

**MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
August 20, 2018**

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

Guests

Bill McWilliams, Tom Esh, Guy Manos, Granville Township Trustee Dan VanNess, Sarah Wallace, John Wallace, Bruce Gottfried, Patrick Ford, Jeff Sharps, Brian Crock, Martha Cable, Licking County Commissioner Rick Black, Granville Township Fire Chief Casey Curtis, and Patrick Ford

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on August 20, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Mr. Prince had not reviewed the August 1 meeting minutes and postponed their approval.

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.

Fire/Ems Document - Prince

Mr. Prince distributed his updated the Fire and EMS information. The trustees continued with regular business while guests reviewed the document.

Road and Bridge

Trees Hazards. Eleven trees have been declared dead and a safety issue in various areas within the township. Skyline Tree Services estimated the cost to remove the trees at \$8200. Mr. Slater verified the tree count included the one, possibly two oak trees on Rinehart Drive, which could be a danger if they fall on their own. Dave confirmed the Rinehart trees are a priority and scheduled to be removed as soon as Skyline is available. The remaining trees will be removed in October if not earlier.

MS4 - Dave hosted the August MS4 meeting. There is a new EPA inspector who may inspect our Hebron facility (inside the Village) on November 15, 2018.

Hallie Lane Rail Road Crossing. The township received a letter from the Ohio Public Utilities Commission advising of vegetation obstructing the view. Dave will view the area and determine what the issue is and what actions are needed to remedy the concerns.

Milliken Rail Road Crossing. Mr. Slater asked for updates regarding the Milliken Rail Road Crossing Repairs. None of the parties we have spoken to have been in contact with the township. Mr. Slater asked Paula to follow up with the Rail Road.

Financing Ford F550. The new Ford F550 truck is ready for delivery, however financing has yet to be secured. Mrs. Slater received the following loan rates:

Commadore Bank 7.5%

Park National Bank 4.4% for a three year loan and 4.44% for a four year loan

North Valley Bank did not respond to our request for a quote.

During the discussion, Mrs. Slater advised the board that a one mill road and bridge levy would provide enough revenue for purchases such as this and they would no longer need to obtain financing.

After a brief discussion. Mr. Slater moved to obtain a four year loan with an the interest rate of 4.44% from Park National Bank. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Administration

Licking County River Roundup. Mr. Prince moved to approve a Proclamation declaring September 8, 2018 as Licking River Roundup Day in Union Township. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Slater – Yes; Mr. Weekly – Yes; Mr. Prince – Yes.

Accessory Dwelling Unit. The proposed Accessory Dwelling Units amendment was given to the Trustees.

Former Licking Baptist Church building. Mr. Prince advised the audience the that trustees met with John Black before tonight's meeting and that the trustees and he, walked through the building.

Fire Contract

Mr. Prince prepared an “update report” on his “starting point” proposal on the renewal of the fire/EMS contracts with Granville Township and Village of Hebron fire departments. Mr. Prince said this document was his perspective only. Mr. Weekly and Mr. Slater views are not reflected in Mr. Prince’s report.

Patrick Ford, Old Farm Road is concerned about the impact of Mr. Prince’s contract proposal and did not believe the townships current funding is sufficient to build, maintain and operate a new station and retain current service levels.

Mr. Prince said the exact costs involved are not known but he believes that the Hebron to spend an additional \$600,000 per year for the service adding the \$100,000 is not a one time cost. Mr. Prince said USDA Rural Development issues loans for safety facilities in rural areas a loan at a current interest rate of just over 4 percent with no penalty for prepayment. Fire Department may be able to staff a medic at a satellite station with their current staff. Each station would have a medic unit. Mr. Prince does not believe the township would have

Mr. Prince stated the area is growing and he is not comfortable with continuing the current service. During his residency in the township, the Blacks Road and State Route 37 area has been mentioned for a satellite station, which he believes is an ideal location. Mr. Prince said neither of the township's fire/EMS contractors are centrally located in the township. He also recognizes both departments are asking for a long term agreement allowing them to plan their budgets. Mr. Prince feels a responsibility to plan for fire/ems services and if we do not plan the public will want to know why. Mr. Prince acknowledges Mr. Weekly's long career in the fire service and we can rely on his knowledge for future planning.

Brian Crock asked Mr. Weekly and Mr. Slater their thoughts.

Mr. Weekly stated he has heard for years the people in the central part of the township want a centrally located fire station which would be the Blacks Road and State Route 37 area.

Mr. Slater said he does not agree with Mr. Prince's plan. Mr. Slater feels there needs to be funding for readiness and is comfortable with the current contract and wishes to continue both contracts as they stand now.

Mr. Crock asked if there had been complaints regarding response time. There has been none. Mr. Crock shared concerns of making decisions in the next five months regarding significant changes in the contracts, including the needs of the area and how to fund them or allow the status quo to continue while making those determinations.

Mr. Prince explained he felt the status quo service began with the current contract adding he feels the current contracts does not take into consideration that the Hebron service area generates considerably more calls for service than the Granville service area. Mr. Prince said he is unsure of what Granville should be paid for their services.

Mr. Slater said the increased funding paid to Granville for their services in the current contract was based on the value of the property and the taxes that are paid.

Mr. Crock asked if the trustees discussed purchasing a the new dump truck for longer than five months. The trustees said it was about five months of discussion.

Tom Esh said he feels more research needs to be done before building a satellite station. Mr. Esh asked if Hebron could move their station further west and was there any thought of moving the station before the remodeling of the station at it's current location.

Mr. Weekly said Hebron's current location provides quick access to I-70 and the Newark Industrial Park. Hebron's Fire facility was remodeled a few years ago. Mr. Esh asked if there had been any thought of moving the fire station further west before remodeling began. Mr. Weekly said there had not and was the Hebron Fire Chief at that time.

Mr. Prince said his proposal is based on what he believes is best for the township and residents should have similar response times. Mr. Esh stated he does not see how it can be done with out raising taxes.

John Wallace, Old Farm Road, said using dollars per run is one way to measure but not a fair way. Mr. Wallace feels Hebron Fire is doing a good job, but because a department has more runs doesn't mean they are occurring more expenses other than gas. Mr. Wallace said he and his neighbors want their tax dollars to benefit their service area.

Mr. Prince explained his proposal includes a readiness payment but is not basing all payment on readiness. Mr. Wallace asked how Mr. Prince determined the 40% readiness pay. Mr. Prince said he thought it looked fair. Mr. Wallace asked if he talked to the fire departments about readiness pay. Mr. Prince said he thought Granville wants as much money as they can get from the township and Hebron wants the same.

Chief Curtis said Granville is asking for 100% of the revenue generated in by his service area and nothing more.

Mr. Prince said Hebron service area is bearing 100 percent of the effects industrial tax abatement and it has far more agricultural production which is partially tax abated through the CAUV program. Hebron conducts more businesses inspections and has a much higher run volume.

Mr. Prince said he lives in the northern part of the township with a strong sense of responsibility that the residents in the central and western areas receive service similar to those that live closest to the current fire stations.

Jeff Sharps verified that each department is currently collecting the revenue generated from their service area. Mr. Prince agreed but added there is a county collection fee which is deducted and that the delinquency rate (unpaid taxes) is higher in the Hebron service area.

Mr. Sharps asked Mr. Prince to explain "Number 3" in his report. Mr. Prince said there is no "link" between the level of service each contractor provides and the amount of compensation from the township. Mr. Prince asked if Mr. Sharps was a Fire Chief, which he stated he is.

Mr. Sharps said most taxation goes back to the area where the taxes were generated. Mr. Prince disagreed.

Mr. Sharps questioned Mr. Prince's belief on how government allocates funds on the need for service. Mr. Prince's updated document⁵ says Licking County MRDD revenue is not returned to the area it is generated but is allocated to those who need the funds regardless of the area they live.

Mr. Sharps feels this is not a good example as the MRDD program is a County wide program for all Licking County residents.

Mr. Prince said we are all Union Township residents, therefore we would all benefit from his plan. Mr. Sharps asked how he would benefit from Mr. Prince's plan, if his tax revenue were going to a department outside of his service area.

Mr. Prince said he (Mr. Sharps) was part of Union Township and we would be distributing the revenue the same as MRDD – where the service is needed. Mr. Sharps confirmed Mr. Prince’s statement that Hebron would take workforce and an apparatus from a densely populated area to a rural area. Mr. Prince said workforce and equipment placement would be part of the discussion.

Mr. Sharps said other Fire Chief’s would base the need of a Fire Station on the population and not the geographic area, because it takes people to make runs.

Mr. Prince agreed and said the the population is growing in the center of the township and the current subdivisions are almost built out.

Mr. Sharps asked Mr. Prince if he was on a Fire Department or had a background in the fire service, to which Mr. Prince stated he did not, but was using common sense.

Guy Manos, asked that when the subdivisions were built out if additional funds would be provided for the fire departments. Newly built houses would increase fire/ems revenue through taxes.

Guy Manos, asked Mr. Prince if at the last meeting he said, “Why we would pay for a study when we can look at the information ourselves”. Mr. Prince said he might have said something like that. Mr. Manos asked about the reference to Cincinnati. Mr. Prince said a fire consultant from Cincinnati prepared a study for the township several years ago. Mr. Manos asked if we were required to use this consultant for a new study. Mr. Prince said we are not, but we do not need to pay an outsider for the obvious.

Mr. Manos asked if Mr. Prince lived in the area that would be serviced by the proposed satellite station, Mr. Prince said he lives on Hayes Road and that said everyone in the room would benefit from the satellite station. Mr. Manos verified Mr. Weekly’s former career was with the Hebron Fire Department. Mr. Manos said elected officials must give the appearance of gathering unbiased information and make unbiased decisions from the information collected and felt without an opinion from a third party, Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly may have to recuse themselves or be prepared to deal with ethics issues.

Mr. Prince said he lives in the seven-minute response area. Mr. Manos agreed to say he considered the current response times, and felt Mr. Prince would have a nine-minute response time from Hebron. Mr. Manos said he believes Mr. Prince is over reaching with his information and needs to review the service areas. Mr. Manos feels the township residents may be better served by shifting the boundary lines especially when Granville’s new station is completed.

Mr. Prince stated Granville Twp. Fire serves McKeon Township, north of Granville. Mr. Manos said he moved into the area knowingly and accepted that he could have a fifteen-minute response time to his rural area residence. Mr. Manos said the people living in the rural area move to the area knowing they would not receive the same service as they would if they lived in the urban area.

Mr. Manos said Mr. Prince was trying to re-allocate tax dollars. Mr. Prince disagreed saying he is trying to improve services for the entire township. Mr. Manos said Mr.

Chief Mason said he does not have the authority to negotiate and does not feel comfortable advertising the special meeting as such.

Cindy Wilkins, the resident of Old Farm Road, asked when her road was scheduled for maintenance. Dave said Old Farm Road is slated for some resurfacing in 2019.

A member of the audience questioned the cost involved of a station and felt there needed to be more planning.

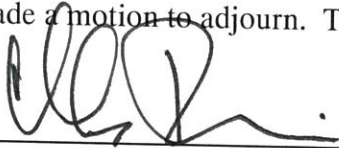
Other Business – reminders

Stop the Bleed - Chief Mason explained Stop the Bleed program provided by Ohio Health which teaches how to stop major bleeding before first responders arrive. There will be no cost to the 20-25 participants needed to hold the class. A date for the training will be determined.

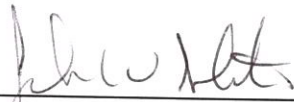
A reminder CERT training will begin September 12, 2018.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 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 8:49 p.m.



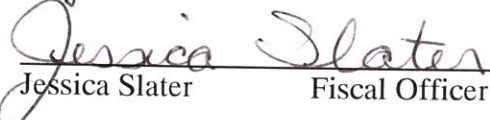
Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. John Slater



Mr. Randy Weekly



Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer