

West Mead Township Board of Supervisors

Public Study Session Minutes

November 14, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Bovard, Jordan and Shartle. Also present: Duane Koller, Paul Oyler, Aaron Rekich, Penni Dallas, Paul Martin, Chief Brown, Alan Shaddinger, Mike Crowley and Jill Dunlap.

Executive Sessions were held on October 18, 2023 and October 23, 2023 for Real Estate Matters.

Note: This is a public meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of general discussion of administrative, regulatory enforcement; police and road department and personnel; building and grounds; budget and related matters and issues related thereto that may or may not require action. It is also used to review and comment on the public meeting agenda for the regular public meeting.

Note: Grant application has been completed and submitted with the Statewide Local Share Grant Funds as authorized by Act 2004 – 71 for the purchase of a 2024/2025 John Deere Loader.

Note: The Secretary has begun working on the renewals for the Property & Casualty Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance Coverages.

Note: A Fire Escrow Account in the amount of \$5,333.33 has been established for Joshua & Stacey Dodson on property located at 10485 Liberty Street Extension.

The Chairman noted the above items.

Meadville Area West Mead Township Representatives Duane Koller and Paul Oyler of the Meadville Area Recreation Authority and Executive Director Aaron Rekich were present to provide an update on the Meadville Area Recreation Complex. They discussed the contributions from various municipalities and community partners and donations received from the annual Crawford Gives program. They are extremely grateful for the support and assistance they receive from West Mead Township. It is things like the Recreation Complex that keep people here, as it is a community asset. Discussion was had on the various programs provided at the Swimming Pool, Ice Arena, Tennis and Pickleball Courts and Garden Area of the facility. Bovard noted he was glad to see they seem to be moving toward being more self-sufficient. Shartle indicated he has seen and heard good things about what is happening and credited Aaron Rekich for his leadership.

Shartle moved, Jordan seconded to ratify Jeffrey Associates for the purchase of two playground equipment pieces for installation at Oakgrove Park as directed by the Secretary in the amount of \$7,135.00. Vote- All Approved.

Dunlap provided an update on the potential Fire Department Ordinance for Tax Credit Options and the status of the Crawford County Fire Commission. The Board members were provided with an updated drafts of the Ordinance and Resolution, as she had met and worked with both West Mead #1 Fire Company Chief Terry Shaulis and West Mead #2 Fire Department Chief Jim Pratt in drafting the documents originally provided by Solicitor Shaddinger. They have been in contact with members of the Crawford County Fire Commission and are proposing a point system that may be a good option for firefighters to meet eligibility requirements for real estate and earned income tax credits. All discussed the requirements and Bovard indicated a percentage of points may be a good option to consider. Shartle and Bovard discussed call volumes throughout the county and how tax incentives may affect our volunteer members who do not live in West Mead Township. Jordan hopes the Crawford County Fire & EMS Commission members continue talks to help find solutions for local emergency service and fire issues. Dunlap noted the Ordinance and Resolution could be considered for approval in 2024, to be effective for 2025, as there may be changes and additional items that come from the County Commission discussions.

The Board reviewed the items on the 7:00 meeting agenda and the Proposed 2024 Budget with no Real Estate Tax Increase. As there had been a Special Budget Meeting held late in October, she indicated the budget had few changes since then but it has been updated using more accurate and current figures.

Being no further business, Jordan moved, Shartle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Dunlap
Secretary