

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Special Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee’s Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on September 27, 2023. Trustee Hank T. Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola and Hank T. Gibson; Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman, Fire Chief Dave Moore and Fire Dept. Liaison Mark Kozak

The purpose of the special meeting is a work session to discuss the fire department budget and staff needs and the Fire Dept Levy’s that will need to be placed on the ballot in the upcoming months.

The following topics were discussed:

Staffing in the Fire Dept. continues to be a challenge. The dept has depended on a mix of full-time employees with part-time employees as a supplement to staffing. During the pandemic this started becoming unsustainable as more and more part-time staff hours were lost for various reasons. Overtime was necessary to fill these hours and was not a sustainable plan going forward. Trustees authorized building up the full-time staff to overcome this problem. Over the past couple of years full-time staff have been added, which helped to stabilize staffing the department. Increasingly, part-time hours are dropping and we are unable to recruit additional part-time staff. This is not just a problem for the Township, but a nationwide workforce problem that all fire departments are dealing with.

We discussed the current staffing levels, wage levels, costs of the department, and revenue available to pay for the department. Several ideas were brainstormed back and forth and put on the table for discussion.

No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Hank T. Gibson and seconded by Jim DiPaola to adjourn special meeting at 7:05 PM

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE