

# Fairfield Township Board

## Meeting Minutes

### April 20th, 2010

**Present:** Township Trustee, Julie Roush; Board Members Margaret McCabe, Marjorie Fitzgerald and Steve Needham (via speaker phone); Township employee, Susan Parkinson; and from the public, John Parker, Mike Simpson, James Werner and Allen Nugent.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Chairman McCabe called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March 4th, 2010 meetings were read silently. A motion to approve was made by Fitzgerald and seconded by McCabe. The minutes were approved unanimously and without correction.

#### Old Business:

- A. Financial support from Fairfield Township for one or more Lafayette Parks Department projects was again discussed. (See Project List and Map, attached.) There is currently almost \$63,000 in the Recreation Fund. \$12,000 has been budgeted for 2010, with other possible uses including support for 4-H, Learning for Life, Boys & Girls Club, Little League and Tippecanoe Co. Soccer Club. Of the projects originally presented to the Board, Roush narrowed the discussion to the North 9<sup>th</sup> Street Trailhead and the South Tipp Park. By phone, Needham expressed his support for tangible equipment at either park (shelter, grills, benches and playground equipment) rather than a parking lot. McCabe and Fitzgerald both prefer support of “green space.” All agreed that support of the South Tipp Park would be in alignment with the township’s desire to support underserved children. It was suggested that we secure matching funds and put plaques on tangible equipment so that the public is aware of Fairfield Township’s contribution. **Needham made a motion to dedicate funds to the South Tipp Park project, with the amount to be decided at a later date. McCabe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Roush gave an update on the completion of the Family Promise Shelter driveway, which was enlarged and graveled recently with volunteer help from the City of Lafayette’s Street Department. Roush is very grateful to Mayor Tony Roswarski and the City for their continued support.
- C. Roush gave an update on Indiana legislation concerning townships. Bills which called for a referendum to eliminate townships and another to eliminate township Boards did not pass.

#### New business:

- A. Fairfield Township passed last month’s audit by the State Board of Accounts with “flying colors.” While the State Board usually examines two years of books, the auditor this year examined three years. Our only citation was for opening up 2008 with a negative balance – a temporary glitch due to the township not receiving the tax check on time from the county auditor. The 2007-2009 audit will be published in 3-4 months and will be posted on the State Board of Accounts website: [www.in.gov/sboa/resources/reports/audit/results.aspx?summary=1](http://www.in.gov/sboa/resources/reports/audit/results.aspx?summary=1)
- B. In 2009, \$53,000 was borrowed from the Fire Fund in anticipation of needing additional funding. In order to pay back the fire fund, we may need to publish, in the local newspaper 10 days before the next Board meeting (May 18<sup>th</sup>), an additional appropriation for the Rainy Day Fund. If so, the board will then vote on the additional appropriation at the next board meeting.
- C. Roush and Parkinson volunteered at the Learning for Life Fun Fest on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. The annual event serves disabled children in the Tippecanoe area. Around 1500 disabled children were in attendance this year. Roush brought several other volunteers from the community to help make balloons, make giant bubbles, draw caricatures and paint faces. Roush made balloon animals; Parkinson did face painting. Remaining staff worked to keep the Trustee’s office open for the day.
- D. Roush attended a Wabash Center Breakfast Tour and shared her positive impressions of the facility and its programs. She encouraged staff and Board members to take the tour as well. (See attached flier.)
- E. Roush also took a tour recently of the Lynn Treece Boys and Girls Club and met with director Barry Richards. The Club is in need of funding, and Roush is hoping that Fairfield Township can collaborate somehow with them in the future. One possibility is for the Club to provide mentors for 4-H participants.
- F. Roush gave a talk recently at the Indiana Care Circle, which meets monthly at Area IV. Members are from a variety of local businesses and programs that offer advocating services for the elderly.

- G. Roush explained Salvation Army’s recent decision to enforce their policy of sending applicants to government offices and programs before they can be considered for financial assistance. Primarily, these referrals will be to trustee’s offices for rental assistance and to Area IV for utility assistance. The staff at the local Salvation Army wants to know our policies and guidelines better in order to make appropriate referrals and not waste applicants’ time – or ours. Fairfield Township’s \$1,100 per month contract with Salvation Army is primarily for shelter assistance, budget counseling and other services. Roush expressed a need to examine our contract and this relationship a little more closely to ensure that the township’s expectations and needs are being met.
- H. Roush shared with the Board that Fairfield Township has been offering monthly “brown-bag lunch” presentations in our Community Room for staff and others (by invitation). Presentations so far have included Immigration, FSSA, Social Security and Vocational Rehabilitation. Future presentations include Child Support (scheduled for May) and Conflict Management.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18th, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment:** Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn, seconded by McCabe. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by, Steve Needham, Secretary.

SN/sp

**Township Board:**

**Board of Finance:**

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Margaret McCabe, Chairman of the board

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Steve Needham, Board of Finance Chairman

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Steve Needham, Secretary of the Board

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Margaret McCabe, Board of Finance Secretary

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Marjorie Fitzgerald, Board Member

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