

Greenwood Township Special Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2024

Roll call: Chair Roskoski, Supervisor Skubic, Supervisor Bassing, Supervisor Gilbert, Supervisor Stoehr – All present

Also Present: Debby Spicer, Clerk

Meeting was called to order by Chair Roskoski at 5:08 PM.

Chair Roskoski stated the meeting had been posted as a special closed meeting, due to State Statutes. When allegations are filed against an employee, the employee decides if the meeting will be held as an open meeting. The employee asked that it be open. Chair Roskoski further stated that copies of allegations are in the public inspection packet and asked the audience to not remove them from the binder.

Chair Roskoski stated a series of complaints have been received against Jeff Maus, in his role as Greenwood Township Fire Chief. Eleven allegations from Steven Freshour, EMT/FF City of Tower, one from Shawn Gawboy, EMR, City of Tower, and one additional complaint was also received earlier in the day from Paige Olson, Fire Chief, City of Tower.

Chair Roskoski reviewed the purpose of this meeting, as follows:

- 1) Determine whether any of the allegations are true.
- 2) Determine whether the allegations warrant discipline against Jeff Maus.
- 3) If the Township determines that more information is needed, the Board can continue to another meeting and bring in witnesses, at which time Jeff Maus could also bring witnesses.
- 4) The Board could also hire an impartial party to do an investigation of all parties involved.

Chair Roskoski provided Jeff Maus with an opportunity to respond. Jeff Maus stated the board acts as the finder of facts during these proceedings. Mr. Maus stated he did not feel he had enough time to prepare a defense, as he was given less than one-day notice of the allegations, as the email went to a different email; not his Fire Chief email. Plus, another allegation was submitted to him less than three hours ago. He stated he is guaranteed certain rights, as part of the constitution, and cannot prepare an adequate defense with less than one day notice. Mr. Maus stated he had asked numerous times that the meeting be postponed. Mr. Maus stated the Tower Fire Chief claims abuse of another employee, yet two people in attendance at the scene did not see it. There was also a statement made by the Tower Fire Chief that she reasserted on the radio that 84 was in command, yet the audio tapes from 911 dispatch do not include that statement. Mr. Maus asked that he be given time to review the documents, so he can provide answers to the allegations and hopes that is the intent of the board.

Chair Roskoski recommended, because of the personalities involved in this township, that an outside firm that specializes in these types of investigations be hired. Our Township Attorney

recommended the services of Pam Whitmore of the Kennedy & Graven law firm, located in Minneapolis. Chair Roskoski had spoken with Ms. Whitmore, who was willing to do the investigation, contingent upon performing a conflict check to determine if their law firm had ever represented Mr. Maus in the past. If they had, they could not do the investigation. The cost would be \$250 per hour and most, if not all, interviews would be conducted through ZOOM.

Supervisor Skubic asked what the other options were, and Chair Roskoski stated the board could interview the witnesses.

Supervisor Bassing recommended interviewing the Fire Department employees that attended the meeting and witnessed some of the incidents, to determine if the allegations are true.

Supervisor Gilbert stated, in fairness to Mr. Maus and the people who made the allegations, it would be in the best interest to hire an outside firm.

Moved by Roskoski and supported by Gilbert to hire Pam Whitmore, Kennedy & Graven Law Firm, to proceed with an investigation of the allegations against Fire Chief Jeff Maus, at a cost of \$250 per hour, contingent upon the completion of the conflict check.

Ayes: Chair Roskoski, Supervisor Skubic, Supervisor Gilbert - 3

Nays: Supervisor Bassing, Supervisor Stoehr – 2

Motion carried.

Motion by Gilbert, supported by Skubic to adjourn at 5:15 PM. **5/0 Carried**

Vice Chair

Paul Skubic

Clerk

Debbie Spicer