

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in special session **Thursday, August 31, 2023** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 7:30 A. M. Chairman Craig Richter presided.

Roll Call: All Trustees and the Fiscal Officer were present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Leading Motion #: 2023-341

HB 140 (Impact on Tax Levies) – This determines how employees can talk about or promote levies. Under House Bill 140 employees are not permitted to voice an opinion for or against a levy while on the clock. Mr. Purchase, Township Administrator went into detail explaining what is permitted as well as what is prohibited. Stick to the facts when at work and keep titles out of any correspondence when not actually on company time.

2024 Township Budget (Temporary/Permanents & Tax Levies) – Trustee Richter shared the Commissioners said the Trustees did work hard on the budget and the Trustees were reminded how tight money is. The General Fund is good. Fire Funds are okay. Road and Police Funds are in desperate need of funding, which the Trustees are aware of. It is critical that the Township gets new funding. Trustee Richter said the money would be for sustaining and not growing the departments. Being funded properly for the future is important. Trustee Radtke explained the importance of stability in each department. Change is taking place with the levies. Everything is going up although the Township funds basically remain the same. Mr. Purchase added that the Township is hoping to add Reserve Funds with some of the changes the Township hopes to make. Trustee Mazzurco said 75% of the levies are old and suggested the Township run like a business. He explained the importance of continuing levies. Fire Chief Shaw said the Township needs to ask what level of service the people in the community want. Police Chief Young commented that it depends on what the people in this community's expectations are. Fire Chief Shaw proposed next year maybe planning something to educate the people on the cost to keep services since probably most people do not know. Mr. Purchase reminded everyone that we need to be financially stabilized in all four (4) departments and then focus on trying to get ahead. Fiscal Officer Jarrett added that people don't leave Chesterland and it is a hard sell to the seniors. Trustee Richter would like to send a letter to the Budget Commission and ask them to reallocate some inside millage since the County budget shows a large surplus.

Executive Session

2023-341. Mr. Richter moved to enter into executive session at 8:22 A.M. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the employment, dismissal, discipline of a public employee.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

Invited into the executive session is Township Administrator Mark Purchase, Fiscal Officer Patricia Jarrett and Police Chief Craig Young. The Board reentered public session at 9:02 A.M.

2023-342. Mr. Richter moved to accept the resignation of Nick Iacampo effective August 28, 2023. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Township Long Range Plans for buildings were discussed. An architect was out and evaluated the Road Department building in its entirety. He is working on a proposal for a new building. An architect and a planner are different Trustee Radtke said. Discussion continued over possible alternatives for the Township buildings. Conversation proceeded with discussing the possibilities of leaving some buildings where they are and not moving all offices and departments to a central location. There are several options that could be considered for the Long Range Plan. Mr. Purchase reminded everyone the issue regarding the roof on the Road Department and emphasized it needs to be addressed now. It was stressed that a plan of some type needs to be put in place. Conversation with zoning continued about the property located on Chillicothe Road where Fire Station 2 is now. Before getting into the zoning debate, the first question remains does the Board want to sell the property or keep it? Obtaining a planner was suggested with the hope of ending with a vision. Trustee Richter said his goal is to sell the property.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Richter adjourned the meeting at 9:54 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

September 7, 2023 – Motion # 2023-346
Approval Date

Craig Richter, Chairman

Joseph C. Mazzurco, Vice-Chairman

Ken Radtke, Jr., Trustee