

**Fairfield Township Board
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2010**

Present: Township Trustee, Julie Roush; Board Members Margaret McCabe and Steve Needham; Township employee, Susan Parkinson; and from the public, John Parker, Jen Bushore-Berry and Don Scheiber (all Fairfield Township Board candidates) and Dave Thomas, Inspector for the Lafayette Fire Department.

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 January 19th, 2010 meetings were read silently. A motion to approve was made by Needham and seconded by McCabe. The minutes were approved unanimously and without correction.

Old Business:

- A. Dave Thomas, Inspector for the LFD, gave a presentation on the Department’s new CodePal inspection and investigation software, to be used according to contract between Fairfield Township and the LFD.
- B. Roush suggested that the Board revisit the Lafayette Parks Department projects, presented to the Board at the September 10, 2009 meeting for possible support. Of the three projects presented, the Board needs to decide which park to support, what to purchase or help pay for, and how much to contribute. Discussion was tabled until the next Board meeting.

New business:

- A. Roush presented the Fairfield Township contract with Family Promise for consideration of renewal. (See attached contract.) Family Promise is using the township’s building at 712 Wabash Avenue, next to the Trustee’s office, as a day shelter. **Resolution was made to renew Fairfield Township’s contract with Family Promise, with the provision that Family Promise report statistics quarterly. Needham made a motion to accept the resolution; McCabe seconded the motion. Resolution passed unanimously.**
- B. Roush presented an update on the driveway/parking area behind the Family Promise day shelter. Parking behind the building is at times difficult (cramped and muddy). As a consequence, shelter guests sometimes drive through the lawn behind the trustee’s office in order to avoid getting stuck. Roush has found volunteers to enlarge and re-gravel the parking area. Work will be done within the month, weather permitting.
- C. Roush presented an update on Fairfield Township’s maximum tax levy appeal, which was approved by the Department of Local Government Finance for 2010. Although we were not told verbally and there is no state statute regarding this, or anything else in writing, Roush learned that the approved levy increase is only for one year – and that future levy increases must be petitioned on a year-by-year basis.
- D. Roush presented the city and county tax rates for 2010. (See table below.) Due to a reduction in Net Assessed Value (NAV), there are some increases in tax rates. TSC had a 2.3% decrease in NAV and the county as a whole was 1.9%. This is very uncommon for Tippecanoe County; there has never been a decrease in NAV that wasn’t the result of legislative action (homestead changes, etc.). The reductions are impacted by decreasing home values, which reduce property taxes – and, subsequently, cause tax rates to increase in order to make up the difference.

The table below indicates the TSC change of an increase of .0856

TSC Only Tax Rates	2009	2010	Diff
General	0.0036		-0.0036
Debt	0.4145	0.4887	0.0742
CCP	0.3112	0.3121	0.0009
Trans	0.1358	0.1437	0.0079
Bus replacement	0.0424	0.0486	0.0062
Total School	0.9075	0.9931	0.0856

Taxing District	2009	2010	Dif
Fairfield Twp LSC B	1.6495	1.5527	0.0968
Fairfield Twp TSC	1.3927	1.5158	-0.1231
Fairfield Twp TSC B	1.4325	1.5581	-0.1256
Lafayette - Fairfield LSC B	2.4497	2.3952	0.0545
Lafayette - Fairfield TSC B	2.2327	2.4006	-0.1679

- E. Roush shared a letter written by Fairfield Township case manager Sue Parkinson in support of township government. (See attached letter.) The letter was written prior to an interview with J&C reporter Dorothy Schneider regarding a possible story and may be submitted as a guest column.
- F. Roush presented the Board with the 2010 Township Standards (see attached), with minor edits and changes from 2009. **Resolution was made to accept the Fairfield Township Standards, as presented. Needham made a motion to accept the resolution; McCabe seconded the motion. Resolution passed unanimously.**
- G. Roush presented a newly-written mission statement to the Board: *“Our mission is to assist those who are experiencing financial hardship in Fairfield township with basic needs; to advocate, educate, motivate and help lead them to greater self-sufficiency when possible; and to treat all who walk through our doors with dignity and respect.”*
- H. Roush announced that Fairfield Township will be serving as an official 2010 U.S. Census site during the week of March 22nd through 26th. A Census worker will be on-hand for three hours per day to assist applicants and others from the community with filling out and submitting their questionnaires. A Census Day Community Celebration will be held on March 27th at Ivy Tech Community College, with food and prizes, and a contest for kids. (See attached flier.)
- I. Roush presented a legislative update. This past week the two bills SB 240 and HB 1181 have been in conference committee. Basically the Senate gutted House Bill 1181 which was the referendum bill, and inserted the text from SB 240 regarding the removal of advisory boards. Since both bills passed both the Senate and the House, a conference committee must iron out the differences and then the "revised" bill must be passed by both the House and the Senate. However, in committee Representative Crawford (D-Indianapolis) and Senator Lawson (R-Indianapolis) can't come to an agreement. Lawson wants to remove Advisory Boards and Crawford thinks there should be a referendum. Consequently, it seems likely that nothing will happen in 2010.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 20th, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by, Steve Needham, Secretary.

SN/sp

Township Board:

Board of Finance:

Margaret McCabe, Chairman of the board

Steve Needham, Board of Finance Chairman

Steve Needham, Secretary of the Board

Margaret McCabe, Board of Finance Secretary

Marjorie Fitzgerald, Board Member

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