

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2018**

**FENTON TOWNSHIP CIVIC COMMUNITY CENTER
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE, FENTON, MICHIGAN**

Clerk Krug called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Krug, Tucker, Goupil, Kesler, Lorraine, Shumaker, Attorney Doyle and
Operations Manager Broecker

Absent: Mathis

OPENING PRAYER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Clerk Krug led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Appointment of Temporary Chairperson

Motion to appoint Treasurer John Tucker as temporary chairperson.

Motion by: Shumaker

Seconded: Goupil

Ayes: All Present

Nays: None

Absent: Mathis

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disciplinary Hearings

Chairman Tucker noted that the disciplinary hearing for Paul Bjorklund is still subject to a temporary restraining order. Therefore, this issue will not be taken up today.

Chairman Tucker gave some background to the current issue, explaining that pending litigation and disciplinary matters may be held in closed session.

Jeffrey Donohue, attorney for Chief Volz, requested that the continuation of the hearing be conducted in closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris White, Fenton Farms Golf Club

Mr. White experiences regarding Chief Volz, highlighting the "Shop with a Hero" charitable golf outing. Since Ryan Volz became chief, the level of participation and overall quality of the event has increased dramatically. He also mentioned that, at the fire department holiday party held at Fenton Farms each year, he has witnessed a great deal of mutual respect between the Chief and members of the department. Mr. White also told the story of how Chief Volz was the first responder to a tree cutting accident on the golf course, which saved the life of one of his employees. He also noted that Fenton Farms employed Kristy Polidan at one time and was relieved when she took employment elsewhere.

Linda Hoff, mother of Kristy Polidan

Ms. Hoff stated that this is not a "who likes who" issue. It is an issue of an appropriate workplace. She believes the township has not acted appropriately in dealing with this issue.

Todd Prescott

Mr. Prescott stated that he has known Chief Volz for about 10 years. He believes Mr. Volz is a solid citizen and dedicated family man.

There was no further comment.

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CLOSED SESSION:

Motion to recess the open meeting to convene a closed session to conduct a disciplinary hearing, at the request of Fire Chief Ryan Volz.

Motion by: Lorraine
Seconded: Krug
Ayes: Krug, Tucker, Goupil, Kesler, Lorraine, Shumaker
Nays: None
Absent: Mathis

Motion carried.

The open meeting was recessed at 8:18 a.m.

The open meeting was reconvened at 4:40 p.m. There were no decisions made or actions taken during the closed session.

Motion to:

1. Suspend Fire Chief Ryan Volz for a total of 83 days, effective July 9, 2018. Chief Volz is eligible to return to his duties on October 1, 2018.
2. The remainder of the suspension from today forward will be unpaid.
3. Chief Volz will forfeit 35 days of paid time off.
4. The suspension includes the following conditions:
 - a. Chief Volz will agree to early termination of his current employment agreement and enter into a new short-form employment agreement that will make his employment status "at-will".
 - b. Chief Volz will attend and successfully complete a sexual harassment training session selected by the Township.
 - c. Chief Volz will complete a bachelor's degree in business administration on or before December 31, 2021.
 - d. Chief Volz will attend diversity/sensitivity training provided by the Township, which will be attended by all Fenton Township employees and members of the Fenton Township Fire Department.

Motion by: Tucker
Seconded: Krug
Ayes: Krug, Tucker, Goupil, Kesler, Lorraine, Shumaker
Nays: None
Absent: Mathis

Motion carried.

Chairman Tucker stated that the discipline imposed today is based on the facts as they are known today. The board recognizes that discovery will be ongoing as there is pending litigation related to these issues. Should the facts change, the township board reserves the right to amend this disciplinary action.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

John Tucker, Chairman Pro-Tem

Robert Krug, Clerk

Minutes Posted 8/14/18