

**CENTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE  
CENTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
April 16, 2020 – MEETING MINUTES**

**LOCATION:** Teleconference  
Commissioners' Chambers

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jesse Harper, Trustee  
Stephen Buck, Board Member  
Deb Fray, Board Member  
Todd Etzler, Board Member  
Adam Mindel – Attorney

Trustee Harper called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He was given permission by Stephen Buck to run the meeting. It seemed easier since it is a teleconference meeting.

**Motion:** Trustee Harper asked for a roll call vote approving the minutes of the February 17, 2020 meeting. So approved with a 3-0 vote.

Trustee Harper was given permission to sign the minutes.

**Trustee Report**

**Nepotism in Contracting Resolution:**

Trustee Harper advised that the State Board of Accounts requires this Resolution every year.

**Motion:** Trustee Harper asked for a role call vote on approving the Resolution. So approved by a 3-0 vote.

The Resolution will be sent to Gateway.

**Disaster Relief Fund:**

There has been a 20% increase in requests for aid. Most are probably a onetime requests due to covid-19. Citizens are also getting a stimulus check and unemployment. His concern is that in three months or so there will be an increase in requests due to small businesses not being able to re-open or slow in re-opening. He would like to see a line item in the Rainy-Day Fund for Disaster Relief.

Deb Fray stated it is unsure how many will actually get unemployment since the system is so overloaded. Also, if the country is re-opened it might result in a second wave of covid-19. The Disaster Relief is a good idea and the more that can be put in it, the better.

Trustee Harper stated he will have a Resolution prepared and present it at the next meeting. Stephen Buck suggested the amount of \$100,000 be established. Deb Fray agreed. Trustee Harper stated that establishing \$100,000 line item will not interfere with the money for the Park Department.

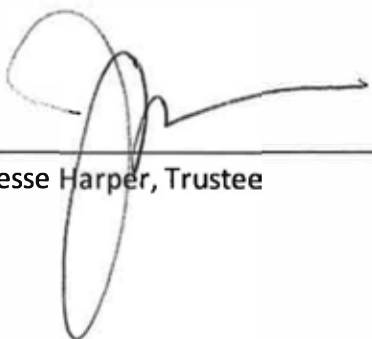
Todd Etzler asked if the State has released the asset requirements for aid. Trustee Harper explained there is a new application and it is shorter. This enables the application to be taken over the phone. Assets are not included in this application. Deb Fray stated the stimulus checks will affect income. Todd Etzler stated all payments are subject to garnishment.

**Partnership with Housing Opportunities**

Housing Opportunities has received a grant of \$375,000 for homeless with covid-19 but can't be hospitalized but need to be quarantined. This money is given to cover Newton, Jasper, Stark, LaPorte and Porter Counties. The money needs to pass through a government entity. In this case the money would go to the Trustee. Opportunity Enterprises would put the person needing to be quarantined in a hotel. Housing Opportunities will pay the hotel and give the Trustee an invoice for reimbursement. There will be a contract prepared if the Trustee agrees to enter into this agreement. Trustee Harper feels it will take one-half to one hours of Trustee time per month. It was suggested that the Trustee request an administrative fee for this service. Stephen Buck stated he feels this is a win-win situation. Deb Fray stated she agrees absolutely with this project. Todd Etzler had been lost from the teleconference.

**State Board of Accounts Review:**

Trustee Harper advised the SBOA has been reviewing the office. This is not the annual audit. It has been going rather slow due to the shut-downs of offices because of covid-19. He will advise at the next meeting of any items, if any.



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Jesse Harper, Trustee



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Todd Etzler, Secretary