

SAGAMORE HILLS TOWNSHIP – REGULAR

Monday, February 9, 2009 – media notified

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Hunt at 7:00 pm. R/C Hunt-present; Snell-absent; Barrett-present; Fiscal Officer Gale-present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chair Hunt moved to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular meeting held on Monday, January 12, 2009; Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: Hunt-aye; Barrett-aye; Snell-absent.

PENDING WARRANTS

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the Pending Warrant Report dated January 2009 in the amount of \$187,539.01. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.

WEB SITE

Chair Hunt reported the web site statistics for January 2009 were 569 visitors and 1,382 pages viewed. Of the 569 visitors, 477 of them were unique addresses and 92 visitors were repeat visits. We are going to have the meeting minutes put on the web site after they are approved. We are also going to see if some of the pictures on the site can be moved so people that have older technology will be able to view the web site and not have their computers freeze.

GUEST SPEAKER

Police Department

Police Chief David Hayes was introduced as the special guest speaker.

Chief Hayes introduced three of his supervisors that were present, Lieutenant Brian Piekarski, Dispatch Supervisor Janelle Mucha and Acting Sergeant Dan Rice.

He reported on the statistics for January 2009: They handled 571 calls for service and dispatched 639 calls for service; 68 calls were dispatched for the Northfield Center Fire Department. There were 23 investigations with 21 closed; 2 remain open.

Chief Hayes received a Letter of Appreciation commending two officers for the assistance they rendered while a citizen's vehicle became disabled.

Chief Hayes made a recommendation to the Trustees that part-time Patrolman David Piekarski be hired to a vacant full-time position.

The Chief reviewed the accomplishments of the police department since he has become Police Chief.

- Currently there are 10 full-time officers
- 7 part-time police officers
- The department provides 24 hour/7 days a week coverage of 2 or more officers at one time
- Response time on average is 3 minutes or less
- There are many community oriented programs in place that benefit the residents of the Township. These include, but not limited to, a program that is called Community Service Areas. In this program, Officers deal with non-police related quality of life issues. Officers help residents that have no other means of obtaining assistance.
- The investigative division handles approximately 150 investigations a year. These two detectives not only investigate cases, they double with patrol duties. They insure each case is reviewed; determine if there is evidence that will lead to an arrest; give courtesy calls to victims and report on the status of the case. One of these detectives has been assigned to a regional child abduction response team in Summit County. He will go for training and will be able to use that resource if needed. Also, a detective is in charge of a Juvenile Diversion Program where juveniles perform community service in the township in order to avoid prosecution for minor offences. Last year the juveniles performed around 100 hours of community service.
- The highly successful Police Explorers Program is very active in the community with their volunteer work. The seven young men and women take great pride in the Sagamore Hills Police Department.
- A Citizens Advisory Committee has been established that effectively shares communication and enables the department to stay in touch with the needs of residents.
- Speed enforcement problem areas are targeted throughout the township. The goal is to deter and not punish area residents from speeding through the community. The speed trailer has

recently been renovated and is routinely deployed in the problem areas. Speed surveys are also conducted where traffic is monitored for excessive speeding.

- The department has remained very well trained and equipped while staying within the yearly budget. In 2008, 3 tazers were purchased and each officer in the department was trained. They were put into service in June 2008. To date, these tazers were displayed 7 times involving non compliant suspects without having to utilize them. This has already proven to be a great tool in order to avoid officer and suspect confrontations.
- The Communication Center is comprised of 3 full-time dispatchers and 7 part-time dispatchers. This insures that there is a dispatcher on duty 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. This employee provides the service of taking 911 calls, many of which are called in from cell phones throughout Northern Summit County. They also take cell phone calls throughout the North End of Summit County and they might not be coming from a resident of Sagamore Hills. The calls are then routed to the correct police agency. These dispatchers also provide around the clock customer service to any citizen that responds to the police department. Dispatcher Supervisor Mucha is responsible for the daily maintenance of all police records, providing copies of reports for citizens.
- The Sagamore Hills Police Department was one of the first dispatch centers that had the capabilities of pinpointing where a cellular 911 call was coming from.
- If any resident has a question or concern, they can call Chief Hayes and he will always respond quickly and will discuss the matter.
- The Police Supervisors nominate an employee of the year. Chief Hayes announced Patrolman Tim Ellis as the 2008 Sagamore Hills Police Employee of the Year.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 09-09** to make Officer Timothy Ellis the 2008 Police District Employee of the Year. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent

Chief Hayes presented the award to Officer Ellis. Lieutenant Piekarski reported on Patrolman Ellis' 2008 accomplishments.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 07-09** to promote part-time officer David Piekarski to the vacant full-time position effective February 15, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 06-09** proclaiming 2009 "The Year of the River." Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 08-09** to renew the Community Recycling Access Grant. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 10-09** for appropriation modification for service contracts. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Roads

Hunt: According to weather statistics, we had the second snowiest January in history. The Road Department has been trying to keep up with the snow. We still have 1/3 of the salt that we have not received yet.

We tried out the haydite to save us some money. Contrary to the owners of the plant and the literature, haydite freezes. We will avoid using it.

The Road Department fixed some mail boxes; fixed some street signs; removed snow from cul-de-sacs to the park.

Fire/EMS

Barrett: Sagamore Hills had 65 total runs; 49 EMS and 16 fire. Northfield Center 54 total runs; 39 EMS and 15 fire.

Zoning

Barrett: There were two remodeling permits issued in January for a total of \$375.00 in fees.

Fiscal Officer

Gale presented the January report with a Beginning balance of \$4,482,712.12; Receipts at \$51,457.62; less memo Receipts of \$1,209.30; less Expenditures of \$187,743.58; plus memo checks \$204.56; which matches the Pending Warrant amount of \$187,539.43; ending balance is \$4,345,421.43.

Gale reported that \$1,136.00 of past fines and fees that OPERS issued in 2008 have been returned to the township after a review analysis.

NEW BUSINESS

We will be receiving competitive bids for the insurance for the police department and will pass a resolution at the next meeting.

Mr. Barrett made a motion to approve the Cleveland Air Comfort contract renewal for the air conditioning agreement. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.

The Kiwanis Club requested the use of the Sagamore Hills Township Park on July 31, 2009 for the Kelly Miller Circus. Chair Hunt would like to see a plan prior to approving the use of the park. It was agreed that this should not be a taxpayer expense and the Kiwanis Club will be contacted for the submission of the plan.

Sagamore Hills Township Zoning Commission requested consideration of updating their Zoning Code during this time of slow zoning activity in the Township. They want to hire the assistance of an outside consultant knowledgeable in modern urban planning.

This request will be tabled as unfinished business. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Hunt will attend the next Zoning Commission meeting to discuss any questions they have regarding zoning issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Barrett has been appointed by the board to serve as the township representative looking into the possibility of forming a Fire District. The next fire district meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 2009 in Northfield. This is only a meeting for collecting data. After the figures are collected, the group will present them to the board and the community.

CITIZENS' FORUM

Chair Hunt reminded everyone to give their name and address to the group when addressing the board in order to have accurate minutes.

Steve Bittle: When looking at the Fire District assets, the things that were bought joint, is that our capital contribution?

Barrett: Part of it will be part of our assets. It is grouped together as part of the fire district. What we really have to be careful of with a fire district is, when we look at the assets, we also have to look at the liabilities. We also accept the liabilities as well as the assets.

Hunt: In relation to the ambulance that we purchased and paid the majority of the amount, part of the agreement states, if for some reason we decide to leave the district, we have the right to purchase it at the appraised value less what we put into it.

Carol Lewis: Does Congressman LaTourette want to know what we need in the Township?

Barrett: Mrs. Snell and myself have applied for a \$1.6 million grant from his office. Portions of that grant will be used for the park and Holzhauer Road. We have to get that information into his office by the end of February. Mr. LaTourette has been very helpful to Sagamore Hills. Mrs. Snell has done so much work on getting grants for the township.

Ed Galewood: He commented on the positive change that has been accomplished in Sagamore Hills. He talked about the great job that Chief Hayes has been doing in managing the department.

Bittle: He asked Mr. Gale about the beginning balance for 2008 that was discussed at the last meeting.

Gale: We had more at the beginning of this year than we had in the beginning of 2008. The Trustees are doing an outstanding job of keeping us in the black.

Bittle: He asked Chief Hayes how do we know that we have the right size police force? Does the state have some type of guidelines?

Hayes: The FBI statistics are one officer per 1,000 residents. We have 10,000 to 12,000 residents and 10 to 12 full-time officers. You don't base it on how many arrests but on coverage by population.

Barrett: The reason that you have fewer arrests is that we have more police presence. If you have 3 or 4 cars on the road, you will have less problems. The sheriff will only have one or two cars on the road and those cars are shared.

Galewood: I was here years ago when we used the sheriff and he decided to raise the rate on our contract. We didn't accept it and he just pulled out of the township. We are at top quality level right now. We should not think about getting involved with the sheriff's department right now.

There was no further business. Chair Hunt moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Barrett.
R/C Vote: Barrett-aye; Hunt-aye; Snell-absent.