

Special Meeting
February 22, 2016

Minutes Approved March 16, 2016

The special meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Community Center by Supervisor Larry Niederstandt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of board members: Barb Crambell-present; Larry Niederstandt-present; Grace Beland-present; Dwight Seaman-present; Kathy Eldridge-present . Also present were 18 guests.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

Public Comment:

Chief West read resignation letter for fire fighter Todd Harger with 26 years of service to be May 24, 2016.

Approval of Agenda:

All in favor-5 yes

Purpose of Meeting:

- 1) Discuss problems with the fire department regarding physicals.
- 2.) Address request for individuals to use volleyball poles owned by township.

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Crambell to approve the request from an animal group in the area to use the volleyball poles belonging to the Township. All in favor – motion passed.

Discussion was started by Chief West on the issue of physicals for fire fighters. Concerns for not just the physicals but retaining the current fire fighters. Chief West felt communication to the Fire Department was dropped by 1 board member. He stated some concerns were the cost of physicals, and that too many requirements would be a detriment. Today he presents to the entire board that we need to look at the benefits of physicals and the expense of them. Chief West suggested an annual physical could be every 3-5 years with a medical questionnaire to be filled out in between. The department at this time cannot recruit new volunteers and more standards will run potential people off. Chief West then stated that he had a physical scheduled for February 24, 2016. Marty Lockman then stated he will have his physician send over his physical when he goes in for his next appointment April 8, 2016.

Stuart McKinnon presented some concerns on policy 118. He feels there are too many grey areas. Examples -who is looking at the documents, are all employees

required to meet physicals #1, 2, or 3. After some discussion the fire department employees realized that the fire department policies and procedures were not written by the Township Board.

The current guidelines were put in place 7 years ago and the fire department does want to go over them and change some guidelines.

Larry Niederstadt explained policy 118 and the different levels of physicals. He also stated 9-24-2015 is the date of the policy of physicals that was passed by the board. And that by law it is only the clerk who is to handle the records.

Grace Beland went over the questions that were addressed to her. Beland suggested to set up a committee to look at the concerns and to report back with new policies if need be.

A lot of miscommunication was discovered with the fire fighters at the station. Larry Niederstadt suggested Chief West and Greg Bradley need to help with keeping employees informed on a regular basis.

Stuart Mc Kinnon asked if all employees could go to the township clerk if they have questions concerning policy #118.

Greg Bradley said that if we are going to accept other doctors to do physicals we need to give that physician a list of the guidelines. All were in agreement with better communication. Some suggestions to exchange minutes from township meetings and fire department meetings.

Motion was passed to accept the dates from the 2 fire fighters who had not had their physicals and not suspend them. Motion made by Eldridge 2nd by Beland.

Roll call vote Niederstadt- yes; Beland-yes; Seaman-yes; Crambell-yes;

Eldridge-yes. Agreement to run on policy #118 for the present. Then go back to

all fire department volunteers and discuss and revise policies. Also have a checklist for all to sign off on. Present progress at next township board meeting or present new revisions the fire department has.

Public Comment:

Chief West asked how to get a meeting with the board? Procedure was explained.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Kathy Eldridge
Township Clerk