

**UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2020**

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session via zoom on December 7, 2020, at 7:00 pm with Trustee Charlie Prince opening with the pledge of allegiance. Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater's roll call showed Trustees Charlie Prince, John Slater, and Randy Weekly present. Township Administrator Paula Greene and Road Supervisor Dave Cable were present. Guests via Zoom: Martha Cable, Patty Costello, Leslie Herro, Amber Wood, Jack Justice, and other unidentified zoom callers.

Minutes

Mr. Prince had not reviewed the previous minutes.

Bills

The clerk certified the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or is in the process of collection. Mr. Weekly moved to pay the bills. Mr. Slater seconded.

Mrs. Slater advised Trustees Prince and Weekly that the Township was still receiving utility bills for 6265 in the Township's name and asked again for these utilities to be placed in the Fire Districts' name. Mrs. Slater did not pay these bills. Mr. Prince asked the bills in question be given to him.

Road & Bridge

Approximately 40 tons of salt was used during the first snow event, with around 700 tons remaining. A thermostat was replaced in one of the dump trucks. Mr. Slater will speak with Brent McDonald regarding the tractor repairs. Mr. Slater said we should plan to replace the tractor in the future.

6265

Mr. Prince thanked Dave Cable and Denny Vest for preparing the trenches for the water and gas lines.

The gas heaters were purchased from the plumbing contracts below the approved expense limit of \$2,000.

The water, gas line, and heaters have been installed. A larger gas meter will be installed. The building should be complete soon.

Draft Resolution – Mr. Prince said the Licking County Prosecutor's Office had issues with the Resolution as well as the Refugee Canyon Fire Board.

Mr. Prince asked for a motion to rescind the Resolution. Mr. Slater said he did not believe a motion to cancel was necessary, and the Resolution was only sent to the

Prosecutor for review.

After a brief discussion, it was determined that no action had been taken on the draft resolution; therefore, the draft resolution issue is closed. There was no resolution number assigned to the draft.

CARES ACT Purchases

The floors have been installed, but the trim work still needs to be completed. The plumbing fixtures will be installed next week. Next week work will begin to replace the remaining furnaces, and the stain color for the desk has been chosen.

Wonderlights Show

The Township has received several complaints regarding the Christmas light show traffic at National Trail Raceway. Mr. Slater spoke with National Trail Raceway owner, Jay Livingston, to have lighting and a traffic sign installed at the Refugee Road exit.

A meeting was held with ODOT, Ohio Highway Patrol, Licking County Sheriff's Department, Mr. Livingston, Wonder Lights Show, Licking County Prosecutor's Office, Trustee Slater, and Paula Greene to discuss the traffic issues. It was determined during the meeting that the light show could not be configured this year to allow exiting onto U.S. 40, but an officer was added to direct traffic on the weekends at that exit. An officer will also be stationed at U.S. Route 40 and State Route 37 on the weekends to direct traffic. There will be a follow-up meeting held after January 3.

Paula added the mapping apps are directing traffic on the back roads. Mr. Slater shared concerns for local traffic trying to get home.

Public Comments

Leslie Hero asked to discuss the State Audit Report that was recently released. Ms. Herro asked for the trustee's thoughts on Finding Number 5, which relates to a trustee seconding his nomination to the Fire District Board. Finding Number 5 also refers to ORC 505.371 and that the audit was sent to the Ohio Ethics Commission for an investigation.

Mr. Prince said matters referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission are confidential. Mr. Prince said ORC 505.371 relates to creating a fire district and was pointed out to the auditor that it has nothing to do with seconding a nomination. Mr. Prince said the auditor is not an attorney and will await the Ohio Ethics Commission decisions.

Mr. Weekly said legal advice would be necessary for future direction.

Ms. Herro asked if Carolyn Carnes, Civil Chief, Licking County Prosecutor's Office, has advised the board on two trustees serving on the Fire District at one time. Mr. Prince

said that client-attorney privilege cannot be waived.

Patty Costello said that Mr. Prince could speak on Mrs. Carnes' opinion. Mr. Prince again said he was not going to talk about attorney-client privilege matters.

Ms. Herro said at the last meeting of the Fire District Board; they went into Executive Session without Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly to discuss a legal matter. Ms. Herro believes there is a concern of conflict of interest.

Ms. Herro asked if Mr. Prince's term on the Fire District Board ended December 31, 2020, while Mr. Weekly's position ends December 31, 2021, which was confirmed. Ms. Herro asked when Mr. Prince's seat would be appointed. Mr. Prince said there is no deadline for his position to be filled and will probably be filled at the organizational meeting in January. Hebron Village has already reappointed Randy Wolfe.

Ms. Costello said Mr. Prince has been referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission for conflicts of interest and asked if he still feels confident about voting on the Fire District and Township issues related to the Fire District.

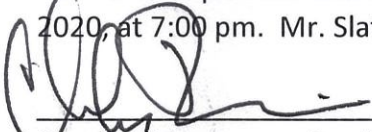
Mr. Prince said matters with the Ohio Ethics Commission are supposed to be confidential and does not understand how the information has been released and would not comment further.

The Ohio Ethic's Commission will determine the issues. Mr. Prince said there is no financial conflict of interest serving on both boards and that he is serving on both boards to obtain the best fire and EMS possible for residents.

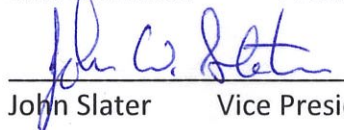
Mr. Weekly said each board votes on different matters; therefore, there is not a conflict.

Mr. Slater said he felt both Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly were able to carry out their duties and is not aware of any conflict of interest.

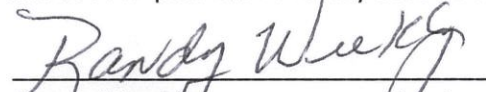
The Township's Year-End meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, December 28, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Mr. Slater moved to adjourn at 7:47 pm. Mr. Weekly seconded.



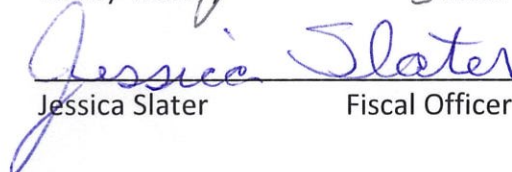
Charles Prince President



John Slater Vice President



Randy Weekly Trustee



Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer

