

Decatur Township board

Meeting minutes

March 18, 2025

Chair of the Decatur Township Board Josh Masquelier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Chair Masquelier moved to adopt the March meeting agenda and February meeting minutes.

- All in favor. None opposed
- No taxpayer comments

Chair Masquelier called for the Trustee to read the rule of public participation amendments aloud. Chair Masquelier motioned to adopt the amendments.

- All in favor. None opposed.

Chair Masquelier motioned to review the annual report for the fire department.

Chief Wood announced grant money obtained, last year's training hours, shoot times, response times, appointments, promotions, and EMS hires

Chair Masquelier announced the introduction of resolution 2025-02

- A member of the public spoke in favor of fire department appropriations.

Trustee Holliday provided clarification by explaining that the resolution will not result in any tax increase. Trustee Holliday stated the only other options would be to prolong issues or borrow funds. Trustee Holliday also explained that Indiana law defines appropriations and explained how the appropriations shown in the resolution are one time unexpected capital expenses, which the board is being asked to budget for.

Trustee Holliday and Decatur Township Fire Department Chief Wood explained that by postponing the appropriation, experts and consultants have reported a calculated 20% increase in expenses in 1 year. Chief Wood explained solutions that have been implemented to minimize costs, reduce likelihood of having to pay more in the future and reducing firefighter health problems that have already been caused by exhaust for example, in the current engine. Chief Wood explained that the new engine the department wishes to acquire is demo model, whereas a new engine would cost \$1.2 million and take three years to acquire.

Trustee Holliday announced that the township currently has just over \$15 million dollars in reserves. The Trustee announced that the roofs for both the small claims court and Fire Station 74, were installed in 2003 and 5 quotes and expert opinions have been provided, all confirming that replacement is needed. A Board member expressed favor for the fire department

appropriation, and another board member expressed concerns about dependency on outside vendors for preventative maintenance. Chief Wood named two outside vendors and said the DTFD already performs daily inspections and some preventative maintenance in house.

Chair Masquelier asked Chief Wood for reports of maintenance expenses and Chief Wood agreed to provide the reports on a monthly basis.

Jared Bond motioned to approve the first two line items of the resolution for fire department appropriation.

- Anthony Parks offered a second.
- All in favor. None opposed.

Trustee Holliday announced several vendors have inspected the court roof and they confirmed it needs replaced. The insurance companies confirmed the same. It was explained that a half wall for ballistic glass is being requested for the public customer service counter.

Jared Bond motioned to approve items 3 and 4 of resolution 2025-02.

- Chair Masquelier offered a second.
- All in favor. None opposed.

Small Claims Court Judge Jon Sturgill announced Decatur has been reported as the least secure court in Indianapolis. He announced that he previously scored a grant for security measures. The request is for bullet resistant glass UW 720 level for exterior windows and associated infrastructure. The judge reported several contractors who were contacted never came out, and then he got a referral from other courts for a vendor, that did provide a quote

Board member Hibler stated that a local vendor he contacted had only come out to the court last week. Trustee Holliday reported that the National Association of Courts recommends UL Level 3 glass. Trustee Holliday stated appropriating funds does not mean the check will be written the next day. All funds appropriated do not have to be spent, was reported by the Trustee and multiple board members.

Constable Luke Schmidt spoke and explained court operations. A member of the court staff stated that multiple defendants have had to be escorted out during court sessions.

Jared Bond motioned to adopt items 5, 6, and 7 under the condition that executives continue to work with contractors and vendors if available.

- Anthony Parks offered a second.
- 3 in favor. 2 opposed.

Chair Masquelier motioned to postpone resolution 2025-03 for amendments to township assistance. Anthony Parks offered a brief description of the objectives and steps that have been implemented for improvement to township assistance thus far.

- All in favor. None opposed

Trustee Holliday announced the financial report. No comments were offered

Trustee Holliday, the board, and Fire Chief Wood thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Chair Masquelier adjourned the meeting at 7:58pm.