

The May 9, 2018 special meeting of the Delhi Township Board of Trustees was called to order by President Rose K. Stertz. Trustee Cheryl A. Sieve, Trustee Michael D. Davis, Fiscal Officer James J. Luebbe and Administrator Jack Cameron were present.

Also in attendance: Oak Hills Local School District Superintendent Jeff Brandt and Treasurer Steve Bain, and Former Green Township Police Chief Bart West.

#### OPEN THE MEETING:

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- The Board received certification that the rules adopted pursuant to Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code had been complied with for the meeting.

#### PRESENTATION: Oak Hills Local School District School Security

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Administrator Cameron informed the Board that he and Chief Howarth had met on several occasions with Superintendent Brandt to discuss their security plan including the option to add a school resource officer, if a partnership with the Township would be approved by the Board.

Superintendent Brandt and Mr. West reported on details of their security audit and proposed plan.

Chief Howarth made reference to his relationship with Chief West and his understanding of the difficulty going through the audit, and his concerns with regard to discussing some of the more vulnerable issues in a public meeting.

Trustee Sieve referenced the last levy request for the school district, specifically the way it was presented to the taxpayers, identifying the dollar amount spent on each student. She asked Mr. Bain if the cost for security could be communicated in the same manner identifying the dollar amount per student.

Mr. Bain reported on details of the levy request.

Trustee Stertz suggested a salary reimbursement rate of 75% for both SRO agreements.

Trustee Stertz inquired about the duties of the SRO during the three month period when he would be working for the police department. Chief Howarth reported that the current SRO works on active cases in the Investigations Division after he fulfills his obligation with the school district. He stated that the additional officer would also be assigned to special detail. He stated that vacation time for the individual would be scheduled during the three month period or when the school district would be closed.

In response to Trustee Stertz' question have any of our current officers expressed interest in serving in the position, Chief Howarth responded that he would present the offer to staff as soon as he received approval from the board. He commented that the pool would be narrow and that he would recommend the person who would be best suited for the position.

In response to Trustee Sieve's question, Chief Howarth confirmed that there would be no additional vehicle expense related to the new position.

In response to Trustee Stertz' question regarding the school district's commitment beyond five years, Mr. Bain confirmed that the new levy request is a continuing levy and that they would preserve the cash balance for a minimum of five years. He stated that if the community would support the levy, it would merit a conversation on renegotiating the terms of the agreement because of the additional resources available. If that would be the case, he would propose entering into the same agreement with potential nominal increases, taking into consideration the funding available in both budgets. He stated that they are currently looking for some assurance from the Township regarding the prospect of entering into a partnership with an SRO agreement so they would be able to communicate to the taxpayers on what they would be getting if they supported the new tax levy.

Trustee Stertz made reference to hiring a retired police officer as an option, stating that she knows of several parochial schools who have employed them.

Chief Howarth raised some safety concerns and vulnerabilities with regard to using a retired police officer as compared to a sworn police officer.

Chief West reported that they are seeing more districts going with sworn police officers. It is his opinion that a sworn officer would be more effective at preventing threats from occurring with the monitoring of issues that come up with certain students. He stated that adding a third SRO would improve monitoring by dedicating one officer to each of the middle schools. He expressed that his preference would be to utilize the sworn officer who is highly trained in tactical skills while maintaining a connection with the students. He viewed the retired police officer as being effective at stopping someone from entering the building with a gun stating that they also intend to hire them as security personnel.

Mr. Brandt made reference to how invaluable the SRO is within the operations of the school system providing intervention with the students and families. He referred to the recent handling of a threat by a student over social media and the SRO's involvement as being key to the quick and successful handling of the situation. He added that he is on the phone with one of the officers every hour regarding issues with students.

Chief West stated that a key piece of their security plan involves establishing threat assessment teams at the middle and high school levels so they can effectively communicate and identify problems with certain students. He stated that the SRO would be an essential part of the team being able to identify problems so they can intervene with the health piece.

Trustee Davis concurred with Trustee Stertz' questions and concerns and that it is important for both parties to have accurate information to share with the residents. He agreed that the SRO is

the connection to the students, and that developing that relationship with the students is key to changing the current environment.

Chief Howarth stated that he is a strong advocate of the SRO agreement and that his preference would be to have one stationed in every school to provide safety and a personal connection with the students and families.

Administrator Cameron informed the Board that he supports the opinions of Superintendent Brandt and Chief Howarth. With regard to the school district’s cost, he stated his opinion that they should pay the salary expenses for the nine month period. He referenced the urgency on the school district’s part to have an understanding of a commitment from the Township so they can move forward with marketing their funding request.

Mr. Brandt stated that it is important for them to be transparent and open with the public on details of the services that will be provided with the additional funding. He informed the Board that they will be presenting the security plan to their board members at their development session on May 21<sup>st</sup> and at their regular meeting on the first Monday in June. He stated that knowing the commitment level prior to their meetings would be appreciated.

**ADJOURN MEETING:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Sieve moved and Trustee Davis seconded to adjourn. Trustees Stertz, Sieve and Davis voted YES.

\_\_\_\_\_, Fiscal Officer

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, President

\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee