

**SPECIAL MEETING  
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
August 1, 2018**

**Present:** Charlie Prince, Trustee  
John Slater, Trustee  
Randy Weekly, Trustee  
Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer  
Paula Greene, Administration  
Dave Cable, Road Supervisor

**Guests**

Granville Township Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Amy Deeds, Julie Hall, Lori Dixon  
Coordinator for CERT, Craig McDonald

The Union Township Trustees met in special session at 7:00 pm on August 1, 2018, at the Union Township Complex. Roll call showed the following trustees present: Trustee Charles Prince, Trustee John Slater, and Trustee Randy Weekly. Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer, was present. Trustee Prince led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.

**C.E.R.T. Training**

Lori Dixon, Coordinator for the Licking County Community Emergency Response Team also known as C.E.R.T. will be offering a 20 hours course in emergency preparedness training at the Township Complex. There is no cost to the participant and will be held one night a week for eight weeks. Ages 12 and up are permitted to participate with parent's permission.

Ms. Dixon has scheduled to begin classes to start on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A minimum of 12 persons is required to hold the classes with a maximum of 24 participants.

A notice of the classes will be placed on the Township's website and emailed to the Home Owner's Associations.

**Fire Contract Negotiations.**

Amy Deeds, a Union Township resident and a Granville School Board of Education member discussed her concerns regarding the fire contracts negotiations. Ms. Deeds is happy with the service she receives from Granville Twp. Fire and wants the service and its revenue from the Union Township to remain the same. Ms. Deeds is concerned of services being duplicated by adding a substation.

Ms. Deeds is concerned about the lack of public discussion regarding potential changes in the fire contract and adding a substation within the township especially when a need has not been determined and there has been no complaints regarding the fire service. Ms. Deeds asked if a study determining the need of a substation has been done.

Mr. Prince said all contract discussions are held during the trustees meetings and we intend to renew contracts with both departments. Mr. Prince said the Township is paying Granville Fire more than twice the revenue per run than Hebron. Mr. Prince is proposing

to increase Hebron's revenue because of Hebron Fire responds to more runs.

Ms. Deeds asked if the millage was the same for both service areas, which they are, pointing out everyone is paying the same for emergency services. Mr. Prince added Hebron's area has two tax abatements with none in Granville Twp. service area.

Mr. Prince discussed his research on call volumes for each department. Hebron responds to four times as many calls than Granville, with response times in the central and western portions of the township being eight to ten minutes. Mr. Prince believes township residents are not receiving the best service possible.

Ms. Deeds asked if there have been any complaints about service and if a study had been done. Mr. Prince said there have been no complaints and has looked into a study and but feels we can rely Trustee Weekly's fire service experience for guiding the plan. Mr. Prince said he doesn't believe in waiting until there are complaints to address response time.

Mr. Prince said he has researched response times and found responses to be in the eight to ten minute range, giving the example of a fatal fire on Sycamore Road, which was a ten minute response time.

Ms. Deeds feels in five years the area might be different, but is concerned about Mr. Prince's current plans as the township does not own land for a substation as well as the building and operation cost are unknown and have not been researched. Ms. Deeds feels the trustees are ahead of themselves with plans for a substation.

Mr. Prince said he wants to change the contracts to provide a substation and explained his proposal of setting aside \$100,000 off the top of the fire revenue to pay for the station that would house an EMS unit and possibly an engine. Mr. Prince said this could also be a more central location for the street department.

Mr. Prince said prior to becoming a Township Trustee, Granville Twp. Fire was paid \$80,000 per year and for the last five years have received approximately \$250,000 through a contract he was not a part of. Mr. Prince believes the township can provide better service and we have less than five month to reach agreements, noting we have been in discussions with Chief Curtis and Trustee VanNess.

Ms. Deeds recommended notifying the public of the fire contract talks in the Newark Advocate. Mr. Prince feels we are not to that point and may do so in the future.

Mr. Prince said Mr. Slater does not agree with his proposal. Mr. Slater said he wants to make the best agreements we can with our contractors. Mr. Slater stated he was trying to remain open minded.

Mrs. Hall asked if there should be a separate fund to build a substation. Mr. Prince said that money for the new building would come out of the fire fund, noting Millersport is looking into USDA financing for a new station.

Chief Curtis reviewed the numbers provided by Trustee Prince during the last meeting and is concerned about using run data from 2014 and 2015 to determine revenue.

Granville's revenue would be reduced by 30% and not 16% as stated by Mr. Prince earlier. Chief Curtis is concerned that revenue generated in the Granville service area would fund a new substation and/or go to the Village of Hebron.

Mr. Prince believes everyone would benefit from a substation, especially if Granville is tied up on a call. Chief Curtis said run cards are set in place for responses.

Chief Curtis feels there are two major subjects one being a new substation and the other reallocating revenue. By setting aside money for a new substation, revenue is being reduced to both departments serving the townships. The revenue reduction to Granville effects their future financial planning.

Chief Curtis said he has had his response time information prepared for 15 months, but has not able to discuss his data with Trustees Prince and Weekly. Chief Curtis presented average run time in both of their zones from dispatch to arrival on scene:

2015 -7:51 minutes (55 runs); 2016 - 6:59 minutes (73 runs); 2017-5:30 minutes  
Industry standard for roll out time is 80 seconds. Granville's roll out time is an average of 43 seconds regardless of time, weather or building they are in.

Chief Curtis feels Granville Twp. Fire is giving the township the response time Mr. Prince is looking for. Chief Curtis reviewed his cost figures to build and operate a substation, noting the difficulty in finding part-time Fire/Ems.

Mr. Prince requested response data for the remainder of 2017 and 2018 to date. Chief Curtis stated he would not collect this information until Mr. Prince meets with him and reviews the information already collected. Chief Curtis stated he has spent a great deal of time on the data he has collected and has only met with Mr. Slater and Paula.

Mr. Weekly stated as a former Fire Chief he understood the data Chief Curtis has presented and did not feel it necessary to discuss further.

Mr. Prince feels information can be hidden in data and wasn't down playing the reduction in Granville's revenue. Mr. Prince wants to see the full range and will discuss and review with Chief Curtis.

Chief Curtis feels Ms. Deeds has a good point in having a survey done. Granville Twp. Trustees had three studies done before making decisions. Mr. Prince wants fire revenue to go to our contractors and does not believe an outside person is necessary to determine what is best.

Chief Curtis asked what steps are next. Mr. Prince discussed the Village of Hebron's status with the appointment of new council members. Mayor McFarland said the majority of the council wants to create a fire district with Union Township. The council appointed Chief Mason to be the point person on a fire contract and a fire district with the township.

Trustee Prince said they would listen to the fire district proposal. Not all of Union Township has to be in a fire district.

Chief Curtis asked if his trustees if Granville Twp. should present a contract proposal to

the township. Mr. Prince said we are not at that point as we need to talk to Hebron.

Ms. Deeds expressed concerns again of the township entering into a fire district without involving public comment. Mr. Prince at that point public meetings will be held.

Chief Curtis said a fire contract has to be approved by the board. Mr. Slater said a majority vote for the contract passes a contract.

Mrs. Hall asked what benefits the residents would receive with a fire district and who would provide the services. Mr. Slater explained a fire district is entity on its own which provides fire/ems services and services would be provided from the existing departments who are part of the district. All residents in the district would pay the same tax. Mrs. Hall asked why we would need the district if we would be receiving the same service.

Mr. Prince said the Village of Hebron wants a fire district and the village residents will be paying more than 100% for more for emergency services than township residents in 2019 as the village residents will be paying on all of Union Township's fire levies. In a fire district all residents pay the same. If the Township participates in a fire district residents of Union Township would see an increase in their fire/ems taxes while Hebron residents would see a decrease. Both potential increases/decreases are yet to be determined.

If a Fire District was created Hebron Village Fire Department would no longer exist as it is presently. A fire district would be a new entity and which would require its own name. Response would come from the same building. Chief Curtis explained the district could hire the same employees but the employees could then become unionized.

Mr. Prince said he has concerns about a fire district because of the unions. Mr. Prince has been told establishing a union could be addressed in the by-laws.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from July 16, 2018 meeting, were reviewed. Mr. Weekly motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Slater seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Bills**

The Fiscal Officer certified that the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or the process of collection. There were no questions regarding the bills. Mr. Slater moved to approve the bills. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Road and Bridge**

Dead trees – An oak tree in the Jones addition on Rinehart Drive that has died at the bottom making the top heavy and in danger of falling. Skyline Tree Service will provide estimates on this tree and several others Dave has determined needed to be removed.

Canyon Road Culvert – The road has been paved and guardrails are scheduled to be installed on Friday. Ty Yoho, Licking County Engineer's Office, will inspect the area to ensure the guardrails are installed in the proper location.

Loader - The loader tractor is undergoing various repairs in preparation for winter.

**Zoning**

Paula reported the Board of Zoning Appeals upheld the zoning violations filed against Randy Williams. Paula will send a certified letter to Mr. Williams advising of the BZA's findings.

**Old Church Building**

A discussion was held on the condition of the old church building. Paula and Dave viewed the building earlier today, finding mold on the floor, walls and ceiling of the basement and an upstairs load bearing wall leaning. It was suggested the trustees view the building with John Black prior to the next meeting. Paula will also contact St. Alban's Township regarding the cost of determining locations of unmarked graves.

**Trustees**

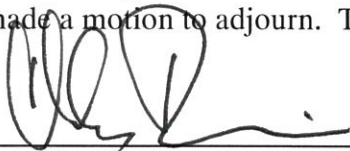
Mr. Prince move to go into executive session to discuss a possible lawsuit against the township.

Mr. Slater moved to leave the regular meeting and enter into executive session at 8:36pm seconded by Mr. Weekly. Roll call was taken. Mr. Slater, Mr. Weekly, and Mr. Prince were present.

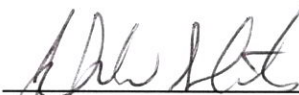
At 8:57 pm, Mr. Slater moved to leave executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, Mr. Prince asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Slater made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

  
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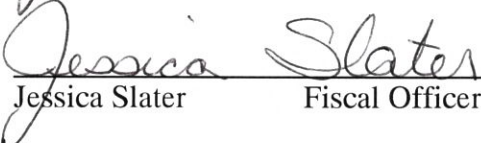
Mr. Charlie Prince

  
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Mr. John Slater

  
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Mr. Randy Weekly

  
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Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer