

REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
May 20, 2019

<u>Present:</u>	Charlie Prince, Trustee	Paula Greene, Administrator
	John Slater, Trustee	Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer
	Randy Weekly, Trustee	Dave Cable, Road Supervisor

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on May 20, 2019, at the Union Township Complex. Roll call showed the following trustees present: Charles Prince, John Slater, and Randy Weekly. Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer, was present. Trustee Prince led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Jack & Marsha Justice, Granville Twp. Chief Casey Curtis, Hebron Fire Chief Cliff Mason, Leslee Herro, John Black, Robert & Deena Seaton, Gregory Carr, Rich Moore, Michael Bishop, and Alex Dinovo.

Minutes

Mr. Weekly moved to approve April 15, 2019, and May 6, 2019 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 made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Road and Bridge

ODOT Salt Price - The rate for 2019-2020 will be \$82.00 per ton.

Administration

Zoning - Two variance hearings are scheduled for May 28, 2019.

Trash Contract Extension - Mr. Slater moved to approve a three-year contract extension with Shackleford Disposal that includes a dollar increase in services (not toters). It was seconded by Mr. Weekly. Motion passed.

Air Conditioner Repairs – The air conditioning units in the building need repair. The front office unit repair estimate is \$428.01, and the back-unit repair estimate is \$1203.54 if the leak in unit two is repairable. If the leak cannot be repaired, the unit will need to be replaced. Units 3 and 4 are not operable currently.

Trustees

OPEC Health Care – The cost to settle with Jefferson Health Plan over its loans to OPEC – HC has determined to be \$7,647.06 divided by four equal payments with the first payment due by June 30. Additional fees may be accessed by the court-appointed

receiver for OPEC-HC.

Project Bright – Mr. Prince gave an update on Project Bright. The company's proposed expansion plan has exceeded corporate's expectations, which has prompted a project reevaluation and a delay in the final corporate approval. Grow Licking County along with Grow Ohio will attempt to secure 10-20 new jobs with companies currently in the Newark Industrial Park, allowing for the project to continue.

RFQ's – A discussion was held on the RFQ's for the satellite station's apparatus bay and modifications to the house and driveway. Of the five RFQ's submitted one was rejected for missing the submittal deadline; Poggenmeyer Design works on larger projects, and Williams has not built a fire department in Ohio. Mr. Slater moved to interview JBA (Newark) and Project Architect (Hebron) before requesting a proposal from one firm. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

Open Comment

John Black – Recommended the trustees install a sound system and a projector to be installed as he feels the public would retain more information.

Old Church Building – Mr. Black requested a release of harm form that allows for he and a structural engineer to inspect the building. Mr. Prince requested Paula contact the Licking County Prosecutor's Office to draft a waiver to release the township of any liability for any injury or damage during their inspection for Mr. Black and his inspector to sign. , noting the insurance companies' appraisals were felt to be high.

Fire Discussion

Kramer/Final report- Dr. Kramer's report has been sent to those on the township's email list. Dr. Kramer will attend the June 3 Township meeting to discuss the report and answer any questions.

Leslie Herro asked when Chief Mason's fire district financial report will be ready. Chief Mason said he doesn't have a date at this time. Due to the recent public comments, Chief Mason wants the trustees and council to decide the direction they want to proceed.

Mr. Prince said the contract deadline with Hebron Village is July 1, and due to outside issues, this date may not be met. Mr. Prince said there had been numerous rumors, one that the school district boundaries would be changed with a fire district, incorporating the northern subdivisions into Lakewood Schools. Mr. Prince said school boundaries are not determined by emergency service coverage areas or township trustees and are difficult to change.

Chief Mason said he spoke with West Licking Fire District Chief Magers regarding its new Station 405 in Jersey Township on Morse Road Station and learned this station was placed at this location in anticipation of future growth and to reduce response time as West Licking has a six-minute response time goal. Chief Magers said an extensive cardiac arrest study that has proven aggressive CPR and a quick ALS response increases the survival rate from under 20% to 50%.

Ms. Herro asked what the millage rate was in the West Licking Fire District. It is

approximately 11 mills. Ms. Herro asked why the millage was so high.

Mr. Prince said the service area is large and is mostly staffed by full-time employees. He felt the Industrial businesses in the district have a tax abatement.

Chief Curtis said improving response times, and a fire district are two separate issues. Mr. Prince said the focus is to research a fire district per the contract.

Chief Curtis said the constituents had said constantly they do not support a fire district and he has not had any feedback regarding the cost to operate a satellite station.

Mr. Prince said the focus is on fulfilling the township's contract with Hebron. Mr. Prince said he did not understand how, due to their higher payscales, Granville Township could operate the satellite station for less money than Hebron. Chief Curtis said Mr. Prince should meet with him.

Bob Seaton asked if the July 1 deadline is not met, would they be pushed to decide. Mr. Prince believes the Village of Hebron would extend their deadline.

Ms. Herro believes Mr. Prince has a responsibility to reach out to Chief Curtis and review his plan of operating on 4.3-4.9 mills compared to Chief Mason's 9 mills. Ms. Herro feels the Trustees should completely understand both options so they can discuss with the public. Ms. Herro asked Mr. Prince why he would not meet with Chief Curtis and review his plan.

Mr. Prince said Chief Mason's plan was very preliminary and for a fire district and Chief Curtis' plan was to operate a satellite station.

Chief Curtis said he has met with Mr. Slater several times to discuss his plan which included salaries and operating costs. Mr. Prince said Chief Curtis' plan did not include any township fire levy money going to Hebron Fire. Chief Curtis said the plan showed between \$300,000-\$500,000 to the Village of Hebron, additional millage could be added.

Mr. Prince said he did not understand how Chief Curtis' expenses could be less as Granville Twp. Fire pay scale is higher than the Hebron Fire.

Chief Curtis said his numbers are directed towards running a substation and feels Hebron's numbers are higher because Hebron wants Union Township to subsidize their Fire Department. Mr. Prince said he did not believe this and that Hebron Fire is making more than 80% of the runs in the township.

Chief Curtis said with his presentation Hebron Fire would not be responsible for as many runs and asked Mr. Prince again, to meet with him so they could discuss his plan. Mr. Prince believed Hebron Fire would continue to respond to a significant number of runs.

Mr. Bishop said Mr. Prince had mentioned several times the focus is on creating a fire district. Mr. Prince said the focus is to discuss a fire district per the Village of Hebron's fire contract.

Mr. Bishop feels other options should be researched, and Mr. Prince had the time to research if school boundary lines could be moved, and he should meet with Chief Curtis.

Mr. Prince said he wanted to address the rumors and the contract with Granville is for two years, and the contract with Hebron concludes July 1. Mr. Prince said he knows there are residents that want the fire district to fail and are satisfied with status quo service.

Ms. Herro said the residents need more information on the fire district and want the trustee's thoughts listed. Ms. Herro asked how Mr. Prince knows the fire district is the right answer. Ms. Herro said they had taken the time to name the district but not stated the financial cost for the district.

Mr. Prince said they have been discussing this for over a year adding the community asked for a study and they did so. During the May 2 presentation, Mr. Ginise called the study "garbage," and Ms. Herro referred to the study as "poor" during a meeting with the Licking County Commissioners. Mr. Prince feels it is difficult to discuss this in public meetings, and there are those who will always disagree with him.

Ms. Herro said she understood and feels the Trustees need to be more open with the public on their thoughts and present numbers to them.

Mr. Prince said during the May 2 presentation Ms. Herro became upset. Chief Mason, committee chair, could have stopped or limited the comments, but did not.

Mr. Black feels the Trustees should have conducted a survey and not hired a consultant. Mr. Prince said Dr. Kramer would give a power point presentation on June 3.

Mr. Prince told Mr. Black that his (Mr. Prince) creditability had been questioned. Dr. Kramer was hired by an earlier board of trustees for the first study and is a professional with a national reputation. The residents wanted an outside opinion because they did not feel the trustees were objective.

Ms. Herro said they feel they need to take legal action to make something happen and that we need to be working as a team. Mr. Prince asked what decision has been made, which calls for legal action.

Ms. Herro said they feel a fire district is not appropriate for the township and this plan is meant to take money from the township to support Hebron Fire because the Village of Hebron can't afford their fire service. Ms. Herro added they want Hebron to conform their boundaries and lower their taxes. Ms. Herro said Union Township could contract for services to the south eastern portion of the township.

Chief Mason said he never received any complaints about paying 10.8 mills for fire/ems services. Ms. Herro said Chief Mason had stated he wanted to lower the taxes.

Chief Mason said he wanted to provide services to Union Township and that "we" think "we" should all pay the same tax rate. Chief Mason said in 27 years as Mayor, and as a council member, no one complained to him about paying fire/ems taxes.

Mr. Bishop said no one has come to a township meeting and complained about response time.

Ms. Herro asked how Chief Mason justified asking the taxpayers to increase the tax rate from 4.8 mills to 9 to 10 mills. Ms. Herro said we need other options and that raising taxes will not work.

Mr. Prince said Ms. Herro's assumption of the taxes being raised to 10 mills was faulty, and the only reason to go to 9 mills is to lower the response time. The far south western section of the township may not receive a six-minute response time.

Chief Curtis asked why not investigate service for 4.9 mills.

Mr. Prince said Ms. Herro receives excellent service which the Trustees were trying to give to the entire township, and she lives in an area that receives a four-minute response time.

Ms. Herro asked how a fire district would reduce response time.

Mr. Prince said a fire district would equalize fire/ems taxes across the township.

Ms. Herro said they were talking about response times, and a fire district has no bearing on response times. However, the satellite station would. Mr. Prince said the fire district would support the satellite station.

Chief Mason said a Fire District would give Trustees the ability to provide input in the operation of the fire department. Ms. Herro asked why the trustees would want to be Fire Chiefs as we have Fire Chiefs. Chief Mason said they would not be Fire Chief's but would have more involvement than they do now.

Chief Curtis asked what type of involvement in the operation of the fire departments does Mr. Prince want.

Mr. Prince said he questioned Granville's estimated six-million-dollar fire station in a central area when Licking Township built a new fire station for two million dollars. Mr. Prince said they had no input in those decisions.

Chief Curtis said if Mr. Prince wants input on operations, then it could be written into the next contract. Mr. Prince said it was too late.

Chief Curtis asked Mr. Prince why he was smiling and laughing at him. Mr. Prince said he was smiling because the contract for the new fire station had already been done and he cannot offer input after a decision was made. Chief Curtis said in the future if the trustees want input into the operations of the department it could be written into the contract.

Mr. Prince said the new fire station is the most significant decision Granville Township has made and was not saying that Union Township should have had input in the new

station, and the cost to build.

Mr. Seaton said he hires subcontractors for jobs to be completed and if he doesn't like how they perform, he doesn't hire them again, so there is control when subcontracting. Mr. Seaton said he doesn't have any say when his subcontractor buys equipment and does not care as long as he does not raise his bill. Mr. Seaton said by contracting day to day operations are the responsibility of the contractor. If you have concerns regarding respond time, then you discuss with the contractor on how to improve services.

Mr. Slater said he appreciates the comments and the response time will be addressed by the satellite station. The fire district needs additional research and discussion to determine if it is the best option. Mr. Slater said that a final decision had not been made and the July 1 deadline may need to be extended.

Ms. Herro apologized for becoming upset during the discussions and will speak to Mr. Ginise. Ms. Herro said they just want to understand the financial plan and to be included. Ms. Herro thanked the trustees for including them in the fire district meetings.

Mr. Bishop asked if there would be a presentation on the Fire District before the July 1 deadline. Mr. Prince said the first presentation was a rough draft and that some people "pounce" when they hear something they do not like before it can be discussed.

Mr. Bishop said they have been telling Mr. Prince for months, that the millage for a fire district would be high and had given the Trustees a report with his research. Mr. Prince said a fire district wouldn't cost near the millage Mr. Bishop projected.

Mr. Prince said they were going to take direction from Chief Mason adding they have not decided. Mr. Prince said Dr. Kramer's first draft report was forced to be released before it was ready. After the second draft was released, and some numbers were adjusted, Dr. Kramer's competence was questioned when the costs of the fire station were lowered.

Mr. Bishop said he questioned Dr. Kramer's objectivity. Mr. Seaton feels Dr. Kramer is in favor of a fire district as, during his last presentation, Dr. Kramer repeatedly referred to creating a fire district.

Mr. Bishop said he has never questioned Dr. Kramer's competency and knows people who have studied under him. The reason to hire an outside consultant was not that he was smarter than the trustees, but he was objective. Mr. Bishop feels Dr. Kramer lost some objectivity when he was fed information.

Mr. Prince said he could not change Mr. Bishop's mind that Dr. Kramer was not fed information. Mr. Bishop said Dr. Kramer stated during a township meeting that Mr. Prince gave him the information. Mr. Prince said he talked to Dr. Kramer. Mr. Weekly said Dr. Kramer talked with him and several others also.

Mr. Prince said he discussed with Dr. Kramer, Johnstown-Monroe's new satellite station and Dr. Kramer would not jeopardize his 50-year career in the fire service over a \$16,000 consulting contract.

Mr. Prince asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Bishop said people do not trust him (Mr. Prince) because he will not have a conversation.

Mr. Prince said he has been talking for months and would not continue a public meeting where the reputation of a nationally recognized consultant is being trashed. Mr. Bishop said that is not what he is doing.

Mr. Prince asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weekly moved.

Mr. Slater said he hears Mr. Bishop's frustration as well as Mr. Prince's and that they were still gathering information and are working towards a good decision. Mr. Slater hopes to include as many people as possible, but, at some point, they will have to decide. Mr. Slater said he was not implying they are doing anything behind people's backs and that he did not want Mr. Bishop to leave upset because that would not accomplish anything.

Mr. Slater seconded the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Black interrupted and suggested when a property is sold, a paragraph is added to the deed that the new owner acknowledges the response time of fire/ems.

Mr. Slater asked to vote on the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

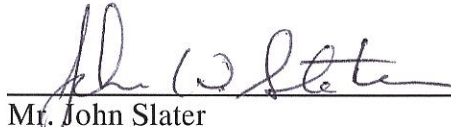
The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 7:00pm at the Union Township Complex.



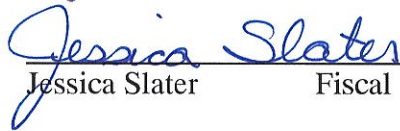
Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer