

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 23, 2021 @ 7:01 pm
Bazetta Township Administration Building
3372 State Route 5, N.E.
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Present:

Chairman Trustee Ted Webb - H
Vice Chairman Trustee Bob McBride - H
Trustee Frank Parke - H
Fiscal Officer Cynthia Chapman - A

Trustee Webb stated this meeting is being conducted via teleconference following the current guidelines defined by State of Ohio Open Meetings Law and in accordance under recommendations of legal counsel and Governor DeWine. There will be public comments at the end of this meeting. This meeting is being audio recorded for informational purposes and will be posted on the website.

075-21 Resolution accepting the meeting minutes from the March 09rd Regular Meeting and March 16th Special Meeting.

Motion: Trustee P

Second: Trustee M

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

CORRESPONDENCE (COPIES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST):

- Trumbull County Engineer's Office – Weight limit change on McCleary Jacoby Road

ADMINISTRATION:

- Trustee McBride picked up the signs for the park

076-21 Resolution to accept the Retirement letter from Fire Chief Dennis Lewis effective November 27, 2021

Motion: Trustee M

Second: Trustee P

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

077-21 Resolution to continue with the contract with Hoi Wah Yu as a consultant at \$30 per hour, not to exceed an additional \$2,400, to continue with assistance with UAN.

Motion: Trustee P

Second: Trustee M

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

078-21

Resolution to officially open the Bazetta Township Park on April 5, 2021 provided cautions signs are posted.

Motion: Trustee M

Second: Trustee P

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

079-21

Resolution to approve reopening the Bazetta Township Administration Building on April 01, 2021 for township business and township meetings only provided proper social distancing is identified as well as wearing of masks. There will be a limit on how many people can occupy the building at any one time. Trustee Webb stated the Road and Fire Departments will remain off limits to the public.

Motion: Trustee P

Second: Trustee M

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

080-21

Resolution to accept the premium update for the Anthem portion of the township health care presented by Vantage. This will go into effect 5/01/21 to 4/30/22.

Motion: Trustee M

Second: Trustee P

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

081-21

Resolution to approve Chief Lewis to attend the 2021 Ohio Fire & Rescue Officer Development Conference July 12-16, 2021 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton with hotel room not to exceed \$1,500.

Trustee McBride stated he wanted more discussion on this matter. Wanted Chief Lewis to explain what this is about and why he should be going when he is going to retire at the end of the year.

- Chief Lewis responded with the following:
 - Did not go last year due to COVID shutting it down
 - Still the Fire Chief until November 27th
 - Needs the continued education to keep his certificates and certifications up

Motion: Trustee P

Second: Trustee W

Vote: Trustee McBride N Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- Nothing to report

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

- Reported mulch is done at the Imagination Station
- Did some hand sanding/painting
- Moody Plumbing will be out in April to check for leaks in the restrooms

082-21

Resolution to permit the Trumbull County Engineers Office to put project TH 1155 Wilshire Drive/TH 1288 Ivy Hill Lane Drainage & Resurfacing Phase 1 out to bid for Bazetta Township.

Motion: Trustee P

Second: Trustee M

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

PLANNING DIRECTOR, ZONING INSPECTOR AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- Ongoing complaints
- List of homes to be taken down and property cleaned up

ZONING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:

ASKED TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Daniel Wilson – Did not answer when called on
- Mike Hovis – Discussion on the following:
 - Where is the Wilshire Drive project being paid out of? Trustee Webb stated the General Fund
 - Status of the Waterline going in on State Route 5? Trustee McBride stated he talked with Gary Newbrough and explained their discussion on the subject
 - How many people will be able to attend the meeting? Trustee Webb will need to get with Chief Lewis to get numbers and to set up the building
 - Discussion the cemetery building
 - Discussion on the \$80,000 that went from the general fund to the fire fund. Why and what for?
- Cheryl Tennant – Discussion on the following:
 - Budget – Trustee Webb stated it went out to the department heads
 - Road Superintendent Parke stated he did not like a few numbers
 - Fire Chief Lewis sent an email today stating that he did not agree with the numbers. He also noted that he did not know about the \$80,000 that the Fiscal Officer placed on the agenda until at the special meeting. He did not need it. There are other monies not put in proper accounts and line items.
 - Police Chief Herlinger stated that he did not agree with the numbers and notified Fiscal Officer Chapman
- Stacy Marling – Wanted to see how things are working in the township

Trustee Webb reminded everyone that the next meeting will be April 13th at 7pm.

083-21

Resolution to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Motion: Trustee P

Second: Trustee M

Vote: Trustee McBride Y Trustee Parke Y Trustee Webb Y

Attested by:



Approved by: Chairman Trustee Ted Webb

Date



Date

BAZETTA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bazetta

Striving for a Better Tomorrow

STATION 11
3000 WARREN MEADVILLE RD
CORTLAND, OHIO 44410
(330) 637-8816 FAX (330) 638-4193



March 9, 2021

Trustee Ted Webb
Trustee Frank Parke
Trustee Bob McBride

Tonight, I sit before you with mixed emotions. After 39 years of fire service, I'm officially announcing my retirement from the Bazetta Township Fire Department effective November 27, 2021.

We all know change is inevitable and that's only become more obvious in the midst of a pandemic. In response, the fire service once again finds itself in another season of great change. What I've come to realize from my time in this service is that we will always be in the midst of change or pivoting in the light of innovation, constantly redefining the next new normal. But, more importantly, I believe it's every leader's duty to be able to identify when they need to pass the torch - and, for me, that time has come.

To say I'm grateful for all the support I have received as a Bazetta Township firefighter/medic for the last 39 years, and especially my last 12 years as chief of the department seems insufficient.

To my family, first and foremost, my wife, Tracy, my daughter, Melaina, my son, Jarrett, and my parents, Bob and Jane: You didn't just tolerate my passion for the fire service, but considered it an honor to serve my community despite its great risk. You supported my commitment to my duty any time the tones would sound or my cell phone would ring - even if it interrupted a holiday, birthday, dance competition, or sports event. My lifetime commitment to service was made possible only because of your unwavering support.

To my extended fire service family: The officers and members of the Bazetta Fire Department, the valiant professionals who expend countless hours to training, maintaining, or responding to your calls of service. I also thank your supportive families, contributors themselves, who await their safe return.

To Bazetta Township: I'm appreciative for the generous, kindhearted business sector that has continuously contributed to our community and county. They always look for ways to give back to their neighbors and make Bazetta Township a better place. A place you can be proud to call home.

To our community churches: Your organizations provide community cornerstones built on good conduct and character, propagating selfless service with pure motives among their congregations. They pray for us, they openly support our mission and they offer

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assistance. A chaplain once said, "There is no greater example of humanity to man or women than a fire truck."

Finally, I must thank the Bazetta Township service clubs, the most diverse group of motivated, selfless individuals. You have supported the entire community of Bazetta from donating hydraulic rescue tools, smoke alarms, food, water/ ice rescue suits, to memorials, parks and many other donations improving the quality of our lives. My sincerest gratitude to you all.

These generous acts, one by one, all woven together, are what makes Bazetta Township a great place to live and work. It's these acts of kindness that define our community's character. It's why since 1948 we have been able to maintain a professional fire department, now an ISO Class 3, currently saving taxpayers a minimum of \$1 million annually with professional staffing. It's my hope these organizations continue the tradition of working together and striving through the challenges together. After all, we are merely a reflection of our community.

I'd like to share with you what I'm proud of throughout my tenured career. It's not the ISO rating, not the new, strategic fire station and apparatus, not the balanced budgets, not the 2.8 million received in grant dollars, but that we all found a way to work together to serve the citizens of this town, and we all returned home, safe and sound together, every time! That's what I'm deeply thankful for.

It's been an honor to serve my neighbors during their time of need on Fire/EMS calls and being able to make a difference in someone's life. That's what this job is about... service and helping your community.

As I move to the next chapter of my life, I am honored that I was afforded the opportunity to serve you as your chief and working with top notch Firefighters and Trustee's. Everyone should be very proud of what we have accomplished together! Please continue to support the new fire chief and his/her staff, as they will continue the selfless, professional fire service tradition.

Professionally,

Dennis K. Lewis

Chief Dennis K. Lewis - OFE, OFC