

**CENTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE  
CENTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
March 26, 2020 – MEETING MINUTES**

**LOCATION:** Teleconference

**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  
Fire Chief Chad Dutz

Trustee Harper called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He was given permission by Stephen Buck to run the meeting. Trustee Harper was given permission to sign the minutes.

**Trustee Report**

**Coronavirus and Governor's Emergency Order**

Trustee Harper advised the office is conducting all interviews over the telephone. They have a new modified application which expedites the process.

There was discussion regarding the need for a Resolution stating the corona virus and the Trustee's powers to respond. Following is the Resolution adopted by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**Resolution Concerning Township Policies Addressing Novel Corona Virus**

**WHEREAS**, On March 6, 2020 the Governor of Indiana, Eric Holcomb, declared a Public Health Emergency does exist; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Declaration recognizes the presence of the Novel Corona Virus; and,

**WHEREAS**, This recognition authorizes Indiana Governmental units to take actions designed to lessen the threat of the contagion for their employees and those who utilize the public services offered by that Unit; and,

**WHEREAS**, Local Public health jurisdictions may with the concurrence of the Indiana State Board of Health seek or order quarantines of infectious individuals, or limit movements in public spaces by the citizens of that jurisdiction; and,

**WHEREAS**, People so restricted may find themselves in need of food, medicines or other necessities of life as defined by Ind. Code Sec 12-7-2-20.5; and,

**WHEREAS**, Under normal circumstances those affected people might seek emergency assistance from the Township of their residence; and,

**Therefore, be it resolved:** That until the declared Public Health Emergency is ended by Executive Order of the Governor, the Trustee or his or her designated deputy may modify the Application for Emergency Assistance (ISBOA form TAI) intake procedures to reflect the Governor's concerns for lessening the threat of contagion to all parties.

The Trustee or his or her designated deputy may assist the applicant by accepting the information required of the application by telephone or digital methods. Also, the Trustee may sign the Application (TAI) in lieu of having an original signature of the digital or telephone applicant. Then the Trustee and their Case Investigator(s) may process an application so signed by the Trustee by normal procedures and respond to the applicant in writing (TAIA) regarding their decision within the lawful time frame for such.

That after reaching the lawful conclusion and disposition of the Application, if necessary, the Trustee may purchase by Township voucher (SBOA Form # TA 2) the requested services or goods and thereupon deliver those goods to the client in an expeditious manner to relieve the stated needs of the Applicant.

This authority shall remain in force until revoked either by the Township Board or the Declaration by the Governor that the Public Health Emergency has expired.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

AYE:

NAY

/s/ Stephen Buck, Board Member

/s/ Deb Fray, Board Member

/s/ Todd Etzler, Board Member

ATTEST:

/s/ Jesse Harper, Trustee

Discussion which Chief Dutz included, followed regarding he Fire Protection Territory. The following Resolution was adopted regarding the reestablishment of a Uniform Rate for the Valparaiso Fire Protection Territory Equipment Replacement Fund:

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF CENTER TOWNSHIP, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA  
TO REESTABLISH A UNIFORM RATE FOR THE VALPARAISO FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY  
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND**

**WHEREAS**, The Township Board (the "Board") of Center Township, Porter County, Indiana (the "Township") and the Common Council (the "Common Council") of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, (the "City") have determined that it is reasonable and necessary to reestablish a uniform tax rate (the "Rate") for the Valparaiso Fire Protection Territory Equipment Replacement Fund (the "Equipment Replacement Fund");

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2010, the City, as the Provider Unit, and the Township, as the Participating Unit, entered into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement") for the establishment of the Valparaiso Fire Protection Territory (the "Territory"),

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement authorized and provided for the establishment of the Equipment Replacement Fund to be used to purchase fire protection equipment used to serve the entire Territory pursuant to I.C.36-8-19-8.5;

**WHEREAS**, the City and the Township have previously established the Equipment Replacement Fund for the Territory pursuant to I.C.36-8-19-8.5; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Township desire and believe there is a need to reestablish the Equipment Replacement Fund with a new Rate uniformly at three and thirty-three hundredths cents (\$.0333) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed value on taxable and real and personal property within the Territory's taxing district beginning with taxes due and payable in 2021 under the authority granted pursuant to I.C.36-8-19-8.5 and for the purposes outlined therein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Board of Center Township, Porter County, Indiana as follows:

**SECTION 1:** That a need exists to reestablish the Equipment Replacement Fund for the Territory for the purposes outlined in I. C. 36-8-19-8.5 and it hereby reestablishes the Rate for the Equipment Replacement Fund uniformly at three and thirty-three hundredths cents (\$.0333) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable real and personal property within the Territory's taxing district, subject to review and approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (the "DLGF),

**SECTION 2:** That the reestablishment of the Equipment Replacement Fund with the new Rate set forth herein shall not impact the collection of the existing Rate for the Equipment Replacement Fund until the new Rate set forth herein takes effect, and in the event the Rate is not reestablished in accordance with the terms of this Resolution the existing Rate for the Equipment Replacement Fund previously established for the Territory shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 3:** That the approval of this Resolution is subject to and conditioned upon the approval and final adoption of an Ordinance by the Common Council with substantially identical terms and conditions set forth herein.

SECTION 4: That upon the approval and final adoption of this Resolution along with the Ordinance of the Common Council., that the City, as the Provider Unit of the Territory, shall submit to the DLGF on or before April 30, 2020 in accordance with Indiana law, the proofs of publication of the public hearing held on Monday, March 30, 2020, an executed copy of this Resolution and the Ordinance adopted by the Common Council, and the proofs of publication for the related Notice of Adoption.

SECTION 5: That the Fire Chief of the Territory shall be authorized and empowered to take any and all action necessary, including, but not limited to, the filing of this Resolution and any and all other documents necessary with the DLGF, to effectuate the reestablishment of the Equipment Replacement Fund at the new Rate set forth herein.

PASSED by the Township Board of Center Township, Porter County, Indiana by a vote of 3 Ayes and 0 Nays this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

/s/ Debra Fray, Board Chair

/s/ Dr. Stephen Buck, Board Secretary

/s/ Todd Etzler, Board Member


Votes: 3 For 0 Against

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolutions were adopted by the Township Board of Center Township, Porter County, Indiana by the vote total set forth above, and that the resolutions are in full force as of the date of this certification.

/s/ Jesse Harper, Trustee  
Township Board of Center Township,  
Porter County, Indiana

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
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Todd Etzler, Secretary

  
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Jesse Harper, Trustee