

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION MEETING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD
DECEMBER 11, 2024

CONFERENCE ROOM 3-2
MINUTES
4:00 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:

Joellen Shortley	Jan Feldman	Shelly Schloss
Charlynn Turner	Margaret Scott	John Lyman
Mark Simlar	Dan Venet	Matthew Nye
Alison Swanson	Barb Miller	Jeffrey Polkowski
Robin McGregor		

Supervisor Bartolotta opened the meeting by introducing Charlynn Turner, Attorney, who is replacing Margaret Scott, Attorney because Margaret is retiring after 37 years. Charlynn provided the Board with some background experience she had and is looking forward to starting her new position with Waterford. Margaret Scott, Attorney, thanked the Board and Trustee Wall for giving her this opportunity.

Supervisor Bartolotta introduced John Lyman as our new part-time grant writer who will be starting in January. John grew up in Waterford and previously received grants totaling \$24,000,000. Trustee Harris asked many questions, and all Board members are excited to have John join the Waterford Team as a grant writer. John said he plans to sit down with each Department Head to understand what they would like to apply for. Jeff Polkowski, Supt. Planning/Zoning asked if we could also get help with managing the grants. John said he would help in any way he can.

Supervisor Bartolotta asked Dan Venet, Priority Waste Representative, to talk about the recent events. Dan said that things are improving, and this last quarter averaged about 8 complaints per day, which he did not think was too bad since Waterford has 25,438 households. Trustee Gilbert asked when will they bring back the trucks with the mechanical arm, and Dan said it depends on what is available at the time and currently the same trucks will continue serving Waterford until there is a reason to change them. Gilbert was also concerned with the cans being left on the road. Trustee Hauswirth asked who decides where the new trucks will go, and Dan said it just depends on the need. Supervisor Bartolotta said one of their employees was fired for throwing the cans in the road. Dan also said that when they took over for GFL, they were scrambling from the start, because the trucks were not in good condition. They also did not have time to train the employees because they were working seven days per week, and there was no time for training. Now the employees are learning their routes and doing a better job. Shelly Schloss said the bills are still wrong and residents are calling to complain and being put on hold for over an hour without getting any answers or a callback. Dan said the phone system is being upgraded and we should see an improvement soon. They are adding four more workers and changing some hours to go from 9 to 6. Trustee Harris said that some residents want to pay for the year and be guaranteed that their payment will be accounted for and not billed until their year is up. Clerk Markee wants to see at least two weeks of credit for all households. Dan said this was not on the table. She also said that residents have three weeks after Christmas to have their Christmas tree picked-up and Dan said they were prepared for this. Supervisor Bartolotta said there are cameras on the trucks and some residents do not have their cans out at 7:00 a.m. and call because they did not get picked up, and now they have the technology to see in real-time if the cans were out or not. Mark Simlar said Priority Waste's command center

is impressive. Trustee Wall said there would be no price increase if we stay with Priority in 2025 and this is a savings to the residents because it would normally go up around 3%. Overall, there was a 40% savings to residents when Waterford took on the single source hauler with GFL, and Clerk Markee said that was because of economies of scale where one company had the entire business for 25,438 households.

Matt Nye, Fire Chief, explained why the Pontiac Fire Contract is being extended for six months and he thinks Pontiac is realizing they need to sign up with Waterford Services with a five to 10-year contract. Joellen Shortley, the Township Attorney has been involved.

Matt Nye also explained about the \$49,000 for the breathing apparatus that is being presented to the Trustees tonight where the current equipment is outdated, and parts are difficult to obtain.

Treasurer Thomas explained that for the last quarterly payment from Pontiac, their check was returned for non-sufficient funds and there should be a 10% late fee added. Trustee Harris thought we should charge them back and Matt agreed as well.

Alison Swanson, Parks, and Rec Director, has been working on the transition of the Sr. Center and has worked with Erin Asdell, Sr. Center Director, to reallocate the \$250,000 grant that the County is providing so that we can take some of the items with us to the new facility. Some things such as access doors and high-seat toilets should still be added to the current Sr. Center. Trustee Harris asked many questions about the meetings with Plante Moran and wanted to attend these meetings, however, it was explained that these meetings with OCC and Plante Moran were not ready to become public meetings because so many items needed to be considered and worked out before proposed and brought to the Board. Updates will be provided during the work sessions when there is something to report.

Joellen Shortley, Township Attorney, explained that she has been working on the many Ageways, and Food Contract agreements for transitioning the Sr. Center to the Township. She is also reviewing the Medicaid policies for several encore patrons who use Medicaid. Mark Simlar, HR Director will have to do background checks. Supervisor Bartolotta thought there could be other caterers than the WSD to provide the Meals on Wheels, however, we need to continue with WSD for the next few years. Trustee Hauswirth mentioned that there are food service providers that come and go, and we need one that will be dependable to provide meals indefinitely. Joellen said there is also a current working relationship with the Sr. Center and WSD. Alison thought that the pedestrian bridge would become the Township's. However, it's possible it was a line item in the Bond that was passed by the voters to remove the pedestrian bridge. Clerk Markee said we would prefer not to have this become the Township's because it looks like a huge maintenance item that may require a lot of money to rehabilitate. Jeff said he had to mention that we need more pedestrian walkways, and Clerk Markee said we could put something else there for pedestrians to use. Trustee Hauswirth said if this was part of their bond, WSD should take care of it.

All employees will be WSD employees through Dec. 31. 2024, and then transfer to Township employees.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.