

Lee Township Board of Trustee's
Special Meeting
July 13, 2023, at 12:00 PM
1485 W. Olson Rd. Midland, MI 48640
(Approved)

Meeting was called to order.

Pledge was said.

Guests: None

- ***Approval of July 10, 2023, Minutes:*** Supervisor Kruger presented the minutes from July 10, 2023. He asked if any Board member had any questions or corrections. As no Board member did, Treasurer Pitt 2nd said motion. Roll call: Trustee List: yes, Supervisor Kruger: yes, Clerk Dawson: yes, Treasurer Pitt: yes, Trustee Reiber: yes. A yes motion carried.

Supervisor Kruger's Statement: We recognize that this is a sensitive subject for our Fire Department, as well as members of our community. We also recognize that this is new territory for every board member. I don't believe that any method, location, time or communication would made every resident or firefighter happy in any way moving forward. Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts over the next week or so would not have allowed the board to act accordingly, and we feel that immediate action is necessary for the continued success of our Fire Department.

We recognize that many of you are upset with the resignation of Chief Daryl. It is important to remember that the board did not seek out Chief Daryl's termination, this was his decision through and through regardless of the reason.

I also want to note that the board tried mediation with two local Fire Chiefs and Chief Daryl after receiving his initial resignation letter. Attempts were made to address his concerns.

I know there are some comments and frustration on Facebook, and unfortunately some people have turned Chief Daryl's career into a political opportunity. I really feel for Chief Daryl during this time. He doesn't deserve to have his name dragged through the mud by anyone.

I did reach out to Chief Daryl yesterday to get his perspective and "blessing" to bring a former Chief of Midland City Fire Department in front our township board to get their perspective and potential approval. At this time, my discussion with Mr. Coughlin has only been to fill in as the Fire Chief for Lee Township until a full-time, long-term Chief can be identified. Chief Daryl has spoken with Mr. Coughlin and me and is supportive of this strategy and choice for Chief. Chief Daryl has offered to assist with the transition as much as possible (should Mr. Coughlin be selected today).

Mr. Coughlin also comes highly recommended from the two Fire Chiefs who assisted with our informal meeting last week. It is important to mention that the open meetings act was not violated as we did not have three board members present during our meeting, and no decisions or business was conducted.

The Board asked Mr. Coughlin a few questions. After all questions were asked and answered, Supervisor Kruger made a motion to appoint Mr. Chris Coughlin to our interim Fire Chief effective immediately. Treasurer Pitt 2nd said motion. Roll Call: Clerk Dawson: yes, Treasurer Pitt: yes, Trustee Reiber: yes, Trustee List: yes, Supervisor Kruger: yes. A yes motion carried.

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- **Public Comment:** We only had one public comment, which was made by our Deputy Supervisor, Jasna Appell.
- **Correspondence:** None
- **Any other Business:** None
- **Adjournment:** Supervisor Kruger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 PM. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM

Submitted by Clerk Dawson