

**REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
February 19, 2019**

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

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on February 19, 2019 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 the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest: Rich Moore, Bob Seaton, Brandon Reece, Sally Brigham, Ryan Cottrill, Tom Petryk, Jacob Toothman, Jeff Hussey, Amanda Gottfried, Shaney Lynde, Brittney Smith, Carl Porter, Traci McMillen, Chris Clancy, Matt Ladzingui, Doug Cunningham, Cindy Wilkins, Margie Davidoff, Elliot Davidoff, Michael Bishop, Tom Bowersock, Dave Smith, Karen Strelecky, Brad Essick, Carlie Bickley, Dan VanNess, Laney McLaughlin, Peggy Wells, Penny Slater, Martha Cable and several Hebron firefighters.

Mr. Prince suspended the business meeting to allow Dr. Kramer to speak on the findings of his study.

Dr. Kramer reviewed the development of the draft reports and explained the first eight drafts were for internal use. Draft 11 could be used as a guideline for the trustees as it addresses the township's wants, adding a satellite station and gap in coverage. Dr. Kramer recommended the township enter into a fire district which would eliminate the constant negotiations and friction between the Village of Hebron and the Township. Dr. Kramer does not believe the trustees want to eliminate their contract with Granville.

Dr. Kramer introduced, Larry Bennett, a lawyer who is also a Fire Fighter One and EMT Basic with 35 years of experience. Mr. Bennett teaches Fire Sciences at University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State. Mr. Bennett spoke on the development of Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District of which he is a part of.

Dr. Kramer received phone calls from township residents who were concerned the trustees would take revenue from the Granville service area. Dr. Kramer determined funding needed to be more evenly distributed and adding a satellite station would provide additional protection, although overall funding for Fire/EMS would need to increase to approximately 7 mills.

Dr. Kramer discussed Granville Township Fire Department losing taxable property income and the number of runs to Denison University. Dan VanNess, Granville Township Trustee said over 50 percent of the runs to Denison are disregarded and

Denison donates money to the Fire Department.

It was asked how many residents were outside of the six-minute response time area. Dr. Kramer did not know the number of homes located outside of the response area and said they researched the areas that have a long response time and not the amount of homes that were affected. Mike Bishop noted in the City of the Columbus there are neighborhoods that receive a ten-minute response time.

Several audience members voiced concerns of the train traffic and continuing contracts with Granville Twp. Fire Department.

Dr. Kramer offered three emergency service alternatives; a satellite run by Hebron with no district; satellite station ran by Granville or a new Union Township Fire Department with all funding going to the new station. Dr. Kramer suggested property owners the north of the tracks could annex into Granville Village. Several members of the audience stated they did not want to annex.

A discussion was held on response time, run volume, new satellite station and the justifying the unknown cost of a satellite station and the effect of adding another station would have on current staffing of both departments. Mike Bishop suggested adding the "Pulse Point" program (phone app) as an alternative to reduce response time to cardiac emergencies at a low cost.

Susan Ginise asked why there was a significant reduction in building cost reduction between Drafts 9 and 11. Dr. Kramer said he was advised by the trustees that they were wanted to purchase property with a building that could be used as a station and was given financial information by Mr. Prince. Remodeling an existing structure for use as a station would be less expensive than building a new structure.

Laney McLaughlin asked the trustees of the six recommendations which three did the trustees feel was their best options. Mr. Prince said they are looking at the Fire District and have two years to work it out. Second option is starting a Township Fire Department. Mr. Prince believes contracts with Granville will continue and his objective is to improve service to everyone in the township.

Mr. Prince said he is compiling a report of Hebron and Granville's emergency calls with data collected from the on-line Licking County (9-1-1 Center CADD site of actual response times to actual addresses for 2017/2018. During this process he has found numerous response times over eight minutes.

Dr. Kramer said some of his recommendations included creating a Fire District, a Union Twp. Fire Department, taking over Hebron Fire or the Hebron Village could put a substation in the township.

Mr. VanNess feels the response times reflected in Dr. Kramer's study were not calculated from the location of the new station and did not take into consideration that ODOT is

installing a new bridge (State Routes 16 & 37) that will be wider and the traffic lights in the intersections will be operated with traffic light preemption. Mr. VanNess said if a seven-mill levy is passed taxpayers will see more than a 50 percent increase in fire/ems taxes as two the township's fire levies are in the states roll back program.

Dr. Kramer said the mapping in the draft was compiled from factors he had. Dr. Kramer added that purchasing property is always a good investment.

A resident said with no response times complaints raising taxes to support additional unwanted fire services would upset citizens. Mr. Slater said the trustees did not want to wait until there are complaints regarding response time and if they waited until they start receiving complaints it would be too late.

A resident said people in the longer response time areas are attending the meeting and do not have issues with response time. Mr. Prince did not believe the residents with the long response times are attending the meetings and feels the community needs more information regarding the actual response times. Mr. Bishop asked what area of the township do the trustees feel have the longest response time.

Mr. Weekly said he is concerned about the response time in the entire township and wants to put additional equipment in the township for quicker response and is tired of this conversation. Mr. Bishop asked where is the location of the middle of the township. Mr. Weekly said the 2004 study determined the middle of the township is located at Blacks Road and State Route 37.

Mr. Bishop asked what area of the township currently has the longest response time. Mr. Weekly said the north and south areas. Mr. Prince said the longest response areas are the following roads: Sycamore, Gale, Deeds, Blacks and Beaver Run. Mr. Slater said portions of those roads have longer response times. Mr. Bishop said he determined the Swamp Road area has the longest response time (12 minutes).

Jeff Hussey said from the comments and questions heard during these meetings, he feels there is a density question that needs addressed and that there are tools to analyze density of the housing population and the density of runs and Dr. Kramer's study relates to road mileage and not density. Dr. Kramer agreed his study is not based on density. Mr. Prince asked Mr. Hussey if he had access to the density software and could share it with the township. Mr. Hussey said he would give Mr. Prince contact information for the company who provides this service.

Mr. Prince said notices of the Fire District Committee meetings will be posted and any decisions will be made during a public trustees meeting. After a brief recess the Trustees returned to the regular meeting.

Road and Bridge

Chip Seal Estimates – An Engineer's Request form was signed for chip sealing estimates.
Salt – Estimated 250 tons of salt is in storage with a delivery of 100 tons arriving

Wednesday. This delivery fulfills the salt contract requirements. An additional 40 tons of salt will be available if needed.

Administration

Williams complaint – Nothing to report.

Zoning - Variance Hearing to be held February 21. ADU work session will be held February 27 and a map amendment on March 7.

Railroad Crossing – Southgate Development is moving forward with repairs to the railroad track crossing and has contracted with EMH&T for the repairs. No start date has been given at this time.

Trustees

Pothole repair policy – Mr. Slater spoke with Austin Lecklider, Assistant Prosecutor, Licking County Prosecutor's Office who advised the Trustees should continue with their current policy of repairing pot holes and the policy did not need to be in writing. If a report of a pot hole is repaired in a reasonable amount of time no further action is needed. Mr. Prince recommended logging complaints and when the repair is made.

Fire District Committee Meeting

Mr. Weekly wants all three trustees to attend all the fire district discussions with the Village of Hebron. The meetings are posted which allow all trustees to be present. Mr. Slater said he plans to attend all the meetings.

Mr. Weekly said he understood there may be times a trustee may not be available, but feels it's important for all to be present for all the topics being discussed. Mr. Weekly said the trustees will need to pass a resolution to join the fire district or else the work being done will be wasted. Mr. Weekly said there needs to be a resolution passed by the Village and the Township and a resolution needs to be passed before going to the voters.

Mr. Slater asked if an organization plan or charter needed to be completed so we understand what we are doing before we pass a resolution. Mr. Weekly said yes.

Jim Layton, Hebron Council member and chair of the Fire Committee, said the committee is gathering information to make recommendations and when a board is formed board members will make final decisions. Mr. Layton feels there should be resolution passed to show the committee is serious but does not commit us to anything. Mr. Layton said at this point no money can be spent.

Ms. Greene asked if Mr. Weekly was asking to pass a resolution before the trustees decides whether or not a forming a fire district would benefit the township. Mr. Weekly said a resolution is needed to before taking any levies to the voters. Ms. Greene said she thought the committee was researching to determine if a fire district benefits the township before a resolution to create a fire district was to be brought to the board.

Mr. Layton said all they could do was gather information and if a resolution was passed all they were going to do is continue to gather information. Mr. Layton said the

firefighters attending tonight's meeting were asking how the fire district would operate.

Mr. Bishop asked what would be stated in the Resolution. Mr. Weekly said the township intends on joining a fire district. Mr. Bishop asked wasn't there already a resolution to this effect. Mr. Prince said they passed a resolution to discuss. Mr. Prince said the current process needs more time and they are waiting on Attorney General's Opinion on how the District is funded. Mr. Prince said we need to move forward.

Mr. Slater said he believed the committee's purpose was to organize, determine representation, rules, expectations and goals before making a decision to enter into a district. Mr. Slater said during the public meetings it has been stated that we are to discuss entering into a Fire District and to determine the viability of a Fire District before we enter the point of no return.

Mr. Weekly agreed but said at some point the Trustees will need to enter into a Resolution. Mr. Prince said no decisions will be made during the workshop meetings and decisions will be made during a regular public meeting. The Committee has copies of Fire District by-laws and will be discussing this in future.

Mr. Weekly said believed it was important that all trustees attend the meetings. Mr. Slater agreed but stated he would not be able to attend all the meetings.

OPEC-HC

Mr. Prince gave an update on the OPEC-HC litigation and possible settlement offer.

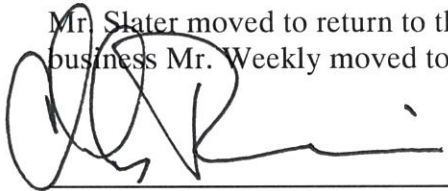
Bills

The Fiscal Officer previously 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. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Mr. Slater moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property. Mr. Weekly seconded. Executive session began at 9:02pm.


Mr. Slater moved to return to the regular meeting at 9:16pm. There being no further business Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn at 9:17. Mr. Slater seconded.



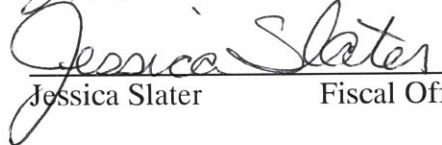
Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer