-186

Approve an amendment to Hilary Bores' Schedule A

Mr. Ommert moved to approve an amendment to Hilary Bores' Schedule A per the attached, effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle stated that Hilary Bores has been with the Township for some time now, this increase would reflect on the great job she is doing with the Police Department. She has taken on additional responsibilities with the public and with grants, she is someone we certainly want to keep with the Township. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-187

Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the IAFF, and a pay adjustment for all bargaining unit members in the Fire Department

Mr. Ommert moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the IAFF, and a pay adjustment for all bargaining unit members in the Fire Department per the attached, effective January 11, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle explained that the increases for the Police Department should also be recognized for the Fire Department as well in order to retain and attract employees. The wage increase would cover the cost-of-living increases within the area. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-188

Approve an hourly pay increase for all part-time Firefighters

Mr. Ommert moved to approve an hourly pay increase for all part-time Firefighters in the amount of \$3.00 per hour, effective December 14, 2024. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle explained that the part-time firefighters/EMT/paramedics have not received an increase in a while, and it is overdue. He added that the Township only has six part-time employees within the Fire Department and they provide a valuable service to the community. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2024-189

Approve an amendment to David Murphy's Schedule A

Mr. Ommert moved to Approve an amendment to David Murphy's Schedule A per the attached, effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle stated that Chief Murphy is well deserving of this increase. He added that the pay differential is important between ranks. Mr. Lang stated that Chief Murphy has done an excellent job and has put in a lot of work for the new fire station. Roll call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Ommert, aye. Resolution passed.

Department Reports

Police Department – Chief Musser's report was submitted in writing.

Fire Department – Chief Murphy's report was submitted in writing.

Community Development – Director Watkin's report was submitted in writing.

Public Works Department – Director Link's report was submitted in writing. He thanked everyone who was involved with Winterfest, with special thanks to the Public Works crew. He added that the event this year was well attended, and they have already been thinking about adding/changing a few things for next year.

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Administrator – Administrator Boyle’s report was submitted in writing. He thanked Brad, Brittany, and Ashely for planning and putting on such a great Winterfest this year. He added that it is always a group effort, so he shared his thanks to everyone. Administrator Boyle noted that the Township’s Temporary Appropriations would be presented at the next meeting.

Notices/Correspondence

- Next Regular Meeting – December 17th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Fiscal Officer Comments

- Payments for the period of November 23rd – December 8th total \$528,825.48. This includes payments to Golden Touch Renovation for a home rehab grant through the Community Development Department, Huntington Bank, for our loan payment of Hull Rd. and Bell Ave, PFUND Superior sales for the down payment of the Ambulance, and MAD Cleaning for the improvement of 407 Woodlawn.

Trustees’ Discussion

Public Forum

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Coleman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Mr. Lang seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Meeting adjourned.

Timothy Coleman, Chairman

Alexis Koch, Fiscal Officer