

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in special session **Friday, December 9, 2022** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 7:01 A.M. Chairman Ken Radtke presided.

Roll Call: All Trustees and the Fiscal Officer were present.
Also present was the Township Administrator.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Board led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2022-495. Mr. Radtke moved to enter into executive session at 7:02 AM pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee. Mr. Richter seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Radtke, yes; Mr. Mazzurco, yes; Mr. Richter, yes. Motion passed.

Invited into the meeting were Fiscal Officer Jarrett, Administrator Purchase, and Richard Ivans. The Board reentered public session at 7:30 A.M.

Discussion – 2023 Budget review with department heads

Mr. Purchase shared the township was doing temporary appropriations in November. However, now they are done in June. Chester Twp. has six (6) levies to pass in two (2) years.

Chief Young reported in general his department is on track. A concern was the billing generated from the county regarding the help desk. He would like to see a more itemized statement concerning the charges. A discussion also took place regarding the possibility of looking into separating from the county IT entirely. Chief Young also touched on the department having a lot of evidence collected and shared they were using Cuyahoga, but are currently utilizing Lake County Crime Lab when in a pinch, but stated they are very expensive. He is hoping to set up a meeting with Lake County (Chuck Coulson) and try to work out an agreement by contract lowering the fees. He shared the police will be needing an additional vehicle that was not noted in the budget. The School Resource Officer (SRO) should be funded 100% by the school which will be a savings to the township.

Mr. Onyshko noted East Shiloh is going to be between \$27,000 and \$45,000 but the unit pricing for paving came in \$40,000 less. Salt is good until probably the end of February. He is currently working on getting new trucks. Mr. Onyshko may look into servicing out some of the summer grass cutting if short staffed. The department is hoping to obtain a grant to get Heath Road repaired. In reference to striping, the township was billed a bit higher than discussed. Burials in the cemetery really played a role in money spent this year.

Chief Shaw shared that overall the department is doing very well. He noted he is looking into accounts where money has been placed, yet rarely used. He is intending on increasing education and leadership training primarily for full-time firefighters next year. Staffing is still an on-going issue, but we need to remember we are using a model that 60% of the hours worked we rely on a part-time work force. Chief Shaw is hoping to add full-time personnel next year. He would like to have 60% of the hours covered by full-time staff. He is fully aware there is a cost associated with the change. The interior of the fire department is almost complete. Some improvements need to be made to the outside of the building including repairs.

Mr. Purchase commented that two (2) levies are set for 2023 and both belong to the Fire Department. The township needs to focus on when all levies expire and what year we collect. The language must be

correct. Mr. Purchase explained in detail how levies work if it is a renewal as well as listing options to consider prior to placing a levy on the ballot. Mr. Purchase vocalized the importance of understanding the timing when a levy is placed on the ballot and how it can benefit the township. Details including the terms, renewals, increases, etc. were discussed. The new web site should explain a lot in detail too. To place anything on the ballot there is a cost associated.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Radtke adjourned the meeting at 9:44 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

December 29, 2022 motion # 2022-525
Approval Date

Ken Radtke, Jr., Chairman

Joseph C. Mazzurco, Vice-Chairman

Craig S. Richter, Trustee