

**REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
June 3, 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 June 3, 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: Jack & Marsha Justice, Granville Twp. Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Hebron Fire Chief Cliff Mason, Hebron Fire Lt. Ryan Wyse, Leslee Herro, Nate Davis, Valarie & Gary Mockly, Bill Mc Williams, Erin Curtis, Meg Frauta, Mike Bishop, Michelle & Curt Doran, Traci McMillen, Deb Eddy, Joan Settina, Rich Moore, Donald Myers, Hebron Councilman Jim Layton, John Black, Mike Bishop, Brittany Smith, Greg Carr, Rick Black.

Dr. Kramer – Presentation

Dr. Kramer gave a power point presentation regarding his study of fire service in Union Township. Dr. Kramer believes a Refugee- Canyon Fire District is a reality for Union Township and Hebron. There is opposition in the Township for a Fire District.

During the presentation, Ms. Herro said there is a difference between a Fire District and reducing response times, which she felt a slide in the presentation makes the two seem to be the same.

Michelle Doran said the residents are not opposed to improving fire safety but feel the trustees have not looked at all the options and feel one trustee has an agenda. Dr. Kramer said a fire district should include a satellite station and feels if funding to Granville Twp. Fire remained the same; there wouldn't be any opposition to a fire district. Brittney Smith said that was an unfair comment and that Granville Twp. Fire could extend their response area without an increase in funding.

Meg Frauta asked if there was an incident that was driving the district. Mr. Prince wanted to take questions after the presentation.

Dr. Kramer said a Fire District is a reality.

Dr. Kramer said Granville Twp. Fire receives three times the revenue for each run than Hebron Fire. Ms. Herro said this was an outdated way of determining revenue per run. Dr. Kramer said Granville Twp. Fire has a higher run volume than Hebron Fire. Dr. Kramer feels the trustees are good stewards of the township's funds.

Ms. Smith questioned Dr. Kramer's math regarding the cost per run using 2017 response numbers. Dr. Kramer said he had not received 2018 run numbers when this slide was made, and that Granville was receiving a bargain.

Trustee Prince developed a scatter gram from 911 Center run data. Dr. Kramer reviewed the scatter gram and agreed with Trustee Prince's findings. The scatter gram mapping was discussed. Trustee Prince's mapping included the dispatched time to the on-scene time. Chief Curtis said the National Standard is from the enroute time to the on-scene time. Both departments can be enroute in about a minute's time. Therefore, Dr. Kramer advised the audience to deduct a minute for the time it takes to get out of the station.

Mrs. Doran said she understood the trustees want a good response time for all, but one trustee was not willing to look at other options such as contracting with Heath City or expanding Granville's service area. Nate Davis said problems could have been avoided with better communication and openness to the community.

Dr. Kramer said he knew the trustees did hear a proposal from Chief Curtis that was cost prohibitive.

Mrs. Doran asked if Trustee Prince had made Dr. Kramer aware that in Hebron Village's original contract proposal, they wanted a million dollars, or they would not service the township. Ms. Doran said one problem is Hebron now wants to operate the satellite station and have Chief Mason as a District Fire Chief. Dr. Kramer said he had heard that but was glad they are working on something that does make sense.

Chief Curtis asked Dr. Kramer why Granville's proposal was cost prohibitive. Dr. Kramer said there was no funding included for Hebron. Chief Curtis said that was untrue as his proposal was for 4.9 mills for 10 years, no one would have to go to the voters. Millage directed to Hebron could be added as one mill would add \$250,000 of funds. This is still less than Hebron's proposal. Chief Curtis said it was not fair to say his proposal was cost prohibitive

Mrs. Doran said the third bulletin point on the slide was not fair, totally insulting. Dr. Kramer said he would retract the third bullet point.

Ms. Herro said at the last meeting, Mr. Prince said he did not believe Chief Curtis could run a department at that millage as they paid their people more than Hebron. Ms. Herro felt as public officials; they should have a conversation with Chief Curtis and let him explain his plan and feels there is a lack of transparency and communication. Ms. Herro said they sometimes act bad because they are not getting answers to their questions.

Joan Settina feels the fire district going to happen regardless of how the residents feel and don't think it's fair to disregard everyone's objections. Ms. Settina feels a fire district is going to happen without township residences having time to address the issues.

Mr. Davis said there was loose data presented, but no financials and due to the slide with a quote felt, emotion was involved in the study. Mr. Davis said no data showing horrible events has been provided and feels it's unlikely there such data.

Ms. Herro asked if the Trustees had spoken with Ohio Fire Marshall Jeff Hussey. Mr. Prince said Marshall Hussey gave a presentation at the winter Ohio Township Association Conference, which he attended. The presentation began with the first responsibility of a trustee is to address response time. Ms. Smith asked again if the Trustees had contacted Marshall Hussey. Mr. Prince said he only spoke to him during the Ohio Township Conference in January and didn't feel the Fire Marshall was in the position to tell townships how to operate.

Mike Bishop asked if they spoke with Licking County EMA. Dr. Kramer said he did not and did not believe Mr. Hussey could give an unbiased opinion. Ms. Smith said she believed Mr. Hussey could give an unbiased opinion as he is a professional.

A discussion was held on the safety of traveling on State Route 37 and Emergency Response. Ms. Settina was very upset over the lack of safety on State Route 37.

Dr. Kramer said both departments have good ISO ratings of 3/3Y. Chief Curtis said Granville's ISO rating is now a 2/2Y. This is a good measurement of fire suppression.

Mr. Bishop asked why Dr. Kramer thought "politically" a Fire District was the only solution.

Ms. Smith said Hebron wanted a Fire District because they didn't want to operate a Fire Department any longer. Dr. Kramer agreed and said you give up your individual identity when joining a fire district.

Hebron Council member Jim Layton said no one had made such a statement during a council meeting or otherwise. The district is to improve service and equalize millage.

Ms. Smith said she feels the object was to create a Fire District and make Chief Mason the Chief of the Fire District. Mr. Layton said the Fire Board would choose a Fire Chief. Mr. Layton feels there is misinformation being spread, and no decisions have been made. Mr. Layton said Hebron would be staffing the satellite station.

It was pointed out that Mr. Layton said no decisions had been made but said Hebron Fire would be staffing the satellite station. Mr. Layton said he is disappointed in people's "pickiness" and feel staffing the satellite station is important. Mr. Layton said we should be talking about the misinformation.

Mr. Prince said Ms. Smith is a source of misinformation. Ms. Smith denied the accusation. Mr. Prince asked if she was Amanda Gottfried. Ms. Smith said she was not. Mr. Prince apologized. Ms. Smith said she would like to hear what Mr. Layton had to say as she felt he was speaking the truth. Mr. Prince said that the statement was offensive and would not allow Ms. Smith to continue speaking.

Rick Black asked how many residents would benefit from the new station and that it would not improve response time to his house. Dr. Kramer said the residents in the central area and those traveling on State Route 37. Mr. Slater said there would be additional manpower and equipment available. Mr. Prince said those living in the area of Deeds, Lees, Blacks, Beaver Run, Gale, Union Station and Refugee Roads would benefit.

Mr. Prince said a fatal fire occurred on Sycamore Road where the response time was 10 minutes but did not know if a quicker response would have saved the individual.

Mr. Black asked what the new response time to Sycamore Road was going to be. Mr. Prince said six or under. Ms. Smith asked what if there was a reason there was 10-minute response time to the fatal fire.

Lt. Wyse said the actual response time to Sycamore Road was five minutes, and the reason for the delay was the 911 dispatch center was busy, and the information was entered into the CADD five minutes later as he timed the event with his stopwatch.

Mr. Prince said there were other calls on Sycamore that were in the ten-minute range.

Tracy McMillen asked if anyone had been told by a medical professional that if the person had received medical attention five minutes sooner, they would have survived. Mr. Prince said he couldn't speak to individual events but strongly believes that emergency medical professionals believe that faster response significantly improve outcomes.

Mrs. Doran asked to clarify rumors and asked if Mr. Prince's plan was to save money by hiring part-time personnel. Mr. Prince said he wants to be as efficient as possible by having both full and part personnel adding the employer contributes 24% of a full-time fire fighter salary to fire pension while part-time fire fighters pay into Social Security.

Mrs. Doran said they had been told that it's difficult to maintain part-time personnel and asked what the plan is if they are unable to maintain a part-time staff. They want to improve services for our neighbors and do not want to come across as a Granville vs. Hebron as it sometimes has. Mrs. Doran said there is not a lot of faith in the process as the decision to enter a fire district seems to have been decided on a long time ago and doesn't understand why all the parties weren't brought into a room to work out the problems.

Mr. Prince said his plan is to maintain a mix of full and part-time personnel and believes they will find part-time people. Millersport Fire operates with 24/7 on station staffing with no full-time personnel, as does Walnut Township/Thruston Fire Department. Mr. Prince said part-time personnel might have be paid more and given incentives. He also noted that both Granville and Hebron use part-time employees.

Traci McMillen felt part-time employees may be lower quality and not as experienced, which is not better for the community. Mr. Prince said Chief Mason's proposal would have one full-time and one part-time personnel at the satellite station.

Mrs. McMillen said she felt that this was not a safe practice for the public or the fire fighters. It was asked where a fire truck would be stationed as response with a fire truck requires three firefighters. Chief Mason said when the funds become available, he will staff a truck accordingly. Mrs. McMillen feels the trustees are going to do what they want, and she will go door to door and tell people to vote against a fire levy.

Mr. Slater said the property was not purchased for a fire district but to help reduce

response time. Mr. Slater told Dr. Kramer he was offended that he said a fire district was a reality in the presentation and they are not at the point to decide to enter a district.

Mr. Bishop asked for clarification in the presentation as it stated that 7-9 mills would provide staffing for a two or three-man station. Mr. Prince said he believes there would eventually be three, but there is more research to complete before staffing could be determined.

Chief Mason said his proposal reflects current funding in place, and when adequate funding is available, and everyone was paying the same millage, staffing could increase.

Mr. Bishop asked if the 7-9 mill number shown in the presentation is for a two-man station. Chief Mason said he plans for adequate staffing for the Hebron station and appropriate staffing for the satellite station and that includes a community paramedic per shift, who could operate out of either station.

It was asked what the duties of a community paramedic are. Chief Mason said they assist in emergencies and check on and assist those who were just released from the hospital. Chief Mason said other communities in Central Ohio have a community paramedic.

Greg Carr asked Chief Mason if he was planning on four paramedics per shift. Chief Mason plans for one paramedic and one EMT per shift at the Lancaster Road station along with a Community Paramedic whose primary job will be to community paramedicine program.

Ms. McMillen said a community paramedic would be non-emergency personnel, which is not the focus of reducing response time. Chief Mason said the Community Paramedic would be available to assist in emergencies if others are not available. Ms. McMillen asked why a Community Paramedic was being added to the equation when the Fire District issues were not resolved. Chief Mason said he believed a Community Paramedic was needed.

Ms. Herro asked Chief Mason when he would be making his next presentation. Mr. Prince said the presentation would be coming up and noted that just a few minutes ago were accused of already making a decision and were not being accused of not doing it quick enough. Ms. Herro said she didn't think people intend to be hurtful and wanted to see Chief Mason's May 2 proposal update. Mr. Prince said Chief Mason is preparing his update.

Mrs. Doran asked if runs within Hebron village had been calculated in Mr. Prince's information. Mr. Prince said no Hebron Village runs were in the report. Mr. Bishop felt a better location for a satellite station would be west of the Lancaster Road site.

Chief Curtis said Dr. Kramer mentioned in his presentation that Granville is not interested in operating the satellite station; the Granville Township Trustees have given Chief Curtis approval to discuss, Granville Twp. operating the satellite station with the trustees. This situation is like Monroe Township operating a satellite station in Jersey Township which Union Township's satellite station is being modeled after. Chief Curtis has financial numbers prepared and asked when he could meet with Mr. Prince and Mr.

Weekly. Chief Curtis said he has met and discussed his plan with Mr. Slater several times already.

Mr. Weekly feels there is more work to be done and is not at the point he's ready to meet with Chief Curtis.

Mr. Prince said Chief Curtis' plan takes too much funding away from Hebron and Hebron would not be able to operate as they do now, and Hebron handles most of the calls. Chief Curtis said Hebron's run volume into the township, would change, and Hebron's funding could be discussed.

Mr. Prince said Hebron receives approximately \$833,000 and Granville receives around \$300,000 and to take away everything except the township's revenue generated in Hebron would be unfair to Hebron. Chief Curtis said that is not what he is suggesting.

Mr. Prince said the township's revenue, except what is generated within Hebron would be directed to Granville. Chief Curtis said Mr. Prince had misunderstood the proposal.

Mr. Slater said he would like to discuss Chief Curtis' option with Mr. Prince as a resident trying to do what is best for the township. Mr. Slater feels Chief Curtis' proposal could work, but difficult decisions would need to be made.

Mr. Slater said he cannot support a fire district at 9 mills and cannot accept that as trustees, we would even consider anything at 9 mills. Mr. Slater said he could not go to the residents, life-long friends, co-workers, and neighbors and explain the drastic increase in taxes and not an increase in services. Mr. Prince said it is all a work in progress. The contract deadline with the Village of Hebron will be discussed at the next meeting.

Minutes

The May 20 minutes were tabled as Mr. Prince had not reviewed them.

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. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Road and Bridge

Chip Seal Estimates –A discussion was held on the chip seal estimates provided by the Licking County Engineer's Office. Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater recommended due to low funds in the Road and Bridge accounts that no major road repairs be made in 2019.

Mr. Slater moved to advertise for bids with the provision that we can accept or decline specific roads. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

Road Sweeping – Dave recommends sweeping the excess stone from the roadway after the chip sealing has been finished. The estimated cost to sweep is \$3500.00 with the street department hauling the excess gravel away.

Administration

Septic System Inspection - Chad Brown, Environmental Director of the Licking County Health Department, advised the Health Department will begin inspecting septic systems on Sycamore Road soon and will notify the property owners by mail this week.

Variances - The Board of Zoning Appeals approved two variances on May 28.

Old Church – The CBIZ Valuation Group who inspected township owned buildings to determine the replacement value of the buildings advised they could not speak to the integrity of the church structure, but noted the building had extensive mold and termite damage.

OTARMA Insurance – The OTARMA representative is reviewing the new building replacement values with the current insured value.

Waiver – Austin Lecklider, Licking County Assistant Prosecutor provided a waiver/hold harmless form to allow John Black and his structure professional to evaluate the old church building. Mr. Slater recommended there be one visit permitted to inspect the building, and this is not to be an on-going request. Mr. Black said he was bringing one person to view the building and would need one visit. Mr. Black will make an appointment to enter the building. Mr. Slater moved to accept the waiver and grant Mr. Black one visit to inspect the church building; one time with one person and to make access arrangements with Paula. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

McNamara Settlement - Jean McNamara has agreed to the settlement presented to her in 2018. The settlement included reimbursement of \$972.78 for trees that were removed from her property, the replacement of a corner fence post and approximately 200 feet of fencing, and the elimination of some ponding water. The issues arose during the Canyon Road OPWC project. Mr. Weekly moved to approve the settlement. It was seconded by Mr. Slater. Motion passed.

Trustees

RFQ – Mr. Slater moved to ask JBA Architects to submit a proposal for design services for the Satellite Station Project. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Open

Safety – Joan Settina voiced her concerns of the traffic on State Route 37 adding ODOT approved two new driveways south of Beaver Run. Ms. Settina would like to see the speed limit reduced and “Dangerous Intersection” signs installed on Beaver Run at State Route 37. Mr. Prince wants to re-align Beaver Run at State Route 37 and will submit an OPWC grant request in fall.

Shackleford – There is crushed glass along the edge of most driveways in the Bending Oak and Fairmont subdivision. It is believed the recycling truck is leaving the crushed glass. Paula will contact Shackleford Disposal.

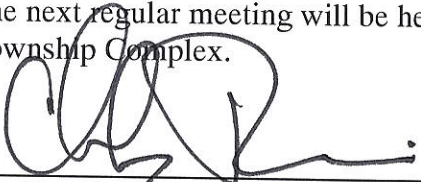
Tornado Shelter - Chief Curtis informed the trustees 2017 Ohio Building Code mandates critical facilities, including fire and EMS stations to have a storm shelter constructed in accordance with ICC500. The shelter includes access to drinking water, toilets, backup

power, escape hatch and peer reviewed engineering. The storm shelter will cost up to \$30,000.00. Mr. Prince said trustees were aware and thanked Chief Curtis for the information.


Air Conditioning Repairs - Mr. Weekly asked the status of repairs to the building's air conditioning system. The front unit is now working and the leak in unit two has been sealed and seems to be holding. They will be replacing unit two's fan next week.

There being no further business Mr. Slater moved to adjourn at 9:12pm.

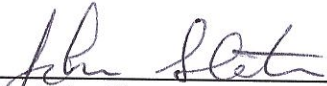
The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 20, 2019, at 7:00pm at the Union Township Complex.



Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer