

**REGULAR MEETING  
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
September 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 September 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: Granville Twp. Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Hebron Fire Chief Cliff Mason, Kelly Burris, Granville Twp. Trustee Dan VanNess, Alex DiNovo, Judy Marshall, Russ & Susan Ginise, Mike Wait, Jack & Marsha Justice, Brittany Smith, Rick Black, Ken Kerns, Lauren & Jeremy Doran.

**Minutes**

The minutes will be approved at the next township meeting.

**Bills & Bank Reconciliation**

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.

Mr. Prince said he has in his possession the check for Jefferson Health Plan for \$1911.77 (first of four equal payments). Mr. Slater moved to approve the bank reconciliation. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

**Schedule A and B**

The Certificate of Estimated Taxes by the Licking County Auditor was presented for approval. Mr. Slater moved to accept Schedule A and B. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

**Guests**

Kelly Burris, Fairmont Subdivision HOA chairman and Alex DiNovo, Stone Creek Subdivision HOA Chairman, represented their subdivisions to express their discontent with the chip sealing of the roads in their subdivisions. The residents of these communities voiced the following complaints several times during the meeting; the value of their homes and neighborhood were decreased; properties were purchased with asphalt roads and expected continuation of asphalt paving. They are unable to walk, bike, run, skate, skateboard and, other "recreational activities" they partake on the roadway. Mr. DiNovo was upset that his emails to the township had gone unanswered. There are several complaints of excessive stone on the roads.

Mr. Prince said revenues have declined, but noted the township should receive an additional income of about \$75,000 a year with the increase in the gas tax and adding a second \$5.00 license plate fee. Mr. Slater explained that the tar and chip process is an economical and

effective way to maintain the roads, and the material has been used for decades. There is a transitional stage while the road cures. Mr. DiNovo asked to discuss alternatives to chip sealing and, residents were willing to donate money towards asphaltting their roads. Mr. Slater said he was agreeable to meet with the homeowners.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the excess stone and dust on the roads. The roads will be swept once the sealing has time to cure. Former Township Trustee Jack Justice spoke to the audience explaining each time chip sealing was done, the township received the same complaints. Mr. Justice agreed with the trustees' that chip sealing is an efficient way to maintain the roads.

Mr. DiNovo expressed his disappointment in the condition of the road as the children cannot skate, rollerblade, skateboard, or ride bikes on the roadway. Mr. Slater stressed, several times during the meeting, the trustees do not promote anyone playing in the road. These are public roads meant for motor vehicle traffic.

Mr. DiNovo said he understood but feels the township has made it more dangerous for his kids to play on the roads and have devaluated his home and subdivision. Mr. Prince feels the value of the home would not decline, and the surface of the road will return to normal.

Granville Twp. Trustee Dan VanNess said they apply for OPWC grants to asphalt their roads; they pay fifty percent of the cost. Granville Twp. has a road and bridge levy. Union Township is applying for an OPWC grant to align the west side of Beaver Run Road at State Route 37. The township may need to seek a road and bridge levy in the future.

The estimated cost of the chip seal is \$18,000 per mile; one inch of asphalt is around \$65,000 per mile. A discussion was held on different types of road maintenance material.

Crack sealing – Crack sealing has begun; however, the machine needed to be repaired.

Building Maintenance - The ductwork in the front section of the building needs to be cleaned as there is an odor coming from the air conditioning, which may be mold.

Satellite Station Building Permit - Mr. Weekly forwarded an email from Greg Cotterman, JBA, to Paula. The email was sent to the trustees and Hebron Fire Chief Mason. Paula contacted Mr. Cotterman and advised no zoning permit is needed as the roof lines will remain the same. Mr. Cotterman has received a building permit from Licking County Building Code today.

Beaver Run Intersection - The estimated cost for the project came to \$101,064.81. OPWC grants are due October 4. Mr. Prince will obtain a letter of support from ODOT.

State Route 37 and US Route 40 – The start date for widening intersection has yet to be determined but has an estimated completion date of 2022 or 2023. ODOT has begun surveying the area. No other information is available at this time.

Property activity in question – A discussion was held regarding a parcel on the northeast corner of I-70 and State Route 37. A portion of the property is in the floodway and cannot be disturbed. Recently trees have been removed. The property belongs to the company, "Get Dirt." Paula has contacted the Licking County Planning Commission and will follow up.

Hebron Fire Contract-

Hebron Council approved a 60-day extension of the fire/ems contract during their last council meeting. Mr. Prince wanted to pay the Village through the end of the year. Mrs. Slater questioned disbursing funds beyond the October end of the contract.

Mr. Prince said the contract reads the township will pay the Village of Hebron within ten days of the receipt of funds, therefore the township is bound to pay the Village the entire second half payment, which is beyond the current extended contract.

Mrs. Slater questioned paying for services outside of the contracted date. Mr. Prince said Hebron needs the entire second half check. Mrs. Slater felt she should only reimburse for the months covered by the contract and the two extensions. Mr. Slater also questioned disbursing funds through the end of the year.

Paula recommended obtaining an opinion from the Licking County Prosecutor's Office and felt the State Auditor's office would not support the trustee's payment for services to Hebron without a contract. Mr. Prince will contact the Village. The township has not received the prior contract extensions from the Village of Hebron.

Mr. Prince asked for a motion to accept the 60-day fire and ems contract extension offered by the Village of Hebron.

Mr. Slater asked if the motion included the second half payment, or was it to be pro-rated through the end of the extension. Mr. Prince said the second half. Mr. Slater felt the disbursement should be pro-rated through the end of the extension. Mr. Prince then asked for a motion to agree to the 60-day contract extension and issue payment as recommended by the Licking County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Slater moved to proceed with the motion. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Fire District/Satellite Station –The architect and a prospective contractor made plan modifications that will reduce improvement costs. A cost estimate is not available at this time. Mr. Prince estimates the building renovations cost to be less than \$50,000.

Mr. Ginise asked as Chief Mason was included in the email regarding the renovations; will trustees not be considering Granville Twp. Fire operating the satellite station. Mr. Prince said it is unknown at this time which department will run the satellite station. Mr. Prince has consulted with both fire chiefs on the design. The garage roof will be raised to accommodate equipment which Chief Curtis, among others, recommended.

Mr. DiNovo felt the funds directed to the satellite station would be better spent on road improvements. Mr. Slater explained Fire Funds, by law, are for Fire/EMS use only. Mr. DiNovo questioned spending the money without a plan. Mr. Prince said the satellite station would operate with 24/7 medic service by the end of the year.

Mr. DiNovo asked what was "broken." Mr. Prince said the response time to the center and the western part of the township. Mr. DiNovo noted the township's population is mostly in the north and south portions of the township. Mr. DiNovo asked if this was a democracy and if the station would serve the best interest of the residents. Mr. Prince stated Mr. DiNovo

would receive better service where he lived adding, the EMS response time is above four-minutes to his residence. Mr. DiNovo believed his taxes would triple for the same service. Mr. Prince said they would not.

Mr. DiNovo then asked for the budget for the fire services. Mr. Prince said the budget is not ready. Mr. DiNovo is upset about spending money without a plan. Mr. Prince said the purchase and remodel of the satellite station will cost under \$500,000, a new building would cost over a million dollars. An audience member asked if the satellite station will have a chip sealed driveway. The driveway would be gravel. Mr. Prince said they are not wasting money but for improving response time for the majority of the township.

Chief Curtis said he met with Mr. Prince but has not had any further communications, and now he is learning Mr. Prince and Chief Mason are exchanging emails with the architect. He has not been included in the emails and nor contacted for input on the satellite station. Chief Curtis feels he should receive these emails. Mr. Prince said they were not exchanging emails; the architect transmitted the revised plan to the trustees and copied Chief Mason.

Mr. Slater said from this point on Chief Curtis would be included in further emails regarding the satellite station.

Mr. Ginise asked if the trustees have met with both Fire Chiefs to discuss the best option for service as Mr. Prince felt the plan Chief Curtis presented did not leave enough money for the Hebron to operate. Mr. Prince also feels several parts of Chief Curtis' proposal would not benefit the township. Mr. Ginise asked if other options have been explored such, as speaking with the Fire Marshall and asking the public, and if not, why.

Mr. Prince said fire discussions had been held during public meetings for 16 months, and at the public's request, a report from a professional fire consultant was done. Mr. Prince said he had not discussed Chief Curtis's plan further as he is waiting for Hebron to resolve an issue with their budget. According to Mr. Prince, we are unable to move forward due to this issue.

Mr. Ginise is concerned at the end of the 60-day extension; the township would enter into a fire district as they were paying Hebron Village to that point. Mr. Slater said as the contract was extended 60-days, it would be out of line to pay to the end of the year.

Ms. Herro said Chief Mason's May budget imbedded the cost of operating the substation, whereas Chief Curtis' budget showed the satellite station operating cost separately. Ms. Herro has concerns about using gross tax revenue and not net and calculated the-Township could have a \$400,000 debt. Chief Mason said he continues to work on the budget and the May proposal has been discarded. Mayor McFarland asked Chief Mason to develop a budget that includes operating 6265 with staffing two people and their current fire station. Ms. Herro asked if the budget was for a fire district. Chief Mason said it is was not.

A brief discussion was held on the staffing standard for a medic (2) and a fire engine (3). Chief Curtis proposes to staff 6265 three on a medic; Chief Mason proposes to staff a medic with two. Mr. Prince said a medic responding with everything Hebron has in five minutes is better than a ten minute response time with three on the medic. Chief Curtis said his proposal includes three medics/EMTs who can respond to a fire.

Mr. Prince said Chief Curtis' proposal would cost more than the proposal states, and he is not going to compare plans with Granville providing three employees and Hebron supplying two. Chief Curtis asked what Mr. Prince meant by his comment.

Chief Curtis asked what information Mr. Prince was waiting for from Hebron. Mr. Prince said he would discuss the matter later. Several members of the audience asked what the issue was. Mr. Ginise said Chief Mason had presented two budgets and now hopes the trustees won't decide without vetting the total cost to the township in public.

Chief Mason said his Mayor and Fiscal Officer requested a 2020 budget and to include staffing at 6265. Mayor McFarland requires fire district resolutions to be passed by both entities before a fire district budget is released. Chief Mason said he knows the cost of operating a Fire District but will not release information before forming a fire district.

In Chief Mason's May budget, there is a payment to other entities listed, Ms. Herro asked if that was a payment to Granville. Chief Mason did not know. Ms. Herro said Chief Mason's proposal cut's Granville's funds in half, and Mr. Prince had guaranteed better service. Ms. Herro does not believe in decreasing funds to Granville Twp. Fire will give her better service.

Mr. Prince said after reviewing run data, he feels that Granville is not providing six-minute response time throughout their service area. There will be a reduction in Granville's service area once 6265 is operational with two and eventually three medics/EMTs.

Mr. Ginise said Mr. Prince's assumption is based on Granville not being able to provide the same service at a lower cost to the taxpayer. Mr. Prince said there would be a reduction in Granville's services, therefore would not be providing the same service.

Chief Curtis asked who would be responsible for fire service in the "new territory." Mr. Prince said Hebron would be as they intended to have a fire engine at 6265. Chief Curtis said Chief Mason's presentation includes two personnel. At least three staff members are required to operate a fire engine. Mr. Ginise commented Hebron would have a 15 minutes response time. Chief Curtis said Chief Mason's budget would be the same as a fire district and asked how the township is saving money. Mr. Prince said contracting with Hebron would eliminate the cost of a fiscal officer.

Chief Curtis said he prepared his budget in three days; Chief Mason has been working on his budget for months. Chief Curtis said he has new numbers allocating \$375,000 for Hebron to cover 120 runs a year. Chief Curtis said the township would be at seven mills with his budget.

Mr. Prince said the 120 runs is an understatement. Chief Curtis asked how Mr. Prince knew this. Mr. Prince said he had studied the runs and determined there are 197 runs before factoring in anything beyond National Trail Raceway.

Chief Curtis asked if the 197 runs are located outside of the village limits and do not have a six-minute response time from 6265. Mr. Prince said these runs were on I-70; U.S. 40 to National Trail, Newark Industrial Park; Hebron Road and adjoining streets outside of corporation limits. Chief Curtis asked Mr. Prince what he believed the amount of funding Hebron Fire needed to respond to 200 runs a year was.

Mr. Prince said he wasn't going to discuss the matter; Chief Curtis stated he needed to address the issue as this was valuable information. Mr. Prince said he would not get into the details in this forum. Chief Curtis said he has asked to talk about this several times.

Mr. Prince said he was sure the run number was higher than Chief Curtis believed it to be. Chief Curtis requested the list of 200 runs. Chief Curtis said he felt Mr. Prince was doing a disservice to the taxpayers and wanted Mr. Prince to talk with Granville Twp. Trustees and asked if they are willing to continue to contract with the township.

Mr. Slater said he is committed to providing Fire and Ems and has tried to be open-minded about the fire district. Mr. Slater said he was disappointed to learn Chief Mason is unable to submit a fire district budget without a resolution. Mr. Slater said he would speak to Mayor McFarland rather than sending messages via Chief Mason. Ms. Herro said this is how the Village of Hebron deals with the Township. Chief Mason disagreed.

Ms. Herro said as it appears Chief Mason will be representing our township; the taxpayers need to understand the circumstances referenced in three newspaper articles regarding Chief Mason's time at Madison Township in Franklin County. Mr. Prince attempted to end the conversation, stating he would not allow criticism. Chief Mason said he would meet with Ms. Herro and discuss her concerns. Ms. Herro said Chief Mason should answer the questions in public so everyone would hear his answers. A member of the audience agreed. Mr. Prince said there would be no discussion of Chief Mason's prior employment. Ms. Herro asked why he was protecting Chief Mason, who said he did not need protection.

Mr. Prince asked Mr. Ginise what the Granville School Boards' procedure regarding the criticism of an employee. Mr. Ginise said the board hears a personnel complaint during executive session. The Board listens to the person at that time. The Board conducts all school business in the open and is public, and nothing is hidden.

Mr. Ginise believes Mr. Prince has not disclosed all of his information. Mr. Ginise has asked Mr. Prince during several meetings to publicly affirm that whatever the decision regarding a fire district, there will not be a reduction of service from Granville Twp. Fire to the north end of the township. Mr. Ginise said Mr. Prince has, for the first time, has admitted to reducing Granville Twp. Fire's service area and wants the taxpayers to accept a two-person EMS.

Mr. Ginise said the Granville School bus accident, with 50 students on board, could have resulted in mass casualty if the bus had rolled over, which had been a possibility. Mr. Ginise said Granville Twp. Fire responded with three units and seven emergency personnel in less than six minutes.

Mr. Prince said the response from 6265 would have been quicker. An audience member said it would be longer if the unit from 6265 were handling incident on I-70. Mr. Prince said the units from the Hebron station would respond to I-70. Mr. Ginise said Mr. Prince has previously stated units from 6265 would respond to I-70. Mr. Prince said they would be available if needed on I-70.

Mr. Prince said decreasing Granville's response area should not come as a surprise as he has shared statistics; he created a response time map and showed the response times to the sub-

divisions off of Deeds Road exceed six minutes.

Mr. VanNess said the location of the new fire station would decrease response time. The Department recently received a new ISO rating of two, which places Granville Twp. Fire in the top three percent nationally. Trustee VanNess said the Granville Twp. Fire members are trained well with proper equipment making them very well prepared.

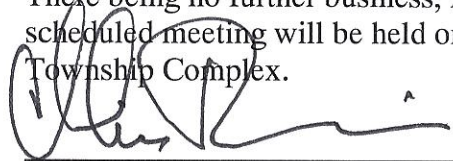

Mr. Prince said he does not believe the ISO rating includes response times for a medic. Mr. Prince said Granville's a good department, but people have said Hebron Fire does not provide a similar service. Mr. Prince believes Ms. Herro is prepared to state that Chief Mason is not a good Chief.


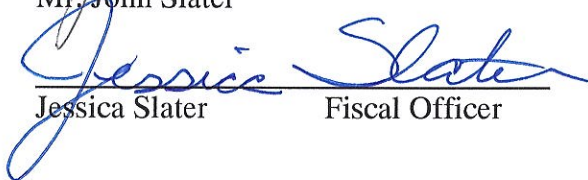
Ms. Herro said she did not make a statement regarding Chief Mason's ability as Chief, but Mr. Prince just did. Ms. Herro wanted to ask Chief Mason questions. Mr. Prince said Chief Mason agreed to meet with Ms. Herro privately, which he believes to be the same as an executive session. Mr. Prince said Ms. Herro could make any statement she wishes, but there will be no verbal attacks on anyone during a township meeting. Ms. Herro said the community wants to understand why Mr. Prince wants to work with Chief Mason,

Mr. Justice feels there is an issue of trust, and if communication is not above board, nothing will happen, and if a trustee votes for a fire district not knowing the cost, he should not be a trustee. Mr. Prince said he agreed with Mr. Justice and will look at a proposed budget before making a decision. Mr. Justice said everyone should have the opportunity to review the budget.

Mr. Ginise asked when Mr. Prince will meet with Granville Township Trustees and when the district budget would be ready. Chief Curtis said Mr. Prince should have a plan in place before speaking with his trustees. Mr. Prince said a public meeting would be held when the District budget is ready.

There being no further business, Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn at 8:16 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Complex.

  
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Mr. Charlie Prince  
  
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Mr. Randy Weekly

  
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Mr. John Slater  
  
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Jessica Slater                      Fiscal Officer