

Clearwater Township Board Special Meeting
September 17, 2018
Minutes Approved September 19, 2018

The special meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 6:30pm at the Clearwater Township Community Center by Trustee Seaman with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of board members: Mike Gaylord-present; Dwight Seaman-present; Barb Crambell-present; Kathy Eldridge-present. Many guests also present.

Motion by Crambell, seconded by Eldridge, for Seaman to chair the meeting due to the Supervisor vacancy. All in favor. Motion passed. Trustee Gaylord recused himself for the rest of the meeting at this time.

Public Comment:

Mr. West spoke for several minutes as several guests stated that he could use their 3 minutes of public comment time to speak on their behalf. West stated that Grace H. Beland is the only prudent candidate for Township Supervisor for multiple reasons, including her past history as Trustee as well as her honesty, hard work, integrity, commitment to the community and her desire to work for the masses and not the select few. The other 2 candidates are former supervisors for the township. Dave Grimm served 3 prior terms as Supervisor. West reviewed several concerns that he had with Grimm's past tenure as Supervisor. West then stated many concerns that he has with Trustee Gaylord being appointed as Supervisor and believes that Gaylord has multiple zoning violations. West finished his comments about his tenure as Fire Chief.

Mr. Scott spoke about his concerns with Mr. West's statement and asked who selects the new Supervisor.

Mr. Linder spoke about his concerns that the township is appointing a supervisor instead of the community electing a Supervisor. Clerk Eldridge explained the legal process for appointing a new Supervisor and the decision of the board to post the position and interview candidates. Mr. Linder wants the Township Supervisor to be on the November 2018 ballot; it was explained that this is not legally possible.

A woman spoke about her challenges with her property not being designated as homesteaded for 5 years during Mr. Grimm's tenure as Supervisor. She also stated that Mr. Gaylord's character has issues. Grace is the only candidate with ethics that has applied for the position.

Sheryl Grimm thanked the board for their tremendous job under a lot of stress. She stated that she would support Mr. Grimm and Mr. Gaylord for the supervisor position.

Dave Grimm stated that he has been an assessor for 40 years and when he left Clearwater Township as Supervisor he was inspected and passed with no issues. Mr. Grimm explained that the property owner is responsible for filing an affidavit for homestead. Once it is filed, the assessor can act on it and go back 3 years to claim for you and get your money back.

Grace Beland asked why an armed deputy is at the meeting tonight. Clerk Eldridge stated that they attend all township regular meetings. Mr. West stated that they did not know about this meeting and that he called and told them about the meeting. Mr. West stated that special meeting notices should be posted early and in multiple places. Clerk Eldridge explained that the Township followed the law. A man, who is a past member of the zoning board, spoke about the need to work together and stop the tearing of each other down. You are responsible for your own property.

Chuck Ward mentioned that he felt the Supervisor position might best be filled by someone who is already on the board; let them move up. He also questioned the safety of the community and the need to fix the Fire Department. He will be attending meetings in the future and get involved.

Israel Garth spoke about the Fire Department situation. He mentioned concerns with a medical run response time to his home on Valley Rd. He stated that we need to make the community better,

apply for a main street grant and move forward.

Joanne Childs spoke about her father's history in the community, especially with the Fire Department.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: No conflict for Clerk Eldridge, Treasurer Crambell and Trustee Seaman. Trustee Gaylord recused himself.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Seaman, seconded by Crambell, to approve agenda. All in favor. Motion passed.

Purpose of Meeting: Interview candidates and appoint new Township Supervisor

Clerk Eldridge asked the following question of each candidate:

Please tell us why you want to be Township Supervisor.

Beland: Well qualified; well vested in community; mentioned ideas she has to help the community such as trash collection, a Parks & Rec plan, youth activities, send Township newsletter with the tax bills to save money and communicate twice a year, decrease number of special meetings, make improvements to Township Hall/Gym so the community can rent.

Gaylord: Not sure why he wants to be Supervisor; he put his name in the hat to maintain some continuity on the board. As trustee he helped out with the parks and access sites and Fire Department. He will continue to contribute as he can.

Grimm: He applied because he cares about the township and the township is facing many issues and not much is being accomplished right now. Under his watch for 12 years, we got over \$40 million in grant money and many improvements were made with the help of many hard working people.

What do you think is the greatest need in Clearwater Township today?

Gaylord: Get the ambulance service in the township 24hrs a day, 7 days a week to improve response time. Also keep up with the park, road and hall/gym improvements.

Grimm: Continuity and getting people to work together; would like to see the board function as a board and get people to work with the board. Get people to trust each other.

Beland: Agrees that the ambulance service in the township 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. She also stated that getting a bond for the roads is needed since the roads are a safety issue. The youth need something to do and she mentioned a few ideas for activities. She wants regular office hours and some evening hours.

Treasurer Crambell asked the following question of each candidate:

What makes Clearwater Township special and how will you build upon that?

Grimm: What makes the township special is the people and working together. The land is beautiful but the relationships I have with the people in the community are the best part.

Beland: The Township has good people with good schools. The natural resources can be used to increase tourism; hire the local youth to work in the summer; youth is most important. Her passion is this township.

Gaylord: Technology here is better than other areas; improve recreational & youth activities, create better business zones, continue to clean up zoning. Need to start working on these and just do it.

Trustee Seaman asked the following question of each candidate:

How would you handle concerns brought forth by the public?

Grimm: Learned a long time ago that it is better to be a good listener than a talker; best to sit with the person, hear their concerns and try to find a reasonable solution. Bring to the board if necessary, deal with things one at a time and prioritize. Emotions will be high, but it must be addressed; always

better to not turn a blind eye.

Gaylord: Easy to say what you are going to do, always harder to do it. Hear to volunteer and work together. If you have a better idea, bring it up in a reasonable manner. If you don't like how things are being done, put your name on the ballot or your application in.

Beland: The board handled the Fire Chief dismissal incorrectly. More communication was needed. Take a softer approach to zoning violations.

Motion by Crambell to appoint Dave Grimm as the Clearwater Township Supervisor.

Dave Grimm then spoke to the board about his concern that he may be a lightning rod for the board after hearing the comments mentioned by the public. He stated that Mike Gaylord may be a better choice given his involvement currently as a Trustee. Dave Grimm did not accept the motion and withdrew his name from consideration.

Barb Crambell stated that it is nice to see so many people attending the meeting. It is much easier to be in the audience of a board meeting and voice your opinion than being a board member making decisions. As a community, we have to agree to talk with each other instead of about each other.

Kathy Eldridge spoke about her background and that all residents are equal, the same and all have opinions. Rumors do not help the community.

Motion by Crambell, seconded by Eldridge, to appoint Mike Gaylord as the Clearwater Township Supervisor.

Roll call vote: Crambell-yes; Seaman-yes; Eldridge-yes; Gaylord – abstain. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Grace Beland discussed the rules to run a meeting and the opportunity for the board to discuss a motion after it has been seconded.

Joanne Childs stated that the board should rescind the decision to appoint Mike Gaylord as Supervisor.

Jim Linder again stated his concerns with appointing a Township Supervisor and that the board should have had the Supervisor resign earlier so it was on the November ballot this fall. We need new people on the board.

A woman asked what the next steps are if the voters felt if the person chosen could not represent them on the board. Treasurer Crambell stated that the board has 5 people and to talk to someone on the board that can represent your views.

Jeff West stated that the board should get the input of the prior Fire Chief to choose the next Fire Chief for the township.

Grace asked about how the Trustee on the ballot will voted. Clerk Eldridge stated that the public still votes for either Bradley or Gaylord. If Gaylord wins the election, he will decide if he wants to continue as Supervisor or Trustee. If he declines it, the board will appoint a trustee. If Bradley wins the Trustee vote in November, then he will be the Trustee.

Adjourned:

Motion by Seaman to adjourn meeting, seconded by Crambell. All in favor. Motion passed ending meeting at 8:15 pm.

Respectively submitted by
Jule Moore, Recording Secretary