

## BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

February 16, 2010

**Present** – Supervisors Larry Handshoe, Bryan Lawrence, Jim Oliver and Jay Swanson. Supervisor Jeff Holm absent.

**Call to Order** – The February 16, 2010 Baldwin Township special meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Jay Swanson at 6:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** - All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approve/Disapprove Fire Department Handbook** – Lawrence requested that the following be added to the record as to why the chief was unable to attend: “To: Township Board; From: Chief Torborg; Re: Special Election; Date: 02-16-2010. Due to my work I am unable to be at this meeting tonight. I would like to ask that if the new rules and regulations are approved, that the Board then follow the rules and have the election in November as stated in the rules. Currently there are two captains’ positions that end this year so the rules would fit our situation without the need of a special election. That would also prevent the removal of officers that still have years left on their term that was approved by the Board. I don’t believe removing officers from their position before their term is up without just cause would be a good for this department. Sincerely, Chief Brian Torborg”

The board reviewed Appendix C, Payroll, along with the changes that were made at a previous town board meeting.

Handshoe/Oliver motion to approve the revised February 8, 2010 handbook, including Appendix C and the correction to page 10, #6, period added after station. Upon voice vote, the motion carried with Lawrence abstaining. Lawrence questioned if the rules go into effect today, with the remaining board members responding “yes”.

**Approve/Disapprove Fire Department Elections** – Lawrence questioned why not wait the 8-10 months until November. That would allow the department to go through the rules that were just approved. Oliver stated that the board is well aware of how the department is running right now. It is as dysfunctional as you can get. “I counted up our last 21 calls and our leadership, out of 21 calls, the most any of our leadership came to calls is 4.” We need a change immediately. We will then go forward with a positive attitude. There is no communication. Upper management is never around. We need a change drastically. As long as everyone has a say so then he does not care who gets in. We wanted elections a long time ago but, because of the handbook, we couldn’t. Handshoe stated that the management is not very responsive. He is not happy when no one can show up for a meeting. He is against waiting until November. Oliver stated that the appointment process was done when the authorized manual said elections. There is no reason why we couldn’t say we want elections at a certain time. Swanson stated that the fire department is a mess. We are rewriting rules and regulations to

obtain a clear possible picture as to how our department should run. Nobody is happy over there including the officers that don't show up anymore. There will be a higher standard. It is imminent that we move forward. The elections should correspond with the elections that are coming up in March. Lawrence questioned if there would be elections in November as well with Swanson replying "yes". Handshoe stated that the all 6 officers should be elected. Oliver stated that this one time election would relax the standards. He suggests suspending everything else except for 5 years on the department for assistant chief and chief and leave the captain standards the same. Lawrence stated that it needs to be spelled out that you must be present to vote or to be nominated. Or, if you cannot be present, have a letter stating that you would accept being nominated. Lawrence suggested having the board set the date and instructing the clerk to have a letter in everyone's mailbox. Prior to the election the board will need to know the people who will count the ballots.

Handshoe/Oliver motion to hold the fire department elections on Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. The suspension of requirements for chief and assistant chief will be in effect except for the 5 years on the department requirement. The board wants to know the two designated firefighters in charge of counting votes one week prior to the election. Upon voice vote, the motion carried with Lawrence abstaining.

**Perform 2009 Annual Board of Audit** – The town board, upon review of 2009 receipts and disbursements, reviewed three (3) invoices and all were allowed:

- Check #13701, Jesse Ewert, \$7,284.60
- Check # 13419, North American Salt Company, \$1,553.77
- Check # 13989, Peoples Bank of Commerce, \$68,701.50

Lawrence/Oliver unanimous motion that the 2009 Board of Audit had been performed and that the criteria and duties recommended were followed.

**Adjourn** – Handshoe/Oliver unanimous to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.



Submitted By: (s/) Cathy Stevens  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Jeffrey Holm  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Baldwin Township

Attendees: Chuck Nagle