

**MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
July 16, 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, Granville Township Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Granville Township Trustee Dan VanNess, John Black, Summer Black, Realtor John Ables and Peggy Wells.

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on July 16, 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.

Guests

John Black requested the trustees split the old church building from the cemetery so he could purchase and restore the building. Mr. Black gave the trustees a letter of his intentions of purchasing and restoring the building.

Mr. Black requested the keys to the building so he could do an inspection. The Trustees, felt the prosecutor, needs to review Mr. Black's proposal before moving any further. Mr. Black and Mr. Ables offered to create a release of liability to allow them entry into the building. The Trustees declined the offer.

Mr. Black states he needs to own the building to apply for grants.

Mr. Slater expressed concerns about the building's use, if they purchased the building. Mr. Ables was concerned about the limitations the trustees would place on the use of the building if sold.

The trustees expressed concerns of separating the property from the cemetery as there is burial plots a foot or two from the church's foundation. There are also concerns about unmarked burial plots.

Minutes

The minutes from July 2, 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 holding the U.S. Bank Institutional Custody Services check until we are satisfied the invoice was correct. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Road and Bridge

Chip Seal - Dave Cable reported the Shelly Company has completed our chip sealing and all went well. Mr. Slater received two calls praising the work. Dave received a complaint before the project started from a subject whose dog does not like to walk on the chip seal.

Canyon Road Culvert Project - Dave said one of the head walls arrived. Work will begin when the second headwall reaches the project.

Dead Ash Trees - Mr. Prince suggested marking dead trees township wide now to make identification easier after leaves drop. Mr. Cable said he would be able to identify dead ash trees anytime. Mr. Cable has met with Skyline Tree Removal regarding the removal of four dead trees.

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.

Trustees

Ohio Public Works Commission Grants-

Mr. Prince asked if the resolutions were ready to accompany the grant application and the engineer's request for the proposed two projects. Paula said we have been applying for assistance without a resolution and received the help.

The OPWC resolution will be ready once we have the engineers report.

Mr. Prince asked Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly to sign the request before leaving the meeting.

Fire Contract Information

Mr. Prince distributed his fire contract proposal based on the updated information received from Brad Cotrell, Licking County Auditor's Office. Mr. Prince said he did not want to go into an in-depth discussion this evening.

Mr. Prince explained his proposal included the county's one and a half percent collection fee and an estimate of unpaid taxes at a rate of two percent for the Granville service area and four percent for the Hebron service area. Mr. Prince estimates 1.1 million in revenue remains. Of this remaining revenue \$100,000 per year, would be set aside for a satellite fire station in the middle of the township.

Readiness funds of approximately 40% of the remaining receipts would be allocated to each department. Mr. Prince estimates the remaining revenue of roughly \$574,000 per year would go into the run pool and would be dispersed at \$1300 per run.

Based on the four-year average of runs in each contract area, Granville Township Fire Department's revenue in 2019 would decrease by about 16 percent, while the Hebron Fire Department's revenue would increase by about 32 percent.

Chief Curtis will review the new numbers. Mr. VanNess expressed concerns over the proposal adding he feels it is unfair to the residents of the Granville Township who pay 4.8 mills to provide the same service to Union Township service area for less. The Granville Township Trustees are planning to add an operation levy within the next two years and feels this proposal would have an adverse effect in passing the additional operations levy.

Mr. Prince said the low number of runs in the Granville service area affected his proposed revenue from the township. Chief Curtis said the tax payers do not pay their taxes per run. This proposal means the Granville service area will see some of their taxes for the emergency services they generate directed to the Hebron service area.

Mr. Prince calculated that currently Granville receives approximately \$3500 per run where Hebron collects about \$1660 per run. Chief Curtis feels if the taxpayers were upset over the difference they would complain. Mr. Prince said Hebron is complaining and he doesn't believe the taxpayers know there is such a difference in revenue per run.

Mr. Prince asked everyone to review the proposal and feels negotiating in open meetings makes the process difficult.

Chief Curtis asked if Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly are working on a proposal. Mr. Weekly feels this proposal is a good start and we need to reserve funds for a satellite station.

Chief Curtis questioned reserving funds for a satellite station, as currently there are no plans for location or staffing. Mr. Weekly stated to Chief Curtis that Granville Township has already said they will not staff the satellite station and feels Hebron will staff a satellite station. Chief Curtis repeated there was not a plan. Mr. Weekly believes this a starting point to a satellite station and a satellite station would be established in a few years. Mr. Prince will get input on the proposal from the trustees and Hebron officials.

Mr. Prince said Hebron expressed interest in staffing a satellite station, which he reflected in the increased revenue to Hebron. Mr. Prince said Hebron would not receive the increase if there is no movement on a satellite station. Chief Curtis continued to express his concerns about the lack of plans for a satellite station and the proposed 31% revenue increase to Hebron.

Mr. Prince said there would be a plan for the satellite station adding the goal is to improve response time to the central part of the township. Mr. Prince acknowledges Granville Township wishes to have a long contract and steady revenue.

Chief Curtis said that he wants a larger portion of the revenue generated in their service area.

Mr. Prince feels this is a difference of opinion. Mr. Prince said taxes generated for Children Services, MRDD and Aging are dispersed where the need lies and not where the revenue is collected.

Mr. VanNess said those levies are for County Offices and voted on by the entire county. Mr. Prince acknowledges this, but still believes revenue should be distributed by need not from the area generated.

Chief Curtis believes the residents vote for Fire/EMS taxes as they think their money will be going to the department, which services them. Once Granville service area residents learn 30% of their tax money is not funding the department assigned to them, they will stop supporting fire levies.

Mr. Prince said the status quo is not acceptable. Mr. Slater asks why it wasn't. Mr. Prince said the concern is the eight to ten minute response time to the central and western parts of the township, which is not satisfactory.

Mr. Prince said you can have the best equipment and personnel, but if it takes eight to 10 minutes to provide aid you don't have good service. That's not acceptable given that township residents are paying more than \$1 million a year for EMS/Fire services.

Mr. Slater asked if the money is being held back for a satellite station why can't the service areas receive the revenue they generate.

Mr. Prince said a \$100,000 per year might cover the cost of a building-but additional funding would be needed to staff and operate a satellite station.

Mr. Slater asked if Mr. Prince's plan will build and operate a satellite station. Mr. Prince believes it will.

Mr. VanNess asked if they have received complaints on response time. Mr. Prince said we had discussed this before and we have not. Mr. Slater said we are trying to be proactive.

Mr. Prince discussed a fire with a fatality on Sycamore Road where response time was approximately ten minutes, although it was unknown if the response was quicker whether or not the person would have survived. Mr. Prince believes residents should expect more of their Fire/EMS service as the revenue exceeds one million dollars.

Mr. Slater feels the trustees should have discussed the township financially supporting the staffing and operation of the satellite station earlier. He continued stating he was not aware of any talk before this evening of Mr. Prince's intentions of financially supporting staff and operation of the satellite station. Mr. Slater is not in favor of increasing revenue to a fire department, based on run numbers.

Mr. Prince feels as Hebron Fire responds to far more runs in the township than Granville Twp. Fire, Hebron Fire needs more money, regardless of where the revenue is generated.

Mr. Prince feels we need to improve run time and believes his plan will reduce response times.

Mr. Weekly said funding for the fire departments is not being taken away.

Chief Curtis feels the money would be taken away from the departments. Mr. Weekly said the plan is to set the money aside for a satellite station.

Chief Curtis said Hebron would not be able to afford the staff required to operate a satellite station and moving current personnel to satellite station would decrease personnel needed in the Village of Hebron.

Mr. Weekly said this subject needs to be discussed with Hebron. Mr. Weekly said he felt we are not using funds from the northern end of the township elsewhere other than to set-aside money for a satellite station.

Moving toward that has more runs which is in the Hebron area and not north.

Mr. Slater said he is not in favor of increasing Hebron's revenue based on run volume and is committed to the readiness of the fire departments. Mr. Prince said he agreed.

Mr. Prince's said his argument is based on service and feels there should be no argument as this is the same goal as Mr. Slater.

Mr. Slater said Mr. Prince presents his wants in one argument and then changes to the wanting payment to the fire departments to be based on cost per run. Mr. Slater said again he does not agree with payment per run.

Chief Curtis asked if Mr. Prince's figures include EMS billing revenue, which Chief Curtis feels this revenue is needed to be included. Chief Curtis said there is no legislation to end this resource at this time. Mr. Prince said the EMS revenue was not incorporated in his figures and believes that EMS billing revenue is not a long-term stable source of revenue as the Medicaid and Medicare programs are failing.

Mr. Prince said additional funds are needed, adding he feels the township is paying too much to Granville.

Mr. VanNess said the relocation of the fire station along with the widening bridge and control of traffic lights would improve their response time.

Mr. Prince understood and felt that would happen in the next five years.

Mr. VanNess stated the new station would be up and running within two years.

Chief Curtis asked if Mr. Prince has contacted him to review the information Chief Curtis supplied the board several months ago. Mr. Prince said he had not but he had gone over the information.

Chief Curtis said mapping information shows they should be responding to some of the areas assigned to Hebron as their department is closer as well as Hebron maybe closer to some of their response area. He recommended revisiting the assigned response areas could decrease response time.

Chief Curtis explained his neighborhood where he lives is difficult for fire and ems to respond quickly and he knew there would not be a six minute response time to his residence when he built his home.

Chief Curtis said there are unknowns such as staffing hours and days with Fire/EMS and

equipment needs for a station in the Blacks Road area, where as he knows what response time his department has and those times will be improving.

Mr. Prince is concerned the northern portion of Union Township could be left without coverage when Granville responds to a run into McKeon Township.

Chief Curtis said Granville staffs two EMS crews around the clock. Today Granville had four trucks on two different runs at the same time today. Chief Curtis agrees Granville is dispatched on calls to the west just as Hebron responds to calls south and east. Chief Curtis said the response to the Union Township area is a concern when they are on a northern area call, but he has run cards in place which will send the closest most appropriate unit to a call and no one has to make a decision.

Another concern Mr. Prince has is the West Licking Fire District's Kirkersville station has moved further west. Mr. Prince said we have two fire contractors, one that is in the far south east corner of the township and the other is north of the township and believes we can do better.

Chief Curtis said their average response time into Union Township is seven minutes. Mr. Prince said Hebron's response time center of the townships is eight to ten minutes.

Mr. VanNess suggested revisiting the assigned response areas as Chief Curtis discussed earlier. Mutual aid numbers need to be reviewed as Granville provided mutual aid into the Hebron area of the township more than Hebron has assisted them.

Mr. Prince felt those responses could be a result of the run cards. Chief Curtis offered to show Mr. Prince the run cards.

Mr. Princes said the trustees have an open mind, but nothing will be resolved this evening. Mr. Prince will get with Chief Curtis.

Mr. Williams proposed an option to the situation.

Mr. Prince said all the trustees agree we do not want to be in the fire business and a satellite station means one of the two contractors will be involved and Granville has stated they are not interested.

Chief Curtis said when staffing the satellite station was first discussed there was no talk of increasing revenue to cover the cost. Chief Curtis noted if Granville's income was increased by 30% as proposed to Hebron they wanted to be part of the discussion.

Mr. Prince said a portion of Hebron's increase is due to the additional levies that Hebron village residents will be paying on of about \$100,000, which Hebron would receive per the current allocation.

Mr. Slater the money generated per the current contract is returned to Hebron, but proposing we not continue. Union Township does not retain any Fire/EMS money.

Mr. Slater said the money revenue generated within the incorporated area would be discussed with Hebron during negotiations.

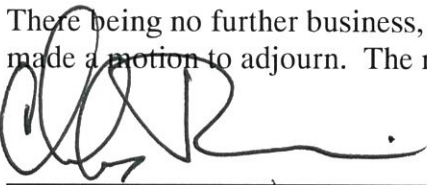
Mr. Prince wants to discuss with Hebron is what service we are going to receive at what cost. Mr. Prince said Mayor McFarland mentioned the township to taking over the Fire Department.

The August 6, 2018 trustees meeting will be canceled. The next meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 pm.

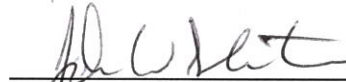
Mr. Weekly made a motion to cancel the August 6, 2018 meeting and rescheduled it to Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Prince asked if anyone is interested in the life insurance policy being offered. Paula recommends setting up a meeting during the day. Paula will contact the insurance company.

There being no further business, Mr. Prince asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Slater made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



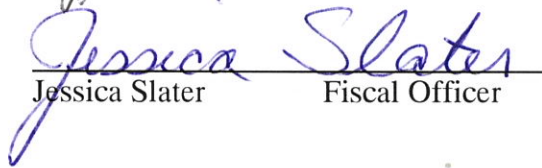
Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. John Slater



Mr. Randy Weekly



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer