

GOLDEN TOWNSHIP  
JUNE 7, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Supervisor Carl Fuehring at 10:30am. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board present: Carl Fuehring, Connie Cargill, Rachel Iteen, Bill Kolenda, Doug Dykstra

Board members absent: None

Also present: Rob Draper and Ed McNeely, and many guests.

**Fire Contract:**

The fire board wants a up to 2 mil contract for the next 10 years.

Mr. McNeely expounded on the choices the township could take.

Mrs. Iteen asked what would happen if the voters did not approve the additional millage.

Mark Haynor already writes grants for the fire department.

The state wants firemen to eventually be full time, not volunteer.

**Motion** by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mrs. Cargill to approve the 4-26-2024 Draft of the Hart Area Joint Fire Administrative Board Agreement beginning July 2024. Roll call all yes, the motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Kolenda, supported by Mrs. Cargill to continue paying the 1 mil, going to the general election to ask the voters for up-to-2-mils while maintaining the 1 mil for the fire agreement we are signing.

**Library Contract:**

Mr. Fuehring and Mr. Dykstra met with Nancy Sterk and other staff at the library to discuss the contract. There was discussion trying to come to some kind of agreement, but Nancy Sterk said there would be no negotiating. Mr. Dykstra responded that if there was to be no negotiating, give us our \$20,000 check back. Mr. Kolenda stated that we did not have enough information to make a decision on this and that he would like to hear what the public had to say.

**Public comment:**

-Jake Whelpley talked about the grab from the east side of the county. Golden Township pays for more than ½ of the fire and they want that for the library.

-Barb Frenznick said that out township uses 40% of the usage of the library and she doesn't want to pay out of pocket for additional services.

-Mr. Barefoot said that when the library went to the red cards, his was number 14. The library is super important. The library also hands out free food to children under 18.

-Brian Frenznick said it is necessary for community; it builds community.

-Nancy Husk said the library is necessary. The library requested an increase, now they demand it.

-Cynthia Melville said the library is a great resource and the township has the extra \$5000 in the general fund. Don't dumb us down.

-Bob Carter said that he was told by the library that if the contract is not renewed you will not be able to get books from any other library either. The library is very important.

-Fran Barefoot talked our kids in Golden Township not being allowed to use the library, about going to the library board meeting, questioning their finances, what do they do with donations that come from the community, and why they can't afford a new board room. We are responsible for our youth. Go to the library and ask of their commitment to our community.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31am

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Iteen  
Golden Township Clerk