

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

October 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. Trustee Port, Trustee Gabram and Trustee Mueller were present. Trustee Assistant Melissa Palmer, and Fiscal Officer Karen Walder were also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Tom Swaidner.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

STORAGE BUILDING PROJECT: The Board asked the Fiscal Officer, Police Chief, and Fire Chief to attend this meeting to discuss funding for the storage building as the quote is two hundred thousand dollars more than was budgeted.

The Board discussed any cuts that could be made to the building. Trustee Gabram said the architect identified approximately \$49,000 worth of items that could be eliminated however these were considered operational needs by Mr. Gabram and would not be recommended. Chief Swaidner advised the trustees that the building was already bare bones, and the Police need two secure bays, and if that can't happen then the Police don't need the space in the building.

The Board asked the Fiscal Officer if the money for the project needed to be in this year's budget. The Fiscal Officer advised the board that all the money for the project needs to be appropriated before the board can sign a contract. The board discussed various past loans for the Township. Trustee Port said she will investigate bank loans, and lines of credit to cover the difference in the cost so that there are more options other than reducing departments budgets to give the general fund the needed funds. The Fiscal Officer recommended a reduction of the budgeted transfer-out to the Road Fund for paving to cover the \$200,000 shortfall in funding for the new building. Mr. Mueller said he would not take any money out of a department budget without the department head present at the meeting to be part of the discussion.

The Board said they will investigate funding options so that the project can go to bid and have a contract awarded and signed this year.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Gabram seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned 10:49 am.

Kristina Port, Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Dorka