

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION MEETING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD
NOVEMBER 25, 2024

CONFERENCE ROOM 3-2
MINUTES
4:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Bartolotta, Supervisor
Kim Markee, Clerk
Steve Thomas, Treasurer
Jeff Gilbert, Trustee
Sam Harris, Trustee
Marie E. Hauswirth, Trustee
Gary Wall, Trustee

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Simlar	Joellen Shortley	Jan Feldman
Sharon Thomas	Derek Diederich	Robin McGregor
Jeff Polkowski	Jared Black	Shelly Schloss

Supervisor Bartolotta opened the meeting by asking Mark Simlar, Human Resources Director, to discuss the impending Fire Department agreement with Pontiac. Mr. Simlar informed the Board, that there is an upcoming meeting with Pontiac's Mayor to discuss extending the contract to continue supporting Fire Services for Pontiac. Overall, he thinks this is the appropriate action to take at this time. The original contract was for 10 years. Mr. Simlar explained the history of this contract to all Board Members.

Supervisor Bartolotta asked Jared Black, IT Director, to talk about laptops and phones for all board members. Questions and answers were provided from and to the Board. Joellen Shortley, Attorney, commented that if there ever was a FOIA, you would be happy that you had a Township-assigned cell phone. Some board members commented that it would be a hassle to carry two phones around. Jeff Polkowski, Superintendent of Development Services, said he was thankful he had a work cell phone when there were FOIA requests to his department. Costs were discussed regarding this request, and Derek Diederich said the budget is still able to be changed and that the cell phones would cost about \$4,000 per year if everyone received a cell phone. Trustee Harris thinks board members should have both a cell phone and a laptop computer. Supervisor Bartolotta asked all Board members if they were interested in getting a laptop and cell phone to contact Jared Black.

Supervisor Bartolotta asked the board what they thought about Priority and if we should go out for a bid. Most board members thought we should go for a bid; however, Supervisor Bartolotta was going to call Priority tomorrow to discuss discounts and reimbursements to the Township if a possible 6-month to 1-year extension was given to Priority. Priority proposed a one-year extension at the same cost to the residents. Trustee Wall mentioned that we have 25,438 households, and there have been numerous letters sent to Priority. We need to have a guarantee that Waterford Township will have a minimum of 12 trucks available and on the roads in Waterford every day. Joellen Shortley, Attorney, said that the timeline to send an RFP is very tight but could be done. Trustee Harris asked many questions regarding Priority. Clerk Markee said that Orion Township went with Waste Management, and it was about \$1.00 more per month than the Priority quote. However, they chose to pay a small amount more because they were dissatisfied with Priority's service. Supervisor Bartolotta mentioned that Priority has improved, but in the last few days, he has been seeing increased complaints coming in. He also sees that the workers of Priority throw the bins all over the place where GFL used trucks that had fork-arms to lift and set the bins down. Clerk Markee asked Shelly Schloss what she thought, and she thought we should send an RFP, although there would be another transition phase that would add more work for the Township if we went with another trash provider. Clerk Markee thought we should send an RFP and Priority can bid just like everyone else. This would send a message that we do not approve of their poor service, and possibly we could get a similar price and better service. Trustee Hauswirth thought we should send out an RFP.

Joellen Shortley, Attorney, talked about the responsibilities of the board members to provide guidance to our new trustees. She mentioned that you will always be a public person until your term ends because the residents view you this way since they elected you. Be careful what you post on social media, what you write in emails, and

what you speak about in public. Trustee Wall mentioned that when there are closed sessions with attorney-client privileges anything that is talked about in those sessions is confidential.

Supervisor Bartolotta said that he will be proposing a new Prosecuting Attorney at the next Board meeting because the current one is retiring from Waterford Township. Joellen Shortley, Attorney, thought the person that will be proposed is a very good attorney.

Trustee Hauswirth asked about the Vape Shops. Jeff Polkowski, Superintendent of Development Services, mentioned that he was working on an ordinance.

Trustee Gilbert said that Waterford should have a dedicated PR Communications person. It would help with communicating with our residents. It was determined that this was talked about during our budget meetings, however, it was agreed that we should wait until next year to see how the budget goes. Currently, there are not enough funds to add this position.

Robin McGregor, a resident, asked about the meeting with OCC and the County. The county is interested in partnering with the Township to acquire some land from OCC. The County would like the same price for the remainder of the land that Waterford received from OCC. ~~Supervisor Bartolotta~~ Trustee Wall said that would be up to OCC to determine because it is their land. Trustee Wall mentioned that we should not ever partner with Oakland County because we should keep our Parks and Rec facilities separate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.