

**Union Township Trustees
Special Meeting
May 31, 2022**

The Union Township Trustees met in a special session at 7:00 pm on May 31, 2022. Township Administrator Paula Greene's roll call showed the following trustees present: John Slater, Roger Start, and Jeff Sharps. Trustee Slater led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests: Granville Twp. Fire Chief Casey Curtis, West Licking Fire District Chief Todd Magers, Assistant Chief Joe Krouse, Michael Bishop, and Chris Clancy.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss Fire and EMS service options. Chief Curtis and Chief Magers presented the Trustees with the services they could provide the Township. Mr. Sharps has met with both Chiefs and discussed the possibility of contracting with the Township.

Chief Curtis said they were happy to be providing service north of the tracks again and feel the public is also. Granville Township will collect six mills for Fire and EMS services in 2023 and would ask for a similar millage from Union Township.

Mr. Slater asked about response time, as Granville Twp. services Granville Village and McKeen Township. Chief Curtis said that timely service would be provided with current technology (CAD) if their department is running with automatic aid. Granville Twp. has a good working relationship with all departments.

Mr. Start asked what areas of the Township they could service. Chief Curtis said Blacks Road is halfway between their station and Hebron's but would service whatever area the Trustees wanted. Mr. Start asked if a formal service proposal had been prepared. Chief Curtis said one would be presented when asked.

A discussion was held on dissolving the Refugee Canyon Fire District. This week, Mr. Sharps will meet with our Prosecutor, Mayor Layton, and Attorney Untied to discuss the situation. Information from the Licking County Auditor's Office regarding funding will also be needed. Granville Twp. will continue to be paid monthly for servicing the north end of the Township, although a new contract will be needed between Union and Granville Township.

Chief Magers gave an overview of West Licking Fire District's services and AVL dispatching, that aids in reducing run times. Chief Magers explained that with the AVL dispatching systems, the units closest to the location of the call would be dispatched first.

Mr. Slater asked if a Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) would be assigned to the Township and, if so, how the business would be approached with concerns. Chief Magers said WLFD has four FPOs and would hire a fifth. Any business with a life threat would be dealt with quickly with a plan to resolve the situation, and those with minor violations would be given time to correct the problem. Mr. Slater said the Township had had an intermitted Inspector, negatively impacting the business owners. Mr. Slater asked about open burning. Chief Magers said if notification has been made to them and a report of fire comes in, their policy is to send one truck to ensure the fire has not gotten out of control. Chief Magers said they are familiar with agricultural burning.

Mr. Start asked about the cost of contracting with WLFD. Chief Magers said he believed the cost would be one million, with or without the Village of Hebron joining the District. Should Hebron not join, additional personnel will be added to their existing Stations. WLFD will contract with the Township even if Hebron does not join. WLFD firefighter pay is approximately \$20,000 (or more) higher than Refugee Canyon. Chief Magers said their five-year plan includes adding a station at Beaver Run and Outville Road. WLFD board is aware that Chief Magers has been in contract discussions with the Township. Mr. Start asked for a budget for contracting with the Township only and a budget including Hebron joining the District and contracting with the Township. Chief Magers said he would provide them.

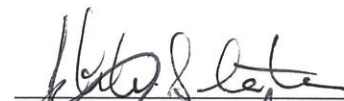
Assistant Chief Krouse determined through dispatch data that between August 1 and May 1, the Southern portion of the Township responded to an estimated 493 runs and 102 to the northern portion, averaging 1.35 runs (south) and .28 runs north) a day. In addition, Heath Fire Chief McCord said they would respond to the State Route 79 area, and the Industrial Park by automatic aid should Hebron not join the District. Chief Magers said they would find a solution.

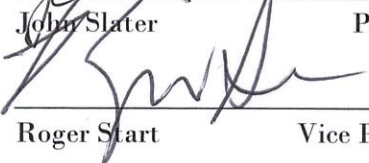
At the last Hebron Village Council meeting, the Council moved for the Solicitor to prepare a Resolution to join the WLFD and begin the three readings.

A discussion was held on passing a seven or eight mill levy and how to inform and educate the community.


The board thanked both Chiefs for presenting their plans.

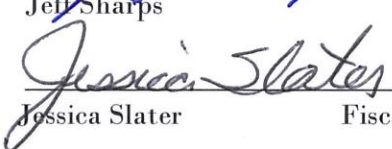
There being no further business, Mr. Start moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm, and Mr. Sharps seconded.



John Slater President


Roger Start Vice President



Jeff Sharps Trustee


Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer