

**UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
November 9, 2020**

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session via zoom on November 9, 2020, at 7:00 pm with Trustee Charlie Prince opening with the pledge of allegiance. Roll call by Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater showed Trustees Charlie Prince, John Slater, and Randy Weekly present. Township Administrator Paula Greene and Road Supervisor Dave Cable were present. Guests via Zoom: Rick Black, Martha Cable, Traci McMillen, Bill McWilliams, Patty Costello, Dean Gibson, Jennifer Kurkowski, Casey Curtis, Leslie Herro, Russ Ginise, Mike Bishop, and other unidentified zoom callers.

Minutes

Mr. Slater moved to approve the October 5, October 19, and November 2 (Special) minutes. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Bills

The clerk certified the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or is in the process of collection. A reimbursement check in the amount of \$66.00 to Mr. Prince for an additional bollard at the apparatus building was included. Mr. Weekly motioned to pay the bills. Mr. Slater seconded. Motion carried.

Road & Bridge

Activities – Durapatcher cleaned and placed in winter storage; berm work has been completed; trucks and plows are being prepared for snow; the salt loader is ready for the winter.

Fire & EMS

Apparatus building update – Floors have been poured; aprons and the bollards have been installed; gravel work – backfill and completion of the driveway to allow pull through entering/exiting the building are yet to be completed.

Mr. Prince said he had emailed information to Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly regarding the plumbing (water & natural gas lines-for heating units) and electrical needs for the apparatus building. Plumbing companies contacted: WW Plumbing, Glassmeir, Guthridge Plumbing, and Trail Plumbing (Phase 1 sub-contractor).

Plumbing estimates received: Guttridge - plumber \$92 per hour /\$52 helper per hour, \$144 per day travel fee, 30 % material mark up. Trail Plumbing – plumber \$53 per hour, \$ 159 per day travel fee (from Millersburg, OH), and a 20 % material mark up.

Mr. Prince recommended hiring Trail Plumbing. The Township had a good experience with Trail Plumbing on the previous project. Work is to be completed by November 30.

Motion ~ Mr. Weekly motioned to accept Trail Plumbing's time & material bid for plumbing services. Mr. Slater seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Natural gas-powered heaters - Mr. Prince asked for authorization to purchase two - 100,000 BTU unit heaters for the apparatus building not to exceed a total cost of \$2,000. Two units are available online for \$999 each with no tax or shipping fees. Mr. Prince said Trail Plumbing could supply the units but must determine if the cost includes a 20 % mark up. The heating units are not portable and will be mounted from the ceiling.

Motion ~Mr. Weekly motioned to authorize Mr. Prince to purchase two natural gas-powered heaters (100,000 BTU) for the apparatus building. Mr. Slater seconded. Motion carried.

Electrical - Mr. Prince said he submitted written bid requests to KMA, Holland Brothers, Weekly Electric, GJS, and Legend Electric to extend electricity to the apparatus building for lighting, exhaust fans, overhead doors, outlets and the unit heaters.

Time & Material bids were received from Holland Brothers at \$66 per person/hour; \$70 per day travel fee and 20 % material mark-up; and GJS estimate \$50 per hour, \$75 a day travel fee, and no material mark up. Mr. Prince recommends hiring GJS as the lowest bid and good Phase 1 experience.

Motion ~ Mr. Slater motioned to contract GJS to provide electrical services to the apparatus building. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Charles Binkley asked if the expenses are part of the originally planned expenditures for the building. Mr. Prince said they were.

Tracy McMillen asked what the total cost of the plumbing and electrical projects. Mr. Prince said he did not know and, fixed cost bids were not sought due to impending cold weather and lack of contractor interest. Mrs. McMillen asked for the estimated final cost again. Mr. Prince estimated the electrical cost to be approximately \$10,000 and plumbing to be roughly \$5,000.00. Paula asked Mr. Prince for copies of his estimates.

Map Amendment – Scott Boyers hearing set for 6:45 pm on November 23.

Cares Act Funding (CAF) Pick-up Truck - Mr. Weekly discussed the truck estimates with Dave. Mathews Ford 2021 F150 4-wheel drive \$27,015 and 2021 Dodge 4-wheel drive \$26,995; Coughlin Ford 2020 F150 4-wheel drive \$33,490.

Motion ~ Mr. Slater motioned to purchase the 2021 F150 4-wheel drive for \$27,015 from Matthew Ford, with Cares Act Funding. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Fire District Resolution - Mr. Weekly approved of Mr. Prince's resolution as presented at the last Trustee meeting and recommended sending the draft to the Licking County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Mr. Slater discussed the apparatus garage doors purchased by the Fire District. He felt the doors are a part of the building and should be a township expense, mainly if the Fire District dissolves. Mr. Prince said the Fire District wanted four garage doors (\$12,000) to drive equipment through the building. Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly agreed the garage door purchase could be a township expense.

Mr. Slater discussed the failure of the Fire District's 8.5 mill levy. Mr. Slater felt the levy results are a clear indicator of the residents not wanting a Fire District, and we (trustees) need to consider the next step seriously. Mr. Slater said he is concerned about losing the current funding and cautioned of waiting until "2021 and 2022 to see what happens".

Mr. Prince said the Fire District could operate through 2021 and did not want to lose revenue. Mr. Prince felt the District did not adequately convey their message to voters.

Mr. Prince said he would add that the township should reimburse the District to purchase and install the doors to the draft resolution and send it to the Prosecutor.

Ms. Herro thanked the trustees for allowing the residents to speak. Ms. Herro reviewed the election results: 83% of the unincorporated area of Union Township voted against the levy; 45% in the Village Hebron who taxes would be lowered voted no. Ms. Herro said she believed the District's campaign was clear but felt a need for an alternate plan. Ms. Herro asked if other options are being considered and would Mr. Prince walk away from the Fire District now and allow Union Township to operate the Fire Station. Ms. Herro stressed the need for alternate plans for Fire/EMS services.

Mr. Prince thanked Ms. Herro for her comments, and that alternate plans were premature at this time. As always, Mr. Prince said his objective was to efficiently reduce response times and still believes the District is the answer.

Ms. Herro said the residents disagreed and want him to think about the residents. Mr. Justice said a Trustee's job is to represent their constituents, regardless if you have a different opinion.

Mr. Prince said he would not make any decisions tonight and asked for a motion on the draft resolution allocating responsibility for expenditures.

Motion ~ Mr. Weekly moved to send the draft resolution (with changes suggested by Mr. Slater) to the Prosecutor's Office for review. Mr. Prince seconded.

At the last meeting, Casey Curtis said Mr. Prince said ownership of 6265 was to be transferred to the Fire District at the end of 2020. Mr. Prince said the previously approved joint resolution states that the property is to be transferred. Under state law, if the District fails, the property returns to the original owners.

Mr. Curtis said the building should not be transferred as it is clear the public does not want a district, and he would be giving away taxpayer assets. Ms. Herro said the longer this goes on, the more difficult it will be to unravel, adding the voters do not want the District, and they will work hard to make sure any future fire district levies fail. Mr. Prince said per the Ohio Revised Code, the County Auditor oversees the division of assets if the District fails after the first three years.

Roll call - Mr. Slater – no; Mr. Weekly – yes; Mr. Prince-yes. The draft resolution will be sent to the Prosecutor for review.

Trustees had no further comments.

Ms. McMillen said it is evident that Mr. Weekly and Mr. Prince want the District, and Mr. Slater does not. Ms. McMillen said she feels Mr. Weekly and Mr. Prince continue to ignore the residents who do not support the District.

Mr. Prince said per their public participation policy; they are not obligated to answer.

Ms. McMillen said they would continue to fight against the levy and have people on the November ballot who will listen to the township and do what is right for them.

Russ Ginese stated the public has the right to ask questions and did not want a Fire District. Mr. Ginese asked Mr. Prince how long he intended to let this (fire district) go on. Mr. Prince said over 1,000 people supported the levy.

Ms. Herro asked Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly about their plans for the Fire District moving forward.

When he was Fire Chief, Mr. Weekly said his goal was to have a station in the northern portion of the township because of the increased growth and State Route 37 traffic; he wants the people protected. According to Mr. Weekly, the volume of runs continue to increase, and creating a Fire District was the mechanism to address the needs.

Ms. Herro said that we did not need a Fire District to run a satellite station. Mr. Weekly said the township and the village had worked together and want to continue this support.

Mr. Justice said Granville Township had always worked with Union Township, and when someone entered the equation, the problems began. Mr. Justice said the three of them needed to step away and move on so we can go on with our lives.

Casey Curtis asked Mr. Weekly to confirm his position that the fire district satellite station was put in the northern central portion of the township to reduce run times and support those residents. Mr. Weekly agreed.

Mr. Curtis said the residents in that area voted against the levy at a higher rate than other township areas. Mr. Curtis said to Mr. Weekly that just because he and Mr. Prince want the Fire District does not mean the people do, adding everyone was happy with the original service. Mr. Curtis said the residents are sending a clear message they do not want the help that is being forced on them with Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly's political agenda and power. Mr. Curtis said to Mr. Weekly that even as Hebron Fire Chief for 20

years, the people do not want a fire district.

Ms. Herro asked Mr. Weekly to answer Mr. Ginese's question of how long he would continue to fight for the Fire District. Mr. Weekly said he realized the levy's failure was a severe defeat, but at this time, he does not have an answer. The Fire District Board needs to investigate the issues. Mr. Weekly said he still wants to protect that end of the township.

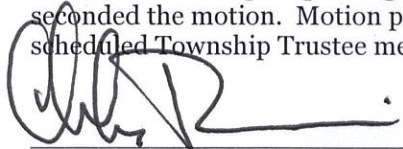
Speaking for himself, Mr. Prince said he would not jeopardize fire/ems service to their residents. At the last meeting, Chief Curtis acknowledged that response times had been reduced, which was their primary objective. Mr. Prince said he is not going to quit now. Ms. Herro said a Fire District has nothing to do with service coming from the satellite station.

Mike Bishop said fire/ems service had been discussed for several years, and the residents said they would not pass a levy, and they had asked district funding to be brought to the voters before forming the District. Mr. Bishop noted the existing levies are coming to an end. Mr. Prince said he was not going to jeopardize Fire and EMS services. Mr. Bishop said a Fire District is not an efficient way to provide emergency services and was told by their expert that a District would cost the residents more money. Mr. Bishop said that once people vote against fire levies, it will be difficult to renew the current levies. Mr. Bishop said he agreed with former Trustee Justice that the emergency services had been working. Mr. Bishop asked that Mr. Prince take a step back and find a way to provide better service and not ramrod one path that he feels best. Mr. Bishop recommends that a committee be formed to determine the best way to move forward. Mr. Bishop said the people have voted and told you (Mr. Prince) they do not like the chosen path. Rick Black said he fears the Township's next fire levy renewal had been put in jeopardy.

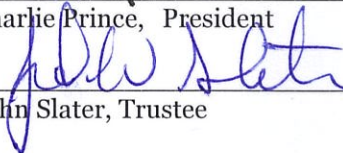
Mr. Prince said the Fire District Board has not met since the election.

Mr. Slater moved to adjourn the meeting.

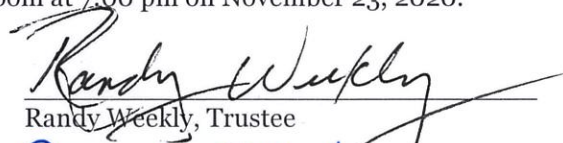
Several visitors began speaking at once. There was a motion on the floor to adjourn. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next regularly scheduled Township Trustee meeting will be held via zoom at 7:00 pm on November 23, 2020.




Charlie Prince, President



John Slater, Trustee



Randy Weekly, Trustee



Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer