

REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
April 1, 2019

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

Guest: Deana & Bob Seaton, Laney Laughlin, Curt & Tonya Painter, Leslie Herro, Dan Van Ness, Mike Bishop, Greg Painter, Hebron Fire Chief Clifford Mason, Granville Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Hebron Village Council member J. Wayne Carruthers, Bill McWilliams, Mervin & June Schrader, Ken & Nancy Johnson, Charles Binkley, Linda & Rick Szczyt, Erin Curtis, Hebron Village Council member Jim Layton, Beth Walters, Hebron Village Council member Scott Walters, Licking County Commissioner Rick Black, Brittney Smith, Peggy Wells, Kerry Hamilton, Susan Ginise, Licking County EMA Director Sean Grady, Cory Zigan, Penny Slater, Tom & Judy Marshall, Brenda Reece, and Kerry Hamilton.

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on April 1, 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.

Minutes

Mr. Slater moved to approve the March 18, 2019 minutes as written and seconded by Mr. Weekly. Motion passed.

Bills

The Fiscal Officer certified that the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or the process of collection. It was noted the first half Fire Contract payments were included in the bills. There were no questions regarding the bills. Mr. Slater made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-20 Permanent Appropriation

Mrs. Slater presented the 2019 appropriations and advised the trustees that spending needed to be held to a minimum Mr. Slater moved to approve resolution 2019-20 Permanent Appropriation. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Mr. Slater – Yes, Mr. Weekly – Yes, Mr. Prince - Yes

Flyer

Mr. Prince reviewed a flyer titled “Your Community Needs You.” The flyer had been distributed in the township. Mr. Prince said the statements made in the flyer were false and offensive. Mr. Prince said both fire departments personnel are well trained and provide the same quality of service. Some fire/ems personnel are employed by both

departments. Mr. Slater said both departments have the same training and the statements made in the flyer are not solving the problems. Mr. Weekly agreed with Mr. Prince's statements, and both said they want to improve service to all township residents

Granville Twp. Fire Presentation

Chief Curtis gave a powerpoint presentation on how Granville Township Fire department can provide EMS/Fire service as an option for the trustees and community. Chief Curtis estimates his cost to operate and staff the Lancaster Road station and provide service throughout the township to be lower than the proposed Fire Districts estimated millage with a six minute or under response time. The powerpoint presentation is attached to these minutes.

Chief Curtis also addressed the contents of the flyer in that negative talk about either department is not helping the situation and does not condone the behavior. Chief Curtis said he does employ members of the Hebron Fire Department. Chief Curtis said he had not said anything negative about Hebron Fire Department or it's staff.

Leslie Herro said she feels there are more options available than a fire district and hopes the Trustees are open to other options.

Road & Bridge

Salt Resolution 2019-21- A resolution to purchase salt from the State of Ohio needs to be submitted by April 18. Dave recommends ordering 500 tons for the 2019-2020 season. There is approximately 350 tons in storage at this time.

Mr. Slater moved to purchase 500 tons of salt from ODOT. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

Potholes are being filled as weather permits.

Fallen tree limbs are being collected. A chipper will be rented once all limbs have been collected.

National Gas & Oil Cooperative submitted a permit request to install a 4" gas line, at a depth of three feet below ditch line along James Road. Mr. Slater moved to approve the permit with the condition that Dave supervises the project. Mr. Weekly- seconded. Motion carried.

Administration

Map Amendment – The trustees heard and approved a map amendment request filed by Cory Zigan prior to the meeting.

Hebron Historical Society - The HHS extended an invitation to the Trustees and Paula to attend a presentation by Jerry McClain on April 8 at 7:00pm at the Hebron Masonic Temple.

Spring Clean-up - Shackleford Disposal will accept metals and electronics during the clean-up. No tires or hazardous material will be collected. The event was announced in the Shackleford's quarterly billing and will be advertised on the Township's website and via an email blast.

Township Email- Paula asks anyone wishing to receive announcements made by the township to sign up for the "email-blast" on the Township's Website.

Trash Contract – Paula spoke with Damion Shackleford who agreed to extend the contract for three years at the same price.

Trustees

Tax Abatement – Mr. Weekly attended the Tax Incentive Review Board meeting. MPW's two abatements are the only current ones in the township. MPW has exceeded its employment guarantees. MPW's Technological building's abatement expires in 2032. The board approved to continue both abatements. As of December 31, 2018, MPW reported employing 351 people.

Grow Licking County - Mr. Weekly and Mr. Price will be attending the annual breakfast meeting at the Granville Inn on March 19.

Executive Session - Mr. Slater moved to go into executive session for the purchase of the property. Two members of the audience were upset the trustees were conducting regular business and not discussing fire issues and then stopping the meeting to enter into executive session. The trustees explained they had scheduled a brief executive session meeting at 8:00pm. Mr. Prince advised the audience public comments would be taken after the executive session. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. The executive session began at 7:57pm.

The board returned to the regular meeting at 8:06pm.

Public Participation – After learning about some profanity-laced comments made as trustees were going into executive session, Mr. Prince opened public comments by stating that anyone making abusive or threatening comments will be asked to leave and public comments will be terminated. Mr. Prince encouraged those wishing to speak to keep their comments to three minutes or less giving everyone a chance to speak.

Mike Bishop said he is still waiting on his public records requests he made in January, including emails between the trustees and other agencies. Mr. Prince said he released almost two dozen emails and did not have any more emails between himself Hebron Village/Fire and Granville Township/Fire. Mr. Prince said he felt Mr. Bishop was in possession of the other documents requested as he has been attending the meetings.

Mr. Bishop said he was shown an email today between Mr. Prince and the Hebron Village Council and Mayor that he did not have. Mr. Prince asked Mr. Bishop to give him a list of the emails he missed.

Mr. Prince said he would provide the documents when he has time adding being a trustee is a part-time position. Mr. Bishop agreed and said normally a request should be fulfilled within ten days and he has waited two months. Mr. Prince said ODNR and Ohio EPA typically respond to a records request in two months.

June Schrader asked if the trustees closed on the Gulick property. There is a contract on the Gulick property at this time. The Trustees have not closed on the property.

Charles Bickley, a neighbor to the proposed substation, said no one in the area was notified of the trustees purchasing the property for a fire satellite station and felt the noise coming from the station would be a nuisance, and the building will be an annoyance to them while using their own property. Mr. Binkley felt the trustees would have repercussions from purchasing the Gulick property.

Mr. Slater said signage had been addressed and they are looking into other concerns.

A discussion was held on noise from sirens disturbing the neighbors. The members of the audience felt siren noise was different than roadway noise which was present when they purchased their properties. Mr. Weekly felt they would not hear siren noise very often.

Nancy Johnson, the adjoining property owner south of the proposed satellite station asked when the location was selected; when was the purchase agreement signed and why weren't all the adjoining property owners notified of the proposed purchase.

Mr. Slater said discussions of purchasing property began in January and a purchase agreement was signed in early March.

Paula advised Mrs. Johnson the sale of the Gulick property required zoning variances to complete the lots splits; otherwise, she would not have been involved.

The Gulick's submitted their variance request March 7 at which time the County's records showed the Gulick's as the property owner. The hearing was set for March 18, and the hearing notice appeared in the Newark Advocate on March 15.

Mrs. Johnson said she paid the Gulick's cash on March 15 and felt Paula should have advised her of the Gulick's plans to sell the property to the township for a fire station. Mrs. Johnson feels she cannot build a home on the parcel and the property has lost its value.

June Schrader who lives across from Gulick's feels no one would want to buy their 15 acres.

Mr. Prince said many would appreciate a fire station close to them and believes a few runs from this location would not disrupt them. There will be warning lights on State Route 37, adding fire stations need to be where people are.

Brittney Smith asked how many complaints regarding run times have the trustees received.

Mr. Prince said none, but evidence shows 50 percent of the runs have over six-minute response time. Mr. Prince said trustees are trying to give residents the best service for the more than one million dollars they are paying in taxes.

Rick Szczyt said he was new to the discussion and could not find any documents on the fire department project and asked for a rendering of capital improvements plans, the location of the new apparatus bay, will there be landscaping installed to protect property values and view, where's the planning for the road and has concerns with traffic and heavy equipment.

Mr. Prince said a request for qualifications for an architect or engineer to design a two-bay addition on garage side on the north side and realignment of the driveway would be discussed this evening. Mr. Szczyt said this building would be close to his property.

Brittney Smith said extending the Granville service area would save taxpayers money. Mr. Prince said response times would not improve.

Mr. Prince said there was an emergency run in the 3200 Deeds Road area in the Granville service area. From the time of dispatch and to the time on scene was 9 minutes, 11 seconds. Mr. Prince noted Granville was not on another call. Mr. Prince said he traveled in his private vehicle at a normal rate of speed from 6265 Lancaster Road to the 3200 Deeds Road area in 3 minutes 23 seconds adding 42 seconds which was the time it took Granville to get enroute after being dispatched meant total time from the satellite station would be 4 minutes, 23 seconds. Mr. Prince-said this was a big improvement in response time.

Laney McLaughlin encouraged the trustees to review Chief Curtis' proposal seriously. Mrs. McLaughlin said Chief Curtis' proposal is more fiscally responsible than entering a fire district.

Mr. Prince said they would consider Chief Curtis proposal.

Wayne Cruthers, a Hebron resident, said the Village of Hebron is still a part of the township and that anyone who doesn't think the Village isn't in the township needs to think again. Mr. Cruther's said a fire district gives the township one person to have a say in how the District runs and the Village of Hebron has one person to represent them. Mr. Cruthers' said a Fire District could operate with the current funding. Ms. Herro said a Fire District would cost the Township residences a lot more money. Mr. Cruthers disagreed.

A discussion was held on fire district funding and whether not the township's taxpayers' taxes will increase.

Mr. Bishop asked if the trustees have determined the cost of operating a fire district. Mr. Prince said not at this time, and the group is still working on this.

Mr. Bishop said he read in the Fire District Committee minutes, that the Committee is moving forward with the Fire District including naming the District. Mr. Bishop said the committee minutes read that in the forming of a district's millage would not go to the voters and the trustees can join a district, regardless of the residents' opinion. Mr. Bishop said people are upset because they feel they are not being heard. Mr. Bishop asked if the trustees had reviewed the information, he provided them. Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly said they had. Mr. Bishop asked what the trustees' thoughts were on his information.

Mr. Slater said Mr. Bishop's numbers and expenses were in line with what he determined. Mr. Slater said they are researching a fire district. Creating a fire district takes a resolution by the trustees, and they are not there they yet. Mr. Slater said he was trying to remain open-minded.

Mr. Bishop voiced his concerns about the money a fire district would cost the township.

Chief Curtis said his presentation was based on providing the entire township with service at 4.9 mills.

Susan Ginise said she feels the people do not have a say in whether we enter a fire district and wants the trustees to think carefully before doing so. Mrs. Ginise feels Chief Mason needs the millage from the township to operate and doesn't feel the township residents would benefit from a Fire District. Mrs. Ginise feels the process is not black and white and decisions are being made quickly without evidence of due diligence.

Mrs. Ginise has received copies of emails from Mr. Prince and Mayor McFarland through her public records request to Hebron. Mrs. Ginise feels one email seemed negative as Mr. Prince stated to Mayor McFarland "those people against the fire district." Mrs. Ginise said it shouldn't be "those people" and that we all live here. Mrs. Ginise also referred to a comment made by Mr. Prince to Mayor McFarland where Mr. Prince thanked Mayor McFarland for contacting the Ohio Attorney General's Office and moving up the process of receiving the OAG opinion on Fire District Funding, saving Mr. Prince a couple of weeks' times. Mrs. Ginise said the email alluded that the people are against Mr. Prince. Mrs. Ginise said we are all going to win together or lose together.

Mrs. Ginise said wants to look at the larger picture and if this right for everyone or if this is something someone else needs to receive funding that doesn't benefit. Mrs. Ginise said in her research more than two townships come together and form a Fire District and that is not what is happening here.

Mr. Prince said trustees are working together and have held extended discussions for 10 months and the residents would have the final say by having to approve any additional levies. Mr. Prince said some in the audience have a good response time and others do not. The satellite station will benefit everyone especially when another department is on

another run.

Mrs. Ginise is concerned with Granville funds being moved to Hebron as she read in the material at the Fire District Committee meeting. In the same material, Mrs. Ginise found the residents have no say in forming a fire district contrary to what the residents have been told. Mrs. Ginise feels the trustees are moving fast and ask if the residents vote no on a levy what is the next step.

Mr. Prince said we would have to work something out.

Kerry Hamilton said he works in the investment field and feels the trustees were working backward. Mr. Hamilton feels the trustees purchased a property and can't fund the operation.

Mr. Prince said he believes they can fund the operation. Mr. Hamilton disagreed.

Mr. Prince said he was not going to discuss operation funding. Mr. Hamilton felt it was not appropriate to ignore the question if Mr. Prince did not have the answer.

Mr. Prince said he heard Mr. Hamilton's point and he believes there are funds available to operate the satellite station depending on how the township allocates the money to Granville.

Mr. Hamilton said he feels the point is to increase the cost to the taxpayers for fire service and to him the purchase of the property feels uncomfortable.

Mr. Prince said the township is saving money by making this purchase of the property.

Mr. Slater said if the fire district is not an option and Hebron wants an increase of funds the property will allow the township to have their own Fire Department.

An audience member said no one asked the trustees to improve the service.

Mr. Slater said he feels the Trustees would be at fault if there had been a complaint and not taken any action.

Mr. Prince said he had reviewed the run numbers and over 60% of the runs are over the national standard of six minutes.

A discussion was held regarding placing a fire station at 1380 Beaver Run Road. The location has been reviewed and due to its location, entry to Beaver Run Road and responding through the intersection of Beaver Run and State Route 37 can be hazardous. Some residents felt the fire station could have been placed at the Township Complex.

An audience member asked what the timeline would be for the satellite station to become operational. Mr. Slater said the Township would take possession on May 1 and anticipates the satellite station to be operational in July.

Mr. Prince reminded the audience that the Township has a six-month contract with Hebron and a two-year contract with Granville. The contract with Hebron requires the trustees to discuss a fire district. As of July 1, the township does not have a contract with Hebron.

Dan Van Ness said he feels the 6265 Lancaster Road location will overlap the six-minute response time with their department and does not resolve improved response time to the southern portion of Union Township. Mr. Van Ness questions the trustee's comments of continuing a relationship with Granville Township Fire Department.

Mr. Prince said there is no overlap in the housing additions. Mr. Prince said more could be done with a satellite station and should the Township need to operate their own fire department we have a building to do so.

Mr. Bishop said he obtained run numbers from Licking County EMA and most of the runs are not in the northern portion of the township but along the eastern side of the township in the State Route 79 area and Interstate 70. Mr. Bishop said a township fire department location would be better suited further south on State Route 37 for the six-minute response time.

Mr. Prince said it wasn't a better option.

Adam Godfried said six-minute response time is not a realistic response time across the nation. The City of Columbus's thirty-four stations and 1500 employees cannot reach a six-minute response time. The audience member asked if the trustees thought they would accomplish the six-minute response time.

Mr. Prince said he did, with the information from Dr. Kramer's study. Mr. Prince gave the audience directions on how to locate the report.

Bob Seaton said he was confused as Mr. Cruthers said a fire district would not increase our taxes and Mr. Prince agreed and now, we are discussing an increase in taxes.

Mr. Prince said they are in the process of holding bi-weekly meetings which minutes are posted and have received He said a recent opinion from the Ohio Attorney General's Office that allows a Fire District to use existing fire levy revenue from the district members. Prior to the opinion, it was believed a district levy would need to be placed on the ballot first. Mr. Prince said he could not say if the trustees of the district will ask for additional funding and believe they will need to.

An audience member said he was for local government but feels with a Fire District that control is lost and understands there is one township trustee appointed to the Fire District Board.

Mr. Prince said the trustees had not had any input to either Fire Department in the last

five years.

Mr. Slater said the gentleman's input was well noted and asked for anyone who had not had an opportunity to speak.

Leslie Herro said she hopes the trustees hear the public and are open to other options. Ms. Herro said she agreed with Mr. Hamilton in that the purchase of the property should not have taken place until a strategy was in place and the numbers were in line. Ms. Herro stressed that the trustees listen to everyone and currently everyone feels trustees are joining a fire district.

Extension of Purchase Agreement

An extension of time is needed on the purchase of the property at 6265 Lancaster Road. Mr. Slater presented an addendum that extends the closing to April 15. Mr. Slater moved to approve the addendum. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Design Firm

Mr. Prince consulted with Austin Lecklider, Assistant Prosecutor, Licking County Prosecutor's Office, regarding the process of hiring a design firm and obtaining a cost estimate to design a two-bay drive-through apparatus building and driveway design. Mr. Prince has a Request for Qualification Form that outlines the requirements. Mr. Prince has filled in the project deadlines and proposes the RFQs be returned to the Trustees by 5pm, Friday, May 3, that trustees choose a design specialist by May 20, give the notice to proceed on May 20 and that design work be completed by July 3, 2019. Mr. Prince has listed four Licking County firm including ADR & Associates, Hull, JBA and Project Architecture. Trustee Van Ness asked that Mull & Weithman from Columbus who specialize in fire stations be added to the list. Mr. Prince agreed and asked for a motion. Mr. Weekly made the motion to advertise for a design firm and Mr. Slater seconded. Motion passed.

Fire District Name

Mr. Prince said the Fire District Committee recommend naming the Fire District the Refugee-Canyon Fire District. Mr. Prince moved to accept the Fire District's working name as the "Refugee Canyon Fire District."

Mr. Bishop asked if they were going to a name a Fire District that has not been formed or financed.

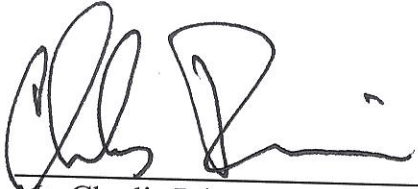
Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Comstock

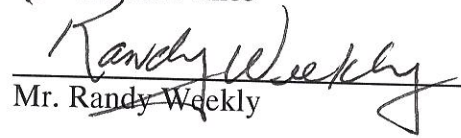
Mr. Prince moved to approve \$1000 to contract with Chip Comstock (an attorney and District Fire Chief) to help draft a fire district resolution and possibly attend a township meeting. and to provide legal assistance to the Fire Committee. Mr. Weekly made a motion to proceed. Motion passed

Mr. Bishop asked why they contracted with Mr. Comstock. Mr. Prince said he had helped form more fire districts in Ohio than anyone else and had extensive experience operating one. He added that there was a request to have Mr. Comstock speak to the group stating Ms. Herro had been one of the persons who asked to have Mr. Comstock speak. Ms. Herro said that if no one else was interested, she did not need Mr. Comstock to return.

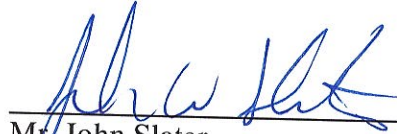
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.



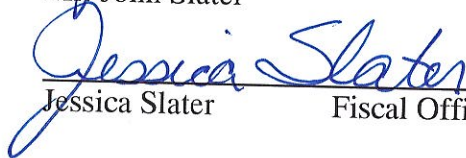
Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer