

Westchester Township Board Meeting & Public Hearing
September 11, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Westchester Township Trustee Suzanne Philbrick; Township Board Members Calvin Chubb, Barbara Stroud, and Cheryl Evans; Township Board Attorney David Hiestand; Town of Chesterton Fire Chief Sean O'Donnell; and Town of Porter Fire Chief Jay Craig Jr. were present. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Fire Reporting Software:

Chesterton Fire Chief O'Donnell and Porter Fire Chief Craig updated the Township Trustee and Board Members about developments with the fire reporting software that both fire departments use in the management of their departments. Because of a corporate acquisition that affected the software product that the departments used, both departments were faced with selecting a new software product.

Porter Fire Chief Craig has already switched to a new software program, which offers greater features than the old software product but is more expensive. Chesterton Fire Chief O'Donnell has not yet switched to this new software program but wishes to switch to this same product in the near future. Fire Chief O'Donnell will provide the group with an invoice relating to this product at the next Township Board Meeting.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Board Members reviewed the minutes of the Westchester Township Board Meeting held on June 26, 2024. Upon review, Cheryl Evans made a motion to approve the June 26, 2024 minutes as presented. Calvin Chubb seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. This motion carried unanimously.

Westchester Township Budget 2025

Township Trustee Philbrick presented Board Members with a proposed budget for 2025 for review and public comment. This reading represented the first reading of the budget. A second reading of the budget is necessary and is scheduled for the next Board meeting. Although the public has a legal right to appear and was afforded an opportunity to remonstrate against this budget if they so wished, there were no members of the public in attendance to review and comment on this proposed budget.

Township Trustee Philbrick described the process involved in preparing this budget, including gathering and submitting an extensive amount of data to the Department of Local Government Finance. She noted that the Department of Local Government Finance is the party who sets the maximum amount that can be raised and that their figure is not negotiable.

Board members thanked Township Trustee Philbrick for her work and promised to review this proposed budget in more detail prior to the next meeting.

Capital Assets Threshold:

Township Trustee Philbrick and Board Members discussed the Township's Capital Assets Policy. A motion was made by Calvin Chubb to amend this policy and set the threshold for what is considered a capital asset to \$1,000. Cheryl Evans seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

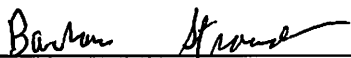
TrustINDiana:

The Township Trustee and the Board Members discussed the possibility of using TrustINDiana for some of the Township's funds. Board Member Evans has passed out information concerning TrustINDiana at the last meeting. The group discussed some of the features of TrustINDiana as well as their concerns. Calvin Chubb made a motion to table the matter until the next meeting, and Cheryl Evans seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting and Hearing/Adjournment:

As there was no additional business to discuss and the date of the next meeting and budget hearing was already set for September 25, 2024 at 5 p.m., Board Member Calvin Chubb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Evans seconded the motion. This motion was carried unanimously, and President Barb Stroud adjourned the meeting.


A tentative date for the December meeting was set for December 4, 2024 at 5 pm.



Barbara Stroud, President



Calvin Chubb, Member



Cheryl Evans, Secretary