

Eagle Township Board
Wednesday, July 11, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Old National Bank
385 South Main Street
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Members in Attendance: Rob Schein, President ___x___
Ralph Stacy, Secretary ___x___
Jeff Papa, Bd. Member ___x___
Judith Essex, Trustee ___x___

Minutes

Call to Order.

President Rob Schein called meeting to order.

Minutes

June minutes were amended per comments by Board Member Stacy regarding Marsh Pitzer Cemetery and work that had been done there. A motion was then made and the minutes were approved as amended.

Financial Report

The Trustee distributed the Financial Report for June 2007. Discussion ensued that the last payment on the Fire Station would be December 2007 and what entity will hold title to the building. In 1996 when bonds were issued for the fire station Trustee Jim Regal gave title to the Town of Zionsville.

Fire Territory

At the Fire Territory Executive Board meeting on July 10th an interlocal agreement was presented for the Executive Board's review. The same agreement was to be presented to Whitestown Town Council by Chief VanGorder on July 16th. After some discussion, Executive Board President Essex tabled the interlocal agreement to give the respective legislative bodies' time to review before making a presentation to Whitestown Town Council.

The Board then discussed how the annexation of Whitestown into Eagle Township is impacting the Fire Territory. The issue is that Whitestown is not going to provide fire protection to the annexed area. Township attorney Steve Buschmann says that the annexation statute states there would have to be an agreement within one year from the date of annexation. The status quo would be for the fire territory to stay the same as it is currently set.

However, the fire department feels the need to move forward with the building of a station to provide better service to the area. Board member Stacy commented that maybe the Fire Territory Executive Committee should communicate with Whitestown that the Fire Territory will provide protection up to the one year annexation date and then Whitestown will have to provide

protection to their new town or dis-annex the area. The key is that Whitestown has to provide equivalent service within one year.

President Schein feels that area is still Eagle Township and that has not changed. Why should the fire territory be at risk with an interlocal contract? This is Eagle Township and Zionsville's' asset. Hours have been spent, and legal fees incurred, and now it is being carved out of our jurisdiction. The issue is protecting our assets. Eagle Township Board wants to provide fire protection to the taxpayers of Eagle Township. We want to provide the best services, but we want to protect our investment. It seems logical to say to Whitestown that we want to put a fire station on the land donated by Anson and serve the area and maintain the status quo of where we started five years ago. The Fire Territory could be a benefit to both municipalities if Whitestown would dis-annex.

With this interlocal agreement the only recourse if it is terminated is a lawsuit, which is costly to the taxpayer. The interlocal agreement only provides for Zionsville and Eagle Township to be reimbursed for their initial investment if there is a future change of plans by Whitestown. The ten year notification required of Whitestown in the event that they desire to provide their own fire protection, would be a disservice to taxpayers because it would take three times the money to rebuild a similar facility ten years later. The current interlocal does not require the Town of Whitestown to pay anything for the services of the Fire Territory above the tax levy.

It was agreed that Trustee Essex would contact Whitestown Town Council President Jason Tribbey to ask to be on their agenda July 16th.

2008 Budget

The Trustee presented the preliminary draft of the 2008 budget. The members were provided with Township Budget Form No. 1. All line items were reviewed. It was decided that the Township General Fund would be increased from \$55,100 to \$60,133 with the increase going to professional services. The Township Assistance Fund remains at \$12,000 and the Park and Recreation Fund will remain at \$15,000. The Trustee will meet with DLGF field examiner on July 13th to finalize the budget for publication.

Other Business

Park and Recreation board member Chuck Keraga reported that matching funds are being sought for the requirement of the Transportation Enhancement Award money that was received by the Friends of Boone County Rail Trail. They need to raise \$20,000 in matching funds. Discussion followed about donating \$5,000 - \$10,000 to the Rail Trail. The decision on that amount was tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Township Board Meeting will be held on August 7, 2007 at Old National Bank at 6:30 p.m.