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CONCORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING

Concord Town Hall
7229 Ravenna Road
Concord, Ohio 44077

July 19, 2023
7:30 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Board of Trustees members present:

Morgan R. McIntosh, Chairman
Carl H. Dondorfer, Trustee
Amy L. Lucci, Trustee

Also Present:

Andy Rose, Administrator
Michael Lucas, Esq., Legal Counsel

1 MR. McINTOSH: Good evening. I'd like to call
2 to order the Concord Township Board of Trustees meeting
3 for Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

4 Would you all please rise and join me for the
5 Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

7 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you.

8 And Mr. Rose, I assume you're calling the roll
9 this evening?

10 MR. ROSE: Yes, sir.

11 Mr. McIntosh.

12 MR. McINTOSH: Present.

13 MR. ROSE: Mr. Dondorfer.

14 MR. DONDORFER: Present.

15 MR. ROSE: Mrs. Lucci.

16 MS. LUCCI: Present.

17 MR. ROSE: Thank you.

18 MR. McINTOSH: And our first order of business
19 this evening is the Riverside School District update -- I
20 jumped ahead there -- by Mr. Gary Platko, the Treasurer
21 and CFO. So welcome this evening, sir.

22 MR. DONDORFER: Whoo-hoo, whoo-hoo. Applause.

23 MR. PLATKO: Thank you.

24 I mean, you guys know who I am, but for those
25 who don't know, I'm Gary Platko, Treasurer and the CFO

1 from Riverside. We like to come out once or twice a year,
2 kind of give a financial update, and just kind of some
3 things -- you know, give you guys some updates on just
4 things going on around the District.

5 I was hoping to have our new Superintendent,
6 Dr. Rateno, here tonight, but unfortunately he had a
7 conflict. We do have our Board President Lori Krenisky
8 here, who decided to join us instead.

9 So I have a few slides to go through, just to
10 kind of give us some information, if you want to put those
11 up there.

12 I just kind of wanted to review some of the
13 revenue for the Riverside Local School District. This is
14 for our fiscal year end, ending June 30th, 2023. In my
15 world, I'm in 2024 right now. But our fiscal year just
16 ended.

17 And our total revenue is 50.9 million for
18 fiscal year '23. Approximately 60 percent of that
19 revenue, or 30.5 million, comes from general property
20 taxes, that's your Class 1, Class 2 residential/commercial
21 property taxes. About \$3 million, or 6 percent of our
22 revenue, comes from public utility taxes. About
23 15 percent of our revenue, so it's the green section
24 there, about 7.3 million, and about 450-some thousand on
25 top of that, comes from the State foundation formula

1 through the State funding we get from the buy-in and
2 budgets.

3 In the top left it says, Property Tax
4 Allocation, that's ODE has us put it down, but it's
5 actually your homestead and rollback reimbursements from
6 the State of Ohio. It makes up about \$3.8 million of our
7 revenue, or 7 percent.

8 In the orange section, All Other Revenue.
9 That includes revenue we receive from the joint financing
10 district, which is that joint levy between Riverside,
11 Painesville, Perry, and Madison, and also just other
12 things like classroom fees, pay to participate fees,
13 interest revenue, and those type of other items.

14 The next slide here, this kind of shows our
15 current levies that are in effect. Our Total General Fund
16 Millage is 26.7 mills. Our last operating levy was in
17 2017. We have a Permanent Improvement levy, and also the
18 levy from when we built Parkside and Riverview, for a
19 Total Millage of 30.02 mills.

20 On the next slide, it just kind of shows where
21 Riverside falls with the other school districts in Lake
22 County. As you can see, Riverside is the third lowest
23 school district tax rate, with -- you know, Perry is at
24 the bottom, with the power plant, we don't really count
25 them. Riverside and Madison are usually the second and

1 thirst lowest, depending on who had the most recent levy.
2 And even if you include the Joint Financing District,
3 which is 1.94 mills, we're still at the third lowest,
4 below Mentor. And I'm sure you guys are aware that Mentor
5 has a 2.5 mill new money ask on there for permanent
6 improvements on the ballot this November, which is not
7 reflected there. If voters approve that, that would move
8 them higher.

9 On the expenditures side, our total
10 expenditures for fiscal year 2023 was 48.8 million. If
11 you were to look at this pie chart for every school
12 district in the State of Ohio, it would probably look very
13 similar, with salary and benefits being the majority
14 portion of that.

15 So Personnel Services, our salary is
16 27.5 million, or 56 percent of our expenditures, with
17 employee benefits, including health insurance, retirement,
18 vision, dental, things like that, about 23 percent of our
19 expenditures, or 11.1 million.

20 The green section, Purchased Services, that
21 includes repairs, utilities, postage, and other contracted
22 services, about 7.3 million, or 15 percent of our
23 expenditures, with supplies being about 1.7 million, or
24 4 percent of our expenditures, with a few other
25 miscellaneous items there, as well.

1 The Ohio Department of Education puts out a
2 report called a District Profile Report, also known as the
3 CUPP Report, and it gives a lot of statistics about school
4 districts. The one I pulled here, I'm just going to talk
5 about expenditures, it's Expenditure Per Pupil. The state
6 average is \$12,800 spent per student. Riverside spends
7 11,864. This is going back to fiscal year 2022, which is
8 the most recent data available. We're the third lowest in
9 the County as far as expenditure per pupil, so we try to
10 maximize our taxpayer dollars and use those efficiently.
11 Usually we're -- usually it's second or third lowest.
12 Usually we flip-flop with Fairport Harbor from time to
13 time, depending on the year.

14 This next slide here is a very short summary
15 of our five year forecast. So we're required to -- every
16 district in the State of Ohio is required to file a five
17 year forecast in November of each year, with a spring
18 update in May. So this is the May forecast that was filed
19 with the Ohio the Department of Education.

20 And so the fiscal year 2023 results, they
21 aren't exact, because I didn't want to update the figures
22 from our forecast, but they came in almost close to
23 being -- our revenues came in 0.06 higher, and our
24 expenditures were about 0.24 percent higher, with an
25 ending cash balance around 25.8 million for fiscal year

1 '23.

2 If you look at fiscal year '24, you see a
3 little bit of red there. Our revenues are -- our
4 expenditures start to exceed our revenues a little bit.
5 We'll probably overcome that, because we didn't project
6 the increases in State fundings, we didn't know what the
7 State budget was going to happen, what's going to happen
8 with that. The simulations from the Legislative Service
9 Commission says we're going to see a \$500,000 increase.
10 I'm not so sure if that's going to be the case, but we'll
11 update this in November.

12 But basically, the long story short is,
13 probably fiscal year 2025 is when we'll actually start
14 truly deficit spending. And you'll see -- you know, the
15 forecast is usually pretty conservative. So we tend to, I
16 wouldn't say overestimate, but we tend to be, you know --
17 we estimate a little bit lower on our revenues and a
18 little bit higher on our expenditures to ensure that we
19 can see when the financial need is coming. And this is
20 kind of like your weather forecast, where the forecast for
21 tomorrow is certainly more accurate than the forecast for
22 a week from now. So it's kind of the same logic with
23 this.

24 So we'll keep an eye on that. You know, we
25 don't anticipate being on the ballot the next couple of

1 years for operating money, but that time will be coming
2 probably in the '26-'27 time. You know, we update these
3 twice a year, and hopefully we can extend that depending
4 on future State budgets, as well. Because we only get a
5 two year State budget, so we don't know what the next
6 State budget is going to be, and the one after that, that
7 we're projecting. So we'll continue to update that, and
8 monitor our progress.

9 Riverside was recently upgraded by Moody's
10 Investors Services. So back in 2017, we had a bond rating
11 established when we issued bonds to build Parkside and
12 Riverview. We were given an A1 rating. If you look on
13 the left-hand side, it kind of shows the lineup of the
14 different ratings. We were upgraded from A1 to Aa3.
15 Moody's describes Aa3 as obligations rated as Aas are
16 judged to be of high quality and subject to very low
17 credit risk. So that upgrade will certainly help us in
18 the future if we decide to either refinance our bonds,
19 issue new bonds in the future or other debt, we can get
20 more favorable interest rates.

21 On their credit summary, they describe
22 Riverside Schools as having a strong profile supported by
23 its strong financial position, growing enrollment that's
24 expected to continue through the next several years,
25 strong resident income, and the proximity to Cleveland.

1 These credit strengths are balanced against the District's
2 elevated leverage and mixed voter support for operating
3 and bond referendums. And then it goes on to reference
4 the May 2022 bond issue that was rejected.

5 It's always kind of funny, Moody's, they state
6 that debt is likely to materially rise if the District
7 moves forward with significant borrowing plans in the near
8 future. They like to kind of hold you back a little bit
9 because we're -- you know, it's almost like if you were to
10 buy a house, if you're thinking about buying a house, it
11 doesn't affect your credit score until you actually start
12 the process. You know, we're still working on a
13 facilities plan going forward. We don't know what that's
14 going to look like, what that borrowing will be like.
15 They still kind of hold that over your head, like you're
16 going to borrow money in the future. And I don't even
17 know what that is, how they determine that.

18 Some of the factors that can lead to an
19 upgrade would be sustained growth in operating reserves
20 and liquidity or a material decline in leverage, basically
21 paying off some of our outstanding debt.

22 Factors that could lead to a downgrade would
23 be significant weakening of resident income or enrollment
24 trends, or material narrowing of operating reserves or
25 liquidity.

1 The next slide, I just wanted to highlight, we
2 received the Auditor of State Award for fiscal year ending
3 2022. That's the eighth consecutive year that we've
4 gotten that award. We take that very seriously, and we
5 hope to continue that trend going forward.

6 We also received four stars, or the highest
7 achievement, for the Open and Transparent Government.
8 This is our third consecutive year. That award has been
9 around for three years, and we've achieved that every
10 year, just being compliant with public records requests,
11 and having other information and items posted on our
12 website, and being open to the public.

13 Just a couple of safety updates. I think I
14 highlighted this last time I was here. This past school
15 year, we've committed to having two district-wide school
16 resource officers. Those are employed by the Lake County
17 Sheriff's Office. They travel between buildings. They're
18 mostly at the Riverside Campus, but they do go to the
19 other schools as needed.

20 And then the Board committed to putting a
21 full-time safety officer in every school building. Last
22 year, we were able to start with Buckeye -- well, we
23 already had them in Riverside Campus and LaMuth. Last
24 year we expanded to Buckeye and Melridge, but we weren't
25 able to recruit two additional people for Parkside and

1 Riverview. We have done that. They're on our books now.
2 They will be starting this school year.

3 Unfortunately, the Riverside Campus individual
4 had left us for another school district, so we have a new
5 officer being Board approved next week. And so it will be
6 fully staffed with an officer in every building, plus the
7 two district-wide resource officers. So I think that's a
8 great improvement we've done.

9 And also, some safety grants. We were awarded
10 \$400,000 through the Ohio K-12 Safety Grant Program. We
11 bid out a construction project to construct secure
12 entrances or vestibules at all of our legacy buildings,
13 which are Riverside Campus, LaMuth Middle School, Buckeye
14 Elementary School, and Melridge Elementary School. The
15 Board will be voting on the construction contract next
16 week. Construction will be completed by the end of next
17 summer.

18 We were really hoping to get it done this
19 summer, but we weren't able to get everything in line. So
20 that will most likely happen next summer. If there's an
21 opportunity to do some of that work during the school
22 year, we will try to do that.

23 We also received an Ohio Attorney General
24 Safety Grant. This is an annual grant we get each year.
25 We got \$23,357 for that. And we were also recently

1 awarded a new Attorney General School/Law Enforcement
2 Technology Linking Safety Grant of \$20,000. These funds
3 are being used for camera upgrades throughout our older
4 school buildings. So at the Riverside Campus, it includes
5 replacement of 60 existing cameras, and also additional
6 cameras put in the exteriors and in the common areas.

7 Melridge Elementary School is going to get a
8 whole new camera system. Buckeye is going to have a lot
9 cameras replaced and some additions. And then LaMuth
10 Middle School also will have some replacements and some
11 additions. That work is all happening right now, so that
12 will all be in place for the next school year.

13 And then lastly, the facility improvements.
14 The Board -- we entered into a contract with Bialosky
15 Cleveland. They're doing a formal facility assessment of
16 all of our legacy buildings, so that's, again, the Campus,
17 LaMuth, Buckeye, Melridge. They're basically going to
18 come up with what improvements need to be done with those
19 facilities and in what order, and what that cost estimate
20 would be. They're supposed to have that report done
21 around September 30th, and the Board will have work
22 sessions in the fall to review that report and determine
23 what our next facilities plan may look like.

24 With that, this kind of brings me to the end
25 here. If there's any questions, or if you want me to

1 expand upon anything, I can certainly do that, or if
2 there's any interest in hearing of a future update, we can
3 certainly put that together for you, as well.

4 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you.

5 MR. ROSE: Nice job.

6 MRS. LUCCI: Thank you.

7 MR. DONDORFER: Thanks for coming.

8 MR. McINTOSH: Okay, the next order of
9 business is the approval of the minutes from the July 5th,
10 2023 regular Trustee meeting.

11 MRS. LUCCI: Mr. Chair, I move to approve the
12 July 5, 2023 regular Trustee's meeting minutes.

13 MR. DONDORFER: And I will second.

14 MR. McINTOSH: Any discussion? Hearing none,
15 all in favor?

16 MR. DONDORFER: Aye.

17 MRS. LUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. McINTOSH: Aye.

19 Three ayes.

20 Elected Official's Reports.

21 This evening, Fiscal Officer Mr. James Teknipp
22 is not available, so we will move into Trustees.

23 Mrs. Lucci.

24 MRS. LUCCI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 Well, we've been enjoying our summer concerts.

1 Hopefully, we can squeeze one in tomorrow, with the
2 weather forecast. We'll see what happens.

3 Since our last meeting I did receive a call
4 regarding some zoning questions from a property owner here
5 in the township.

6 I had a resident thank us for the work on the
7 Brightwood Lake/Kellogg Creek restoration project which is
8 pretty near complete.

9 We had some calls regarding some tall grass
10 and mowing on some of our County roads, which the County
11 did take care of, thank you very much.

12 A resident did call regarding questions about
13 utility prices and NOPEC. And thank you to Andy for
14 helping the resident understand that Apples to Apples
15 website.

16 MR. ROSE: Oh, sure.

17 MRS. LUCCI: And last, I did attend my last
18 Ohio Township Association leadership class in Columbus.
19 And it was great, because we get to speak with fellow
20 Trustees on some of the other challenges in our Ohio
21 townships, like safety, road repairs, and a lot of
22 questions on what it takes to build a fire station, so
23 that's good.

24 MR. McINTOSH: You're an expert.

25 MRS. LUCCI: It's interesting, because there's

1 many unique needs managing every township, depending on
2 how many people, what the terrain is, sort of how much --
3 what the population is, and what the land is like. So
4 it's great to understand those diverse needs. I am very
5 happy to have participated in that nice offering from OTA.
6 So that was very enjoyable.

7 With that, I know it's graduation party time,
8 so congratulations to all the graduates. We wish you luck
9 in your next endeavors.

10 And with that, that concludes my report.

11 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you, Mrs. Lucci.

12 Mr. Dondorfer.

13 MR. DONDORFER: Thank you, Mr. McIntosh.

14 I just had a few calls from some residents
15 regarding some zoning complaints that I will get with
16 Heather Freeman on.

17 I did have the honor of attending the OneOhio
18 District 13 meeting today in Geauga County, regarding the
19 opiate settlement in Ohio. And I'm happy to report that
20 the State of Ohio has contracted with a software company
21 who will be building out the application and grading
22 process for each district. And we're hoping to be going
23 live on that the beginning of October of this year so we
24 can start generating some of those applications and
25 getting some of the funding from that settlement to some

1 programs that people need for addiction situations. So we
2 had a good meeting there today.

3 We did have office hours prior to our meeting
4 today. We did have a resident in, and had some discussion
5 on our safety within the community here. I'm sure we're
6 going to have some more dialogue later on in the meeting,
7 so I'll save my comments for that.

8 And that's all I have.

9 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you, Mr. Dondorfer.

10 I would like to congratulate Amy Lucci --

11 MR. DONDORFER: Yes.

12 MRS. LUCCI: Thank you.

13 MR. McINTOSH: -- on her graduation from the
14 2.0. That's the first class of the elevated leadership.

15 MRS. LUCCI: The inaugural class.

16 MR. DONDORFER: Congratulations.

17 MR. McINTOSH: Greatest class ever, right?

18 MRS. LUCCI: First and best.

19 MR. McINTOSH: I know a lot of hard work goes
20 into those. We've all done the first version of it. So I
21 commend you for just jumping right in and doing a second
22 one. And Concord is lucky to have someone that's vested
23 in being a strong leader.

24 MRS. LUCCI: Thank you.

25 MR. McINTOSH: I had a lot of conversation

1 with -- roads are ongoing, Prouty Road is wrapping up.

2 I did also have some zoning complaints and
3 talked to a resident about some needs to potentially
4 pursue a zoning variance application.

5 I've continued to put a lot of time in the
6 fire station. I was able to walk through it a couple of
7 times this week already actually, just to sort of take a
8 look at it, did get some questions about it.

9 I spent a little bit of time doing some
10 diligence in preparing for this evening's votes, Items A,
11 B, and C. And we did entertain conversation during office
12 hours with a resident that had seen our press release and
13 the advance agenda, and we did have a good conversation.

14 And with that, I would just like to
15 acknowledge that this evening, I have a special guest here
16 this evening. My mother-in-law is visiting from out of
17 town, and was willing to take some time and come and watch
18 her son-in-law do the Township business.

19 MR. DONDORFER: Great.

20 MR. ROSE: Good stuff.

21 MR. DONDORFER: Welcome.

22 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you for joining us this
23 evening. We're all happy to have you here.

24 And with that, I will move on to Department
25 Reports, and Administrator Rose.

1 MR. ROSE: Thank you, Mr. McIntosh. Members
2 of the Board, members of the audience, good evening.

3 A few items on the agenda I'd like to cover up
4 front. I think the big ticket items, Items A, B, and C on
5 the agenda, are resolutions that will have the Lake County
6 Auditor certify potential tax amounts.

7 MR. McINTOSH: Yes.

8 MR. ROSE: The reason that we're doing three
9 resolutions -- I know there will be some discussion, but
10 the reason we're doing three resolutions is to look and
11 obtain information on three different levy scenarios to
12 properly evaluate the best course of action.

13 So I will encourage passage on all three, and
14 then get those over to the Auditor tomorrow, to have them
15 start the certification process.

16 Item D is a Purchase Order. That's to the
17 Lake County Utilities Department. That covers the
18 sanitary capacity fee, which allows us to tie in the
19 Community Center into the County sanitary sewer system.
20 That's part of the Auburn Road sanitary sewer extension
21 project. And that project has moved along well, and it
22 picks back up again on Monday. The crews will be back.

23 The Auburn Road part is done. It has passed
24 all its appropriate pressure tests by the County. And now
25 they're going to work on the lateral that goes from the

1 Community Center to the sanitary main. So that will be
2 picking back up on Monday. And that project should be
3 completed by the end of August, because after they finish
4 hooking it up, then they've got to remove the old septic
5 system. So that's moving along smartly.

6 The joint road repair program is moving along
7 nicely. That, we do anticipate a change order. There
8 were some additional full depth repairs at Noble Ridge
9 once they skimmed the road down. And there was an
10 allowance for some full depth repairs, but we believe that
11 has been exceeded a little bit, but we'll have a very good
12 road when we're done.

13 Currently, they've got the initial course of
14 asphalt down, and they're installing the concrete curbs
15 this week. I saw the crews out there today. And once
16 that's all done, then the final course of asphalt will be
17 applied. And then there's also the three other roads,
18 Huntoon, Rogers, and Gray. The roads that are in Noble
19 Ridge are Jamie, Kenneth, and Brooke Lyn Way. So the road
20 program is doing very well, and moving along nicely.

21 And then finally, you know, we did put out the
22 amended agenda. So we put it at the very end, so I'll
23 request the Executive Session at the tail end of the
24 meeting, since there won't likely be any business after
25 that.

1 And that concludes my report.

2 Thank you, sir.

3 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you, Mr. Rose.

4 Audience portion. Does anyone from the
5 audience wish to address the Board this evening?

6 Seeing none.

7 Moving to Old Business, of which there is
8 none.

9 Which brings us to the New Business. And
10 before we get into discussions of Items A, B, and C, I do
11 want to read for the record a memorandum that we received,
12 the Trustees received, on July 13th, from the Fiscal
13 Officer to the Trustees regarding safety service levy
14 replacement options.

15 Trustees,

16 Due to unforeseen circumstances, I will be out
17 of town for the July 19th, 2023 meeting. As a follow-up
18 to the three options I presented during the staff meeting,
19 attached is the updated spreadsheet for the safety
20 services fund showing three possible scenarios which
21 include increases of 2.3 mills, 2.5 mills, and 3 mills for
22 a replacement levy. These options are captured in the
23 resolutions asking for Lake County Auditor certifications
24 being voted on at the July 19th meeting. Once the
25 resolutions are returned by the Lake County Auditor with

1 certified amounts I will coordinate and review these with
2 our administration and fire department leadership. I
3 intend to provide you with a recommendation at the
4 August 2nd, 2023 meeting.

5 As you are aware, shortfalls were identified
6 during the 2023 appropriations process. As the new Fiscal
7 Officer, the review process was helpful and identified the
8 need for a revenue increase due to increasing cost of both
9 fire and law enforcement services.

10 So with that, I'd be happy to entertain some
11 conversation, if we want to just do that before we get
12 into our votes.

13 MR. DONDORFER: Sure.

14 MRS. LUCCI: Sure.

15 MR. DONDORFER: I can start.

16 You know, I prepared some comments, but I'm
17 going to speak from the heart here.

18 You know, we all pride ourselves on being good
19 stewards of the Township, and I think part of that is
20 being transparent with our residents. And with that, you
21 know, we all, I think, agree that public safety is
22 critical to the health and wellness of any community.

23 And we've been fortunate to have great safety
24 services here in Lake County. We have great firefighters,
25 we have a great contract with the Lake County Sheriff's

1 Office. And our resources are at a point where we
2 recently entered into a grant program with the County
3 Commissioners to fund additional deputies for proactive
4 patrols and law enforcement response within not only
5 Concord Township, but Perry Township, Painesville
6 Township, all the townships. And that was funded through
7 the Clerk of Court's title fund. And it was very helpful
8 to insert and saturate more seasoned law enforcement
9 officers within the townships.

10 Unfortunately, the continuous safety services
11 levy that we had -- are operating on right now will be
12 unable to sustain that once we have to take over the
13 salaries of those law enforcement officers and
14 firefighters after the grant funding runs out from the
15 Board of Commissioners.

16 And why I mention that off the front here is
17 it's very important because, you know, as being a law
18 enforcement officer for over 30 years, you know, this
19 profession has been confronted with several difficult
20 challenges over the last couple of years, and those
21 challenges can definitely have an impact on the
22 communities that we serve.

23 And what I mean by that is, you know, we see
24 it. We've seen it in Cleveland recently, with a lot of
25 the crime that's happened in the last couple of weeks.

1 They had mass shootings down there, property damage to
2 several vehicles, they had some armed robberies,
3 carjackings.

4 And the reason why we're seeing that peak in
5 crime is because there is reactive law enforcement going
6 on. And what I mean by that is, there is a lack of
7 manpower resources within the Cleveland Police Department.
8 They're short over 300 officers. They can't fill an
9 Academy class to get new officers in. So what you have
10 is, you have an increase in crime, and you have less
11 resources to respond to those crimes.

12 So they're not getting ahead of the crime.
13 They're reacting. They're going to the call, those calls
14 stack, and it starts infiltrating into the suburbs.

15 So what's important in combating crime, in
16 this current trend that we're seeing, which is a different
17 element, is being proactive. Proactive law enforcement is
18 getting ahead of the crime, and identifying it before it
19 happens, so it doesn't happen, and you don't have victims,
20 you keep your community safe.

21 I think, you know, a big part of that which
22 contributes to our commitment to proactive law
23 enforcement, is that we're working with the Sheriff's
24 Department to fund and install, you know, the Flock
25 cameras, which are great proactive law enforcement tools,

1 but you need officers to react to those Flock kits, so
2 they can respond to that area once that camera hits, and
3 conduct a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle or a wanted
4 felon, and determine what they're doing within our
5 communities.

6 So I'm a big advocate for proactive law
7 enforcement. It's the only way we're going to get through
8 this. So I think it's important for the community to know
9 that we need to maintain the level of service we have
10 right now with the deputies that we're funding.
11 Unfortunately, that's going to require us looking at
12 additional funding, and a change in the current safety
13 levy, and that's replacement and a small additional ask,
14 so that we can keep the level of services that we have
15 now, and be proactive, have saturated patrols within our
16 neighborhoods, and keep our residents safe.

17 Our goal in being transparent is to have some
18 initial dialogue, and then, you know, welcome the
19 community into some stakeholder meetings, and have some
20 discussion, and answer some questions. I know the Sheriff
21 is willing to be involved, as well as the Chief Deputy.

22 But it's important. It's going to be an
23 important decision. We shouldn't be making it. We should
24 be making it after discussion and dialogue with members of
25 the Township, and the other townships. I know the other

1 townships are also putting levy initiatives regarding
2 their safety within their communities, Painesville
3 Township and Perry Township. So it is important, you
4 know, to maintain the level of service that we have.

5 The Sheriff provides a lot of services. Not
6 only do we get patrol deputies that respond to the calls
7 and are proactive day-to-day, we get a Detective Bureau,
8 we have resources that are on a task force that
9 specifically combat certain crimes, like internet crimes
10 against children, the Fugitive Task Force. All those task
11 forces are manned by not only federal and state officers,
12 but local officers that help out our communities.

13 And what I don't want to see is a lack of
14 funding, where we have a situation where -- we had it in
15 2008 when I was at the Sheriff's Department, where we had
16 to lay off officers because we didn't have funding to
17 support them, and then we had to, you know, move
18 Detectives back to the road. We didn't have officers to
19 investigate cases. And we went from a proactive approach
20 to a reactive approach, but we were able to bounce back
21 and be proactive. We need to maintain that proactive law
22 enforcement within Lake County.

23 MRS. LUCCI: Yeah, Mr. Dondorfer, your
24 experience speaks volumes. You know, you're still in
25 safety services, and you know, I think we've prioritized

1 safety in a lot of our decisions here with the Township.
2 It is our duty to keep our residents safe. And it's great
3 to hear that we have resource officers in place for all
4 the schools. That means so much to our community. People
5 don't want to move here if we have a lot of crime.
6 Businesses don't want to come.

7 We definitely want to keep the officers that
8 we -- the additional officers that we had from the COPS
9 grant. And obviously our Fiscal Officer showed us that
10 with the current revenues right now, we're not going to be
11 able to do that. So we have to think of a way that we can
12 all come together and figure out how to keep them.

13 You know, and it's important to maintain
14 competent police officers and firefighters, keep them
15 safe, and to retain them. Because, you know, we all know
16 how much money it is to hire and train, and then they go
17 somewhere else. And we need to have the salary
18 competition in order to keep them.

19 I think police presence certainly matters.
20 It's a deterrent. It's sort of like preventative health
21 care. Police presence here will deter crime, which is, I
22 think, also important for our community. So I'm hoping
23 for more discussion on this, and hope to see that it works
24 favorably for Concord Township.

25 MR. McINTOSH: I know that when Mr. Teknipp

1 stepped in as our new Fiscal Officer and had to get into
2 the process, there was a lot of conversation, and the
3 appropriations process was a little bit trying this year,
4 as far as our budgets, and so definitely have a very
5 crystal clear understanding of the need.

6 And obviously the safety services levy has
7 been in place for seven years, and when you think about
8 things being relatively static, and what the Township has
9 gone through in the last seven years as we continue to
10 grow, Concord is the fastest growing community in Lake
11 County, the second highest property values. We've got a
12 lot going on. We, as a Board, responded to that, taking
13 on the challenge with regard to the fire station,
14 recognizing that our fire service needed to upgrade its
15 facilities, both facilities dating back to 1966. This is
16 the same. This is the same issue.

17 We need to take care of our first responders,
18 and we need to reevaluate this levy, we need to consider
19 replacing it, which is going to take away the current levy
20 and come back with a new total figure. So we're not
21 adding to it, it's just updating the current safety
22 forces. And that was a decision the former Board made,
23 was to create one really super fund, in a lot of ways,
24 that fund our safety services. And we all see the need in
25 law enforcement across the country, here in Lake County.

1 As a grand jury foreperson earlier this year,
2 I can attest to -- you know, it's one of those things, if
3 somebody who had experience in law enforcement can sit
4 back down and listen to those cases, and you get hit with
5 the reality of what they are. You know, you know that
6 they occur, you know these things are happening. But when
7 you sit there, like Mr. Dondorfer sees on a regular basis,
8 the facts of the cases, and the officers' testimony, and
9 testimonies of victims, you realize, the bru -- brutality
10 is not fair, but the humanity of crime, and what it does
11 to our communities, and you realize how important that is.

12 And we know that over the last couple of years
13 we have now done a series of promotion interviews with the
14 fire department staff, we've converted some of our
15 part-timers to full-time in an attempt to curb the
16 overtime and reduce our labor cost. But in that process,
17 we all sat here and said how proud we were of our fire
18 service and what an excellent -- we interviewed these
19 people, and you can just tell they care with their heart
20 and their soul the job that they do, and we need to be
21 there to make sure our fire service -- our community is
22 very dependent. We continue to increase our call volumes
23 with the fire department, the demands on it. Just like
24 the need for the station, we need the staffing, we need to
25 support them.

1 And happily, as I've said a couple of times,
2 I'm very proud that all of the townships have come
3 together to work on this. Because the Sheriff's
4 Department contracts -- well, multiple townships contract
5 with the Sheriff's Department, and the Sheriff's
6 Department covers these townships out here, and so we're
7 all in this together. If somethings happens, like
8 happened a couple of years ago in Painesville Township,
9 all law enforcement is going there.

10 So this isn't just an effort for Concord
11 Township. The Township Association across the County has
12 come together, and even the Madison Trustees came in, in
13 support of it, because we all know policing these
14 communities is a cooperative effort, and it's not just --
15 we're thinking outside the borders of Concord for the
16 greater protection of our community here.

17 So we know the challenges are going to be
18 attracting and retaining the people that we have, and this
19 is just the first step in that process. So I am proud to
20 sit on this Board, that we've made public safety and our
21 safety forces such a priority. And so with that, I see
22 the need.

23 And nobody really loves to run around and
24 raise taxes, but we give the voters a chance to dialogue
25 with us, we'll have Town Hall stakeholder meetings, people

1 can come and ask questions, and we'll make our case, and
2 hopefully people will agree with us, and we'll have the
3 funding we need for our police and fire.

4 MR. DONDORFER: Mr. Chairman, I will make a
5 motion to approve Resolution 2023-10 declaring it
6 necessary to levy a 6.3 mill additional replacement tax
7 levy of five years for the purpose of providing sufficient
8 funding for police, fire, ambulance, and emergency medical
9 services.

10 MRS. LUCCI: And I'll second.

11 MR. McINTOSH: Should we do roll call on it?

12 MR. ROSE: I would recommend a roll call vote
13 on these first three.

14 MR. McINTOSH: We'll do a roll call vote on
15 that.

16 Mr. Rose, will you please call the roll.

17 MR. ROSE: Certainly.

18 Mr. Dondorfer.

19 MR. DONDORFER: Yes.

20 MR. ROSE: Mrs. Lucci.

21 MRS. LUCCI: Yes.

22 MR. ROSE: Mr. McIntosh.

23 MR. McINTOSH: Yes.

24 MRS. LUCCI: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve
25 Resolution 2023-11 declaring it necessary to levy a 6.5

1 mill additional replacement tax levy for five years for
2 the purpose of providing sufficient funding for police,
3 fire, ambulance, and emergency medical services.

4 MR. DONDORFER: I will second.

5 MR. McINTOSH: And a roll call vote.

6 MR. ROSE: Mr. Dondorfer.

7 MR. DONDORFER: Yes.

8 MR. ROSE: Mrs. Lucci.

9 MRS. LUCCI: Yes.

10 MR. ROSE: Mr. McIntosh.

11 MR. McINTOSH: Yes.

12 MR. DONDORFER: Mr. Chairman, I will make a
13 motion to approve Resolution 2023-12 declaring it
14 necessary to levy a 7.0 mill additional replacement tax
15 levy of five years for the purpose of providing sufficient
16 funding for police, fire, ambulance, and emergency medical
17 services.

18 MRS. LUCCI: And I'll second.

19 MR. McINTOSH: Roll call, please.

20 MR. ROSE: Mr. Dondorfer.

21 MR. DONDORFER: Yes.

22 MR. ROSE: Mrs. Lucci.

23 MRS. LUCCI: Yes.

24 MR. ROSE: Mr. McIntosh.

25 MR. McINTOSH: Yes.

1 MRS. LUCCI: All right, Mr. Chair, I move to
2 approve Purchase Order to the Lake County Department of
3 Utilities in the amount of 18,210 for sanitary capacity
4 fee at the Community Center.

5 MR. DONDORFER: I will second.

6 MR. McINTOSH: Any discussion?

7 Hearing none, all in favor?

8 MR. DONDORFER: Aye.

9 MRS. LUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. McINTOSH: Aye.

11 Three ayes.

12 MR. DONDORFER: Mr. Chairman, I will make a
13 motion to approve the promotion of Nicholas Light to the
14 position of part-time firefighter/paramedic effective
15 July 5th, 2023.

16 MRS. LUCCI: And I second.

17 MR. McINTOSH: Any discussion?

18 All in favor?

19 MR. DONDORFER: Aye.

20 MRS. LUCCI: Aye.

21 MR. McINTOSH: Aye.

22 MRS. LUCCI: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve
23 Purchase Order to Sun Rental in the amount of \$5,560.16
24 for balance due on tent rental for Community Day 2023.

25 MR. DONDORFER: And I will second.

1 MR. McINTOSH: Looking forward to Community
2 Day.

3 MR. ROSE: Me, too.

4 MR. McINTOSH: All in favor?

5 MRS. LUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. DONDORFER: Aye.

7 MR. McINTOSH: Aye.

8 And Mr. Rose, are you handling future meeting
9 announcements?

10 MR. ROSE: Yes, sir. Future Meetings &
11 Announcements.

12 Monday, July 31st, at 3:00, will be the staff
13 meeting here at Town Hall.

14 Tuesday, August 1st, at 7:00 p.m., the Zoning
15 Commission will meet here in Town Hall.

16 And then on Wednesday, August 2nd, from
17 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. will be Trustee office hours in the
18 conference room, followed at 7:30 p.m. with the Trustee
19 Meeting here in Town Hall.

20 And that concludes Future Meetings &
21 Announcements.

22 MR. McINTOSH: All right. And for the last.

23 MR. DONDORFER: Mr. Chairman, I will make a
24 motion to move to Executive Session for the purpose of
25 discussing a personnel matter pertaining to employment

1 pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1).

2 MRS. LUCCI: I'll second.

3 MR. McINTOSH: And a roll call vote, please.

4 MR. ROSE: Mr. Dondorfer.

5 MR. DONDORFER: Yes.

6 MR. ROSE: Mrs. Lucci.

7 MRS. LUCCI: Yes.

8 MR. ROSE: Mr. McIntosh.

9 MR. McINTOSH: Yes.

10 (Executive Session.)

11 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08

12 p.m.)

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