

LEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 2, 2021
Minutes of the Board of Commissioner's Special Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Leet Township Board of Commissioners was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Donna Adipietro in the Leet Township Municipal Building, 194 Ambridge Ave., Fair Oaks, PA 15003. Commissioners present were Jim Janaszek, Donna Adipietro, and Erika Oslick. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Carolyn Verszyla and Marty McDaniel were absent.

Also present:

Betsy Rengers, Manager

Cindy Phillips

Stephen Chesney, Solicitor, by phone

Barbara and Gary Bradel, Residents

Charlie Frederick, Resident

Keri Medwid, Resident

Mike Molinaro, Chief

Mrs. Adipietro welcomed everyone to the meeting and started with participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gary Bradel, Resident, asked about the status of the War Memorial. Mr. Bradel donated \$10,000.00 to the project. A short discussion was had about gathering names, committee members, and the design.

A memorial bench was ordered for a resident's son who passed away.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Adipietro asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

MOTION: Ms. Oslick made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss Police Contracts and personnel issues, seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Oslick made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. after discussing Police Contracts and personnel issues, seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to resume the Regular Session at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

Mr. Janaszek explained that after being in Executive Session, the Board decided to terminate Ms. Phillips' employment with the Township.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to terminate Cindy Phillips appointment with the Township effective June 2, 2021, per Section 1: Terms, #5: "at will" employee as written in Phillips' employee contract for "at will" employment dated December 19, 2019, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

Mr. Bradel asked the Board why the termination. Mr. Janaszek stated that some things had come up and Ms. Oslick stated that the Board is moving in a different direction.

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Ms. Phillips stated that at will employees have rights, too. Ms. Phillips went on to read her statement about her employment. Mrs. Adipietro stated that it is a personnel issue and should not be talked about in Regular Session and should be talked about in Executive Session. A short discussion was had around the issue. The Township is hiring an accounting firm to do the books.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss employee issues, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Oslick made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. after discussing employee issues, seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to go back into Regular Session at 7:54p.m., seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

War Memorial: a short discussion was had about the War Memorial regarding names and contributions.

Mr. Janaszek stated that the Board appreciated Ms. Phillips comments in Executive Session, but the termination stands. The Township will be in touch with Ms. Phillips regarding Cobra benefits and packet.

Chief Molinaro's Contract: we will amend Article 3: Salary to say that both parties (Township and Chief Molinaro) must agree to open the contract for a contract negotiation. Chief Molinaro agreed.

Chief Molinaro asked about the start date of the contract. It will be retroactive to March 9, 2021. Mr. Janaszek thanked Chief Molinaro for a great job and taking a substantial decrease in pay for the benefit of the Township. Article 3, Salary, will also be amended to say that Chief Molinaro is entitled to a 5% wage increase in the event the highest paid officer exceeds the Chief's salary.

MOTION: Mr. Janaszek made a motion to accept the Agreement between the Township and Chief Molinaro effective retroactive to March 9, 2021 and based upon the corrections to be made to Article 3, Salary, seconded by Ms. Oslick, with all in favor.

Ms. Medwid asked why Chief Molinaro is being paid less. Mr. Janaszek explained that this is Chief Molinaro's give back to the Township. Chief Wanto was making over \$130,000.00 per year with benefits, Chief Molinaro's total package is \$83,000.00. Mrs. Adipietro explained that the Township is keeping a close eye on finances and the budget. In areas where we can chip a few things off, we are. Chief Molinaro came to us and was gracious enough to make this offer. Chief Molinaro explained a scenario last year where an officer was out hurt, and he had to cover the shifts. He worked 60 hours a week and this inflated the pay with overtime. Mr. Janaszek explained that Chief Molinaro is making less that officers in Leetsdale.

The Township lost \$15,000.00 a year in tax revenue from the School Districts purchase of property in the Township.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Oslick made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Janaszek, with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:
Betsy Rengers, Manager