
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Wall, Supervisor
Kim Markee, Clerk
Steve Thomas, Treasurer
Anthony Bartolotta, Trustee
Marie E. Hauswirth, Trustee
Janet Matsura Trustee
Mark Monohon, Trustee

ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barb Miller
Derek Diederich
Scott Lindberg

Mary Craite
Sandy Elka
Samuel James

Erin Asdell
Robin McGregor
Alison Swanson

Supervisor Wall opened the meeting by asking Superintendent Lindberg about their future plans for the Leggett Sr. Center. Superintendent Lindberg said the School District would be moving the childcare services over to the new Stepanski Center effective August 1, 2024, and plan to only concentrate on childcare for Pre-K through 12th grades. The School District wants what's best for the Township, however, they do not want to continue with servicing seniors because it does not fit in with their core initiative of educating students.

Erin Asdell, Senior Center Coordinator, and Sandra Elka, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations presented the services and financial information regarding the Leggett Sr. Center. The Leggett Sr. Center is financed by mostly grants that Donielle Fiddler writes and receives. Numerous volunteers work hard every day to provide services including Meals on Wheels and the Adult Day Care Encore Program. There are approximately 40 families serviced every month by the Encore Program, and the program is not limited to Waterford Residents only. Families from Auburn Hills, Sylvan Lake, and other nearby communities use the Leggett Center. On a daily basis, there are 15 to 22 participants in the Encore Program. Meals on Wheels are also provided M – F and the Bistro congregate meals must be available to meet their federal requirements. Nearly 80,000 homebound and 10,000 congregate meals are served annually. Waterford's senior population currently outnumbers school-age children and is expected to double by the year 2030.

Sandra informed the Trustees that custodial services, minor maintenance, lawn care, snow removal, IT services, and major capital maintenance are not included in the financials that were presented that the School District provides to the Leggett Center. The Center is fully ADA-compliant. The Trustees asked numerous questions, and the School District said that the School Board was in agreement with the future plans for Leggett. Alison Swanson, Director of Parks and Rec asked if it would be possible to lease the building and some School District gyms for the Township Parks and Rec activities. Superintendent Lindberg said, "Yes, that is definitely possible." Alison was concerned when they did that in the past that the School District would cancel on them because the School District had something going on and then it caused the Parks and Rec families to have a bad impression of Parks and Rec because their planned activity was canceled at the last minute. She hoped this would not be the case and if they agreed ahead of time to the scheduling, both the School District and the Township could honor it. Clerk Markee mentioned that we may need to use a large gym for absentee ballot counting on election days if for some reason the Rec Center on Williams Lake Rd. is closed due to safety reasons. Supervisor Wall was concerned about the transfer of the people from the School District to the Township Government rolls. Superintendent Lindberg said they would have to work

together to ensure the transition would be successful. Both agreed that we all want what's best for our Township families and that we need each other to make this the best place to live.

The Trustees talked about the future of a community center in Waterford Township and most agreed that we need to have three options studied including a new building on the current Rec Center Site, a new building on the Township Campus site, and the renovation of the OCC Highland Lakes buildings to possibly prepare for a bond question to be placed on the November 2024 ballot. For us to get the studies completed, we need to hire Plante Moran to provide the facts so the Trustees can use the information to prepare for a bond question and get input from our residents as to what they would support for a future community center. It was determined Supervisor Wall would contact Plante Moran and see what they would be able to provide us with when comparing these three alternatives. Most Trustees agreed that the Leggett Center would be a difficult piece of property to build on given the sloping land, although Erin mentioned that at one time, she thought there were plans for an addition to the current building to include Parks and Rec activities there, but it was turned down by our voters.

Derek Deiderich, Budget Director, informed the Trustees that there are added overhead costs that come with the Leggett Center such as IT, maintenance, personnel services, accounting services, bond reporting, payroll, employee benefits, and capital improvements. The old Monteith School was demolished because of the high costs of maintaining it, which has saved the Township money ever since. The Leggett School is just like the Monteith School, although it seems to be very well maintained according to the School District.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.