

REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
October 21, 2019

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

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on October 21, 2019, at the Union Township Complex. Roll call showed Charles Prince, John Slater, Randy Weekly, and Jessica Slater were present. Trustee Prince led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Granville Twp. Trustee Dan VanNess, Rick Black, Mike Bishop, Hebron Fire Chief Mason, Granville Fire Chief Curtis, Maratha Cable, Laney McLaughlin, Bill McWilliams, Peggy Wells, Steve Ours, Jim Layton, Chris DeMent, Rich Moore, Bob & Deena Seaton, Bill Kramer, Cody Blaney, Tom & Judy Marshall, Nate Davis, Brian Overly, Brandon Thompson, Travis Colley, Aimee & Josh Sanders, Rose Mason, Brad Eckenrode, Ken Johnson, Margorie Davidoff, Cornelia & Jay Brown, Leslie Herro, Anthony Campolo, Curt & Michele Doran, Linda Gabel, Lili & Lindsey McCutcheon, Russ & Susan Ginise, William McCullough, Dianna J. Tarore, Rose Edwards, Mark Rine, John Campbell, Tricia & Rick Huber, Doug Todora, Eric Price, Johanne & Kevin Stogram, Matt Gak, Jeremy & Lauren Doran, Tom Soward, Greg Carr, Michaela Sumner, Mark Powell, Andrew Adams, West Patrick, Justin Villers, Stewart Longerd, Linda Gabel, Donna Tarone, Mark Rine, Tom Race and four on-duty Hebron Firefighters.

Guest

Commissioner Rick Black asked the audience to support the Senior Citizen levy renewal.

Minutes

Mr. Prince had not reviewed the minutes before the meeting.

Bills

The Fiscal Officer certified that the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or the process of collection. Mr. Slater motioned to pay the bills. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

Road and Bridge

The mowing and dura-patching have been completed for the year.
A resident asked about ODOT's future intersection project at US 40 and SR37. Jessica said ODOT notified the adjoining property owners of the plan; there is no start date.

Administration

No report.

Fire

Mr. Prince learned the Hebron Fire building remodel debt is \$970,000. The Village agreed to make 2020 and 2021 payments, at which time the fire district assumes the remaining debt of 840,000.

Ken Kerns asked about the proposed new contract area for Granville and the reduction in funding to \$120,000. Mr. Prince said Granville would be funded with the first 4.8 mills. Mr. Kerns asked if Mr. Prince had met with Granville Twp. Trustees. Mr. Prince said he was not prepared to meet and will present a proposal once a district is formed. Mr. Kerns and other members of the audience are concerned Granville would deny mutual aid.

A member of the audience asked if the trustees opposed a section of the township annexing into Granville Township. Mr. Prince said he did not believe trustees would have any input. Mr. Slater said he did not know if annexing was possible and would oppose, nor would it solve the issues. Mr. Slater said the current millage could be used in a better manner, giving residents better service without going into a district. Tearing apart the township is not the answer.

Cornella Brown asked what the staffing levels would be at the satellite station; if a member of the northern portion of the township could serve on the fireboard and feels a representative from that section would be a positive move. Mr. Prince said the goal is to have at least two people; hopefully, three on duty 24/7, and they would consider someone from the northern section of the township.

Leslie Herro said Hebron voters chose four of the five fireboard representatives and said Attorney Chip Comstock, an expert on fire districts, advised not to have two trustees on the fireboard, and the best board members are residents of the district. Mr. Slater is concerned that the fireboard will not consider the community's other funding needs, such as roads and schools, and feels only one township trustee should be on the fireboard.

A resident of Stone Creek feels her service will be taken away; taxes would be raised and wanted to remain in the Granville service area. Mr. Prince said the satellite station would service Stone Creek and with a decreased response time.

Marjorie Davidoff asked who provided her service and wants to remain in the Granville service area Mr. Prince said she would no longer receive service from Granville.

An audience member asked the number of complaints about response times. Mr. Prince said there had been none, but it's their responsibility to improve response time. The audience said he is representing them, and they do not want a fire district.

Leslie Herro asked what happens to Hebron's debt if the fire district folds. Mr. Prince said there is language in the ORC that addressed the issue and believed the debt returns to Hebron. Mr. Slater said they would ask the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Bishop noted in the article in the October 2019 Ohio Firefighter by Attorney Chip Welsh, an Ohio Attorney General's Dave Yost, provided an opinion that said the entity that leaves the district would be responsible for any district debt. Trustee Weekly said the village assumes the debt. The audience disagreed. Mr. Slater said he would ask for a legal opinion.

Ms. Herro said they had asked numerous times how many additional residents will the satellite station serve with no answer. Mr. Prince said a document on the wall shows improved response time to hundreds of people, and he determined the times from a website and not the Licking County 911 center. Mr. Prince said they are not bailing out Hebron. The audience disagreed. Mr. Prince provided Dr. Kramer with the run times.

Rose Edwards asked what the millage would be to operate a satellite station; she doesn't believe Mr. Prince has the best interest of the residents in mind and wants to bail out Hebron. Mr. Prince feels her mind is made up; and declined to address her questions.

Rick Black asked are going to have a department we want or a department we can afford.

Lindsay McCutchen questioned, taking on Hebron's debt. Mr. Slater said the responsibility for the debt would be discussed with the prosecutor.

Tom Reece was upset there was not a plan; about joining a district with a department that lacked funding, and no non-bias subcommittee review the options.

Chris DeMent asked should the satellite station be found unsustainable what happens to the property. Mr. Slater said the property could be sold, and money from the sale will return to the fire fund and hope to provide better service with the satellite station.

Laney McLaughlin was concerned as someone with a medical background about the lack of adequate staffing if two people respond to a heart call as one person has to drive; one continues CPR, which leaves no one to administer medicine. In the event of a heart call, Chief Mason said additional responders would be dispatched. Mrs. McLaughlin asked Mr. Weekly how the evening conversations made him feel about a district. Mr. Weekly said he believes in the fire district; the resolution does not include millage; it allows them to work on the district, and that's why he supports a fire district.

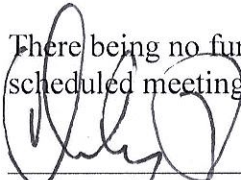
Discussions were held regarding Granville's new station location, operation of traffic-lights, equipment available, and run times. Comparing Granville's and Hebron's proposals and proceeding with the resolution without knowing who assumes Hebron's original debt if the fire district folds.

A special meeting will be held on October 28 to hear the Prosecutor's opinion regarding Hebron's debt and how it should be addressed in the resolution. Mr. Prince is ready to support Trustee Weekly in adopting the resolution and believes legal counsel has already addressed any debt issue, adding the township will not take on Hebron's debt.

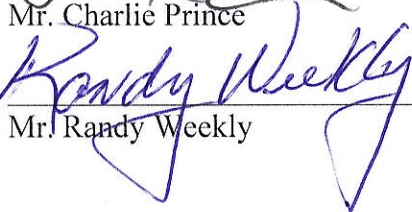
Meeting Schedule Adjustments

The Monday, November 4, 2019, the meeting has been canceled due to preparation for the Nov. 5 election. A special meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2019, for the following purposes: paying bills, approval of minutes, health insurance and fire district.

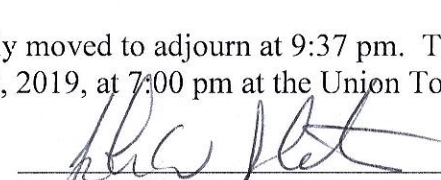
There being no further business, Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn at 9:37 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on November 18, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Complex.



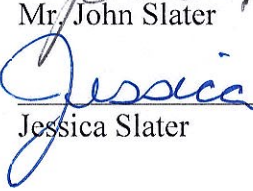
Mr. Charlie Prince




Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater



Fiscal Officer