

Wayne Township Board of Trustees
September 19, 2018
Special Meeting

Call to Order: Chairperson, Warren Walker at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Warren Walker, Teresa Hinners, Jason Ritter, Sandra Borchers – Absent, Chief David Moulden

Guests: Sue Allen, Rebecca Moore, Chris Williams, Ernie Ramos, Kathy Fuchs, Kelli Moulden

Prayer & Pledge: Chairperson, Warren Walker

Purpose: Public and private community communications compliance as related to email, texting, social media, use of Township facilities, clear and concise guidance to employees for discussion of the 2018 Fire and EMS Levy, as well as any other business to come before the Board of Trustees.

1. Issue: On Thursday September 13, 2018, a possible Campaign Violation putting the Township at risk was discussed via text between Trustee Hinners and Chief Moulden, with notification to Trustee Walker and Trustee Ritter: A Facebook page claiming to be the “Wayne Township Fire Department – Clermont County” claiming to be a Government Organization, using the Fire Department’s address, phone number, emblem, “establishing the page as the department page”, advertised in support of the Fire/EMS Levy, advertising a Levy Information Meeting at the Fire House. As well as, the posting regarding the Support the Fire Department Campaign signs. Trustee Hinners, with notification to Trustees Walker and Ritter asked the Chief to have the page delete the Levy information. The Chief reported that it was not the Fire Department’s page, but the creation of a citizen in support of the Levy. Further discussion, via text, between the Chief and Trustee Hinners led to most information being deleted, although the citizen claimed their 1st amendment rights were being violated.
- Goal stated by Mr. Walker – to have a good understanding of what we and employees may do, hold venues, electronic communication in regard to Fire/EMS Levy Campaign.
 - Mr. Ramos explained, The Trustees are Elected Officials, and such are “Creatures of Statute”. General Code 9.03 Elected Officials may not use funds to support or oppose a levy. No one person, representative of the Township, i.e. in uniform, may voice an opinion, pro or con. A representative of the Township may speak basic facts but offer no opinion. Facts include income, expenses, number of runs.
 - Info sheet prepared by Chief Moulden and shared at a Public Meeting will need to be vetted through Mr. Ramos again before being used in any Public Meeting/Gathering/Handout.
 - There was a lengthy discussion about holding a meeting at the Fire House.
 - The Township may hire someone to speak about the Levy.
 - Chief Moulden asked what happens if he is in the restaurant, in uniform, and someone comes up and asks him about the Levy?
 - Mr. Ramos answered, just the facts. No opinion. Nothing about what to replace, goals.
 - Kathy Fuchs feels info is being “stifled”.
 - Rebecca Moore asked if Levy signs can be posted on State Property?
 - Discussion about legal right of way of County and State Roads: 15-foot County, and 50-foot State.
 - Jason Browning asked if Chief Moulden can present facts at a Meeting at the Edenton Baptist Church?
 - Mr. Ramos answered, yes.

20180919-01S: Jason Ritter moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

2nd by Warren Walker
Vote: WW, TH, JR

All Aye

Motion Carried

Warren Walker, Chairperson

Teresa Hanners, Vice Chairperson

Jason Ritter, Trustee

Sandra Borchers, Fiscal Officer