

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

March 31, 2016

Present – Supervisors Brad Schumacher, Jeff Holm, Jay Swanson, Tom Rush and Larry Handshoe.

Call to Order – The March 31, 2016 Baldwin Township special meeting was called to order by Chairman Brad Schumacher at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve/Disapprove Purchase and Donation Acceptance of Water Truck from East Bethel – Rush stated that the reason we are meeting is the Relief Association is interested in purchasing a water truck from East Bethel and it needs to be accepted by the Town Board. The fire department needs to explain the pros and cons. We currently have one tender not in place and two other tenders. What do we do with this one?

Chief Rademacher explained that it has a 1979 chassis but refurbished in 2000. It has a new hydraulic drop tank on it. One driver can operate it. It has 19,000 miles with a CAT motor. He provided maintenance records to the town board. Rush stated it is all ready to go if the town board approves it, however it does need lettering.

Schumacher stated that he had weighed the current tender and had a meeting with Central Fleet. We called the state patrol and were told that it does not matter if over the gross weight. The truck can be overweight. Fire trucks are exempt from DOT standards. Somebody from the fire department said that it was overweight and it had to be taken out of service. He also wanted to weigh the back axle of the truck. Rademacher stated 2200 gallons on one axle and 3000 gallons on two axles. Schumacher stated that, in his opinion, we need Jeff and Central Fleet or Greg Anderson to get an inspection on the vehicle. Somebody we trust. Joe Kiel stated that a tandem axle would be much better than a single axle on the roads. Schumacher stated that he wants to have it inspected by a third party; 1. Get inspected; 2. Get back weight; and 3. What will be done with the Volvos. He is not semi-truck driver and he had no problem with this truck. He went with Jeff from Central Fleet and a mechanic and they emptied 200 gallons out of the tank. They wanted to see if it sloshed in the tank. It worked fine. It would be about a \$1,000 for updated brakes on the Volvos. He talked to Jason, the fire chief of Dayton, who is very interested in selling his old truck to us. From a town board aspect we need to find out how much it weighs and get a third party inspection.

Rush stated that the issue he has a board member is that we have two other tenders and a former plow truck being converted. Why would this be beneficial to the township? The township would incur liability and insurance cost. What is the plan with the other two tenders? The fire department did tell the board that they did not need water because we have shared services when a well at Young Park was discussed.

Rademacher stated that we have firefighters, a majority of firefighters not comfortable as it is difficult to get used to the transmission. It is a stressor at night. They do get them there but it could be an issue when experienced drivers have had the brakes glaze on them. This one is automatic and it looks like good service records. It would last 5-10 years at a nominal price. We have put a bit of maintenance into the vehicle we have and expect in the next few years to have more maintenance. The one we converted, which Terry Carlile should have the maintenance records, should not have any maintenance issues. Our tender will not see 5000 miles in the next 10 years. In the summer we are driving under ideal conditions but the winter, with icy roads, there are major concerns. They are not designed for this type of use. They are designed to pull big weights but with a trailer. If we would have a firefighter injure someone because of their comfort level.....did the weight cause the issue or not. Schumacher stated that we have the intention to sell to another department and you don't know if East Bethel is doing the same to us. Rademacher stated that he thought they would be more applicable for a construction site. Holm asked how they do off road. Rademacher replied that we have had them off road with grass fires. Schumacher stated that the department already said you have enough water. Rademacher replied that he did not know if we said that. A well would not be in his top 3-4 items. It would be nice with an unlimited budget but not top priority. Holm stated that water was not the issue with tall the tenders that are running. We would like to have water at the park. Schumacher asked about the sale proceeds. Would they go for the overage with the truck being built or the airpicks? Rademacher replied that any equipment we well goes into the Capital Fund or buy down the airpicks. Brian Torborg stated that he City of East Bethel uses the same people we do for maintenance and asked if the board wanted something separate from that. Schumacher replied that the board would like something separate.

Swanson stated that he does not think we need it. It was said that there is not a problem with water. We have two water trucks which we have scaled and know they are in compliance and we can add better brakes if needed. I've heard that many people can't drive it because it is a stick. More time can be spent on that. Expenditure that we brought up with the fire department shows they are not for want. There is a third water truck in process which is over \$20,000 with no due date and no service date. When the notice came out to him when he was Chairman it was already approved to buy and no questions as it would be bought. He was told we could do whatever they want with the Two Volvos as they would not stay in the department. Monies could be spent on overages on the truck or to pay back Zimmerman for glitter. He does not see this is necessary to buy from East Bethel. He does not know why we are going for a 1979 truck. He is not trying to slam the Relief Association. That particular email to the Chief stated do not buy the truck without board approval. It has to be approved and accepted by the town. We were told we have everything we need over there. Told we don't need water. We don't need a truck from East Bethel. We want to finish off this tender.

Scott Case stated he does not know of any Volvos on big departments being driven now. They are not for emergency use. This vehicle has 19,000 miles on it (the one from East Bethel) and it would be donated. He asked the board to seriously look at it.

Rademacher stated that Swanson is bringing up that we have kinds of water. With these vehicles that is correct. We laid out a capital outlay plan. We have been frugal with the budget for the last 5 years. In our plan it shows \$100,000 for a used one and \$200,000 for a new one. It is legal, we understand that. Is it safe? Not as safe as it could be. The donation would be tax free. Why consider not accepting this would baffle him. Ask area chiefs if they would consider one of these Volvos and they would say no.

Schumacher stated it is a 1979 and it would be donated. We weren't going back. Brian Torborg stated that it is refurbished and everything else is 1999. Schumacher stated that an inspection would tell us that. Gene Ludwig stated that every other department has 3000 gallons or bigger. Brandon Bedbury stated that he has been a truck driver for 20 years with 2 million miles accident free. He has driven these tenders and when you are driving them in an emergency situation they are scary to drive. He has blown through intersections as the brakes are not adequate. Cal Watson stated he has been a diesel mechanic and transmission guy for over 25 years. There is an issue with tender 2 with the transmission synchronizers going out that has to be addressed sooner rather than later. That would be a future bill of \$5,000. Rush asked how much we would get for the two tenders. Joe Kiel replied about \$10,000 each. Rush asked if we had maintenance records with Rademacher replying that the records would be with EMS, Central Fleet and Kirvidia. Schumacher asked what would be the next foreseeable thing the department would need. We have a 1990 grass truck and Dayton fire department has one that he would like to sell. We are getting the old stuff and we are the 3rd largest township in the state. Everybody else is getting new equipment and we are going backwards.

Swanson reviewed expenditures that have been made for equipment for the fire department. With a new water truck everything would be right. Going to a 1979 with a truck does not make sense. He considers this a cheap way into something. This town is not without. He referenced over \$600,000 of equipment the town has bought for the fire department. There may be a 3000 gallon truck at our disposal in May. He referenced the ambulance donated from North Memorial that needed a new transmission.

Valene Lambrecht stated that the donation would be \$6,500 out of their pockets (relief association). Schumacher stated that once it becomes ours then we are responsible for the maintenance. Swanson stated that if they want to make the donation a 1979 truck doesn't necessarily fit the plan. If you want to help, help pay for the overrun on the converted truck. Schumacher stated that it has to be inspected as the town board needs to do their due diligence. Holm stated he is in unanimous agreement on inspection. He knows why we purchased the trucks in the beginning. We were starting a fire department on the cheap and quick. The whole time has been manual transmission issues. Discussion on the new fire truck and how it had to be outfitted. The town is not a position to buy a new tender in the next 5 years. We talked about retrofitting and putting in automatic transmissions. He would say \$6,500 would be a 5 year truck. After that time we may be in a better position for a brand new truck. He would agree to get the inspection. The apparatus was set up to be a tender and it has

been maintained and updated. He does not know what the problem is. We have a cheap opportunity to have a 10 year truck and a 5 year truck. Rademacher stated that the township would be receiving something at no cost with ease of driving, safety and water carrying capacity and future maintenance. Joe Kiel stated that with a 1979 tanker and a 1990 tanker there would be a good chance for a FEMA grant. Jim Oliver stated that he agrees with Supervisor Holm. The department is just trying to update our tenders at a fraction of the price. The other one is over budget but will last a long time. Put money into the capital improvement fund down the road for new.

Handshoe questioned when East Bethel wanted to sell the truck. Rademacher replied that they have one on order. The Relief Association sets a budget every year and they voted to set funds aside for the tender. Handshoe asked if that was a firm price. Rademacher stated that it could be more or it could be less. Captain Torborg knows the chief quite well and we will be getting a deal on it. He had mentioned it to Chairman Swanson about a year ago but he did not want it to get out. They have looked at similar vehicles and, at a bare minimum, they are probably saving \$1,500-\$1,800. We did not want this to get out and get into the meeting minutes. This has not been a sneaky thing as funds were set aside. Brian Torborg stated that their new one come in at the end of May. Rush asked when the other two tenders would then be sold. Rademacher replied as soon as we get our next vehicle in service. Gene Ludwig stated that the current tenders do not have the proper lighting. Swanson questioned that the price of East Bethel's truck is not known and the Relief Association set aside \$6,500 but we don't know? Brian Torborg responded that they have it on their budget line as worth \$1,000. A number was thrown out to him that would be more than enough that he would want but he still needs to sit down with his board. Gary Taylor stated that the big issue for the department is the ease of driving them. They are not made to haul water. We are not going to do damage to the roads. With low brakes they may t-bone a care and kill somebody then what will the town board do?

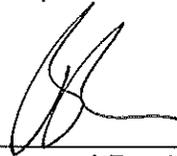
Holm motioned to approve accepting the truck if it is inspected and found to be in good condition that matches the storyline of the maintenance and upgrades it has if it is purchased by the Relief Association at a price they are comfortable with. He trusts their judgement and why a 1979 truck is good. These volunteers run our fire department and if they are comfortable with it. The two manual transmission tender will then go bye-bye. Rush seconded the motion. Rademacher stated that he does not doubt Schumacher but there are big concerns with the firefighters with the ease of driving issue and the brakes have glaze on them. If the unspeakable happens he could not live with the guilt. Handshoe stated that we need to know how much we are going to pay for it along with inspection and time of delivery. There are more ends that need to be taken care of along with more communication. Holm stated that his motion was to, if it is \$6,500 or \$7,000 they are comfortable with that. There will be no money from the township or fire department funds. It is coming from the Fire Relief. The lettering will be part of business. Upon voice vote, the motion failed with Handshoe, Schumacher and Swanson opposed and Holm and Rush in favor.

Swanson motioned to disapprove the purchase of a tender and pre-disapproval of the donation. Handshoe seconded the motion. Holm stated that it was purely political. Swanson stated that it is not wise to spend money on an old truck. Holm stated that the truck would do the job for a few years. It is a solution to a long standing problem that we have. We need to trust the firefighters. Rademacher questioned if the purchase of a new tender was put on the agenda what would be the timeline? Could it be purchased by 2017? Rush suggested that a committee be formed to investigate it. Rademacher stated that they could have it speced out by July so when could it be accepted? Swanson stated that the fire truck will be paid off the first part of 2017. Holm stated that it is a small price to pay for ease of driving. Swanson stated the town should pay this one off (the one being worked on) and in 2017 a new tender would make sense to him. MaryBeth Torborg stated that she understands that there is a vehicle replacement plan for the fire department and asked if the board was following it. Rush stated that it usually covers the cost of a down payment. She stated that she was disappointed as she feels the board is completely disregarding the safety issue of the firefighters. Is it safe and why is the board allowing firefighters to do this? What kind of responsibility do you have as human beings? And that we could be civilly sued. Schumacher stated they should deplete 200 gallons. Kiel stated that water cannot be taken out without telling them. Swanson asked for the question to be called. Upon voice vote, the motion carries with Handshoe, Schumacher and Swanson in favor and Holm and Rush opposed.

Adjourn – Holm/Rush unanimous to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.



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



Approved By: (s/) Brad Schumacher
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

4-18-16

Date

Attendees: Mike Rademacher, Brandon Bedbury, Mike Lambrecht, Valene Lambrecht, Joe Hodge, Chad Miller, Sarah Bedbury, Ann Martin, Cal Watson, Kimberly Watson, Scott Case, Gene Ludwig, Mike Brinwall, Ross Martin, Ann Martin, MaryBeth Torborg, Gary Taylor, Justin Suckut, Jay Johnson, Brian Torborg, Michael Rademacher, Joe Kiel, Justin Suckut, Gene Ludwig