

**REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
May 6, 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 May 6, 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.

Guests: Jack Justice, Rick Black, Chief Casey Curtis, Chief Cliff Mason, Hebron Mayor Mike McFarland, Leslee Herro, Russ & Susan Ginise, Ken & Nancy Johnson, Valarie & Gary Mockus, Joan Settina, Jennifer Meyer, Bill McWilliams, Judy Marshall, Terry & Marilyn Jorgensen, Penny Slater, Carol Jordenson, Beth & Scott Walters, Granville Twp. Trustee Dan Van Ness, John Black, Tonya Painter, Granville Twp. Trustee Bryn Bird, Dan Cross, Brittany Smith, and James Moeckel.

Hebron Fire Presentation

Mr. Prince said Chief Mason's Fire District Presentation would be given later as Chief Mason would be updating the May 2 presentation. The delay of his presentation had been publicized via an email blast Sunday to everyone on the township's email list.

Hebron Historical Society

John Black announced Jay Livingston, the new owner of National Trail Raceway would be speaking at the Society's meeting on Monday, May 13. The Society is hosting a series of speakers on entrepreneurship at their 2019 meetings.

Licking Baptist Church

Mr. Black asked if the evaluations of the buildings had been completed by the insurance company. Paula said the insurance company was reviewing the reports and would be discussing their findings. Mr. Black said he has \$26,000 in pledges to repair the building and needs an answer soon so he doesn't lose the money that has been pledged.

Ken Kerns – Resident - Update

Dan Blatter, Licking County Engineer's Office, received Mr. Kerns complaint and will be reviewing the issue.

Minutes

Mr. Slater moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on April 24, 2019. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Road and Bridge

Tree Brush – The brush accumulated over the winter will be chipped on Wednesday.

Culvert Repair – Culvert repair is underway.

Road Bid – The Licking County Engineer's Office has not returned the Road Bid Packet.

Dave will contact the Engineer's Office this week.

Election – Entrance ahead warning signs are posted.

Administration

Mowing - An amendment to the mowing contract with Brandon Daubenmire adding 6265 Lancaster Road, 6.1 acres, to the contract at \$100 per mow was discussed.

Mr. Weekly moved to accept the additional \$100 per mowing. Mr. Slater seconded.

Motion passed.

Variances – Two zoning variances applications are expected to be submitted this week.

Trustees

Mr. Prince discussed the purchase of shelving, dishwasher, stove, refrigerator, washer, and dryer from the Gulick's in the amount of \$4350. Mr. Weekly moved to approve the \$4350 purchase. Mr. Slater seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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. Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Fire Discussion

Jim Mackerel asked to discuss the presentation given on May 2 to the fire district discussion committee. Joan Settina said there is a lack of communication between the trustees and the residents, adding Lakewood Schools mailed a postcard to residents announcing a town meeting on the upcoming school tax levy. Ms. Settina feels decisions regarding fire/ems service and the possible increase in taxes (which she cannot afford) should be openly discussed. Ms. Settina wanted the issue resolved tonight.

Mr. Prince said the township did not have Lakewood Schools resources, adding that trustees had been publicly discussing a possible fire district for more than a year. Mr. Prince recommended Ms. Settina register for township emails on the web site. Mr. Prince said trustees want to improve fire/ems response times throughout the township.

After the Trustees approved the purchase of the appliances and shelving, Ms. Settina objected to the purchase. Ms. Settina asked if a study was done.

Mr. Prince explained Dr. Kramer's study done in the early 1980s and the recent study are the reasons for adding a satellite station (reduce response time/Geographic location of current contract Fire Departments). Mr. Prince said the Trustees want to provide affordable service adding reserve fire funds were used to purchase the satellite station.

Ms. Settina said the times she needed an EMS unit, they arrived quickly and was happy with the service she received.

Ms. Settina voiced her concern about the traffic and hazards at State Route 37 and Beaver Run intersection in detail and had been told the Trustees were addressing the problem. Ms. Settina said the trustees have an obligation to protect its residents and the intersection is very dangerous.

Mr. Prince said the Township will apply for an Ohio Public Works Commission grant in September to address the intersection and feels believes accidents are increasing all along Ohio 37 from Ohio 16 to I-70. have increased at the intersection. Mr. Prince would like to partner with Granville Township Trustees to ask ODOT to conduct a traffic study with the goal of lowering the speed limit to 45 mph.

Ms. Settina then voiced complaints of people discharging firearms in the township. as it is unknown who and where the firearms are being discharged. A discussion was held regarding the issue.

Mr. Prince said discharging firearms in townships is a big issue statewide and there is legislation pending addressing the discharging of firearms in rural areas. Ms. Settina said she would contact her State Representative, and Mr. Prince agreed that she should.

A resident asked the trustees about the area of the possible fire district. Mr. Prince explained the area and the location of the Hebron Fire Department and the new satellite station and how it relates to the fire/ems service.

More discussion was held about the State Route 37 and Beaver Run Road intersection. Mr. Prince said the grant application is to realign the intersection.

Mr. Prince said the Trustees would discuss and choose an architect firm from the five RFQ's submitted to design the two-bay apparatus addition and reconfigure the existing driveway. This project will be paid for from existing funds.

Leslie Herro asked if a fire district could be dissolved and how. Mr. Prince said fire districts can and have been dissolved.

Russ Ginise asked if voters reject a fire district levy would trustees withdraw from the district. Mr. Prince said the Ohio Revised Code states how one member can withdraw from a fire district if there are more than two entities but would need to research one member withdrawing from a two-member fire district.

Mr. Ginise said he appreciates the Trustees listening to their concerns and appreciates the services the fire fighters provide and has no complaint about the quality of services. He also appreciates recognizing the issue of geography but feels its Mr. Princes' goal is to reduce revenue to Granville Township Fire for their services in Union Township. Mr. Ginise said the residents of the northern area are concerned the reduction in funds would reduce services to them. Mr. Ginise added the "cost per run" which he does not believe is too high, but it is their tax dollars, and they feel those tax dollars should go to the department that services them.

Mr. Ginise said Chief Mason's, May 2 presentation of the Fire District budget raised the townships 4.8 mills to 9 mills which did not include funds for contracting with Granville Twp. Fire for their services. Mr. Ginise said this is the reason (excluding their service) is why the residents of this service area have been attending the township meetings. Mr. Ginise feels if the issue is a matter of geography, the study would have identified the numbers of homes outside the target response time, and they did not.

Mr. Prince said he has a report of the number of homes affected that has taken him a great deal of time to create and the response times could be verified by contacting the 911 Center. Mr. Prince said they are real runs with a real addresses.

Mr. Prince said he viewed Chief Mason's presentation for the first time on May 2 and does not want the residents to pay any more than necessary.

Mr. Ginise said he appreciated Mr. Prince's time he invested in his research, which he felt should have been included in Dr. Kramer's study that he was paid \$16,000 to produce. Mr. Ginise wondered why Dr. Kramer did not include this in his report. Mr. Ginise said only 3-5 % of the problem area would receive improved response time and Chief Mason said the satellite station would not resolve all the long response time issues. Mr. Ginise said he does not understand why the trustees are proceeding when the number of residents affected has not been identified.

Mr. Ginise said a fire district will be expensive and needs a plan before going further, adding a business would not operate without a plan, and more work needs to be done before deciding whether a fire district is feasible.

Mr. Ginise said he recognizes Hebron feels they have a problem with their Fire/EMS millage which could be resolved by Hebron conforming their boundaries which they have not done. Mr. Ginise said Chief Curtis presented a plan that would not increase taxes, and no one has followed up with Chief Curtis. Mr. Ginise said after Chief Mason's presentation, there is no creditable way to come to a budget number that is not going to increase the amount of millage to the taxpayers. Mr. Ginise said he would like the trustees to stop and reevaluate the problem and involve more people. Mr. Ginise said he did not believe the trustees were serving the best interest of the public.

Mr. Prince said he feels Mr. Ginise is making broad assumptions. Mr. Prince wants Mr. Ginise to look at the scattergram to see others are not receiving the same service.

Ms. Herro said they feel the trustees are going to pursue the fire district regardless of how the public feels. Ms. Herro feels Chief Mason's presentation without including Granville Twp. Fire services lead them to believe Granville Twp. Fire will not be contracted to service their area.

Mr. Prince said Chief Curtis's presentation did not include revenue to Hebron Fire.

Ken Johnson interrupted asking why Mr. Prince did all the talking and asked to hear from the other trustees.

Mr. Weekly said work is in progress and there is a lot to consider, but nothing has been

decided on, and Chief Mason's report was a draft.

Barbara Johnson said she purchased the property next to the satellite station and prior to the purchase she had many conversations with Paula who did not disclose the Township was purchasing the property next to them for a satellite station. Mrs. Johnson made a records request and received Mr. Slater's emails tonight. One email read in part "one adjustment; they wanted to make was to have closing on or about March 1 with possession taken on May 1 this might pre-empt and external pressure to stop progress on the sale." Mrs. Johnson feels the purchase of the property was kept silent and asked the board to explain.

Mr. Slater said the first closing date was March 1 due to changes made by the Gulick's.

Mrs. Johnson asked if the township was installing a road/driveway for the Gulick's and a septic system. Mr. Slater said they were not. Mrs. Johnson asked if the Trustees planned any additional changes that would cost the taxpayers money. Mr. Slater said there are minor revisions needed such as two fire doors, installing handrails to make the bathroom handicap accessible and adding an apparatus storage building. Mr. Slater said there would be few changes needed to make the building a firehouse which is one of the reasons why they purchased the property, adding it would be much more expensive to build a new fire station.

Carol Jordenson said she did not understand why they purchased the property and from what funds when the study was not completed. Ms. Jordenson asked if there was a plan/phases to be completed, and then the trustees would come to the taxpayers for additional funding.

Mr. Slater said there are two issues, one being the creation of a fire district and second the development of a satellite station.

Ms. Jordenson asked why the trustees were hiring an architect. Mr. Slater explained there were some minor changes needed in the house/station and the addition of a building for apparatus equipment. Ms. Jordenson said she did not understand why the Trustees were not going to the taxpayers to see if the satellite station was needed.

Mr. Prince said the consultant found in both studies that a satellite station was needed and believes now is the time to open a satellite station, and this was the most economical route.

Chief Curtis said his presentation included the cost of Granville Twp. Fire operating the satellite station and separate cost analysis for a fire district that did not include any funds going to Granville. Chief Curtis said the public asked for him to present a cost analysis to operate a fire district and he has explained this several times during the meetings.

Chief Curtis said it had been asked how many runs would be affected by adding a satellite station. Mr. Prince estimates 200 runs. Chief Curtis said that was approximately 5 percent for each department. Mr. Prince said the percentage is misleading wants the best protection for the residents of Union Township.

Chief Curtis said Mr. Prince continues to say Granville Twp. Fire is always on another run and Granville Twp. Fire has the resources to handle more than one run at a time.

Mr. Prince said Granville does get tied up on more than one run and a satellite station could relieve them.

Chief Curtis said the same happens in Hebron. However, Mr. Prince does not discuss Hebron answering more than one run at a time and feels Mr. Prince is against Granville. Chief Curtis asked Mr. Prince if he knew how many runs Hebron responded to outside of the Village. Chief Curtis said in 2018 Hebron responded to 325 total 112 to Heath 83 to Buckeye Lake for free. Mr. Prince asked how many runs Granville Twp. Fire responded to. Chief Curtis said their department responded to 413 mutual aid calls which are 19% of their runs and Hebron mutual aid responses were 28% of their run volume. Chief Curtis said mutual aid is taking care of our neighbors, which is something we should be doing and that is how mutual aid works.

Chief Curtis feels Mr. Prince brings the mutual aid up to play them against Granville Township as they cannot provide additional service, but he does not bring the same data for Hebron, and this is important information.

Mr. Prince said Granville Twp. Fire responses to twice as many more runs than Hebron Fire.

Chief Curtis said this was untrue, Granville Twp. Fire responded to 2170 and Hebron responded to 1386 in 2018. Mr. Prince said Granville responded to 50% more runs than Hebron.

Mr. Ginise said to Mr. Prince that he (Mr. Prince) continues to give the impression he has an issue with Granville Twp. Fire and does not say the same about Hebron.

Mr. Prince said if Mr. Ginise reviewed the study, he would see Hebron has a significant number of runs they are addressing.

Mr. Ginise said he does not consider Mr. Prince's study reliable.

Ms. Herro said at the May 2 Fire District Committee Meeting; Chief Mason said he would forward the minutes and presentation to Paula.

Chief Mason said he would once the document was changed to read, Chief Curtis' report was a "presentation" and not a "proposal." Due to a lack of time, the change has not been made and will send Paula the corrected document.

Granville Twp. Trustee Dan Van Ness said the Trustees had not attended a Granville Township Trustee meeting to update them. Mr. Slater said he has had scheduling issues but will attend a meeting. Trustee Van Ness said no one understands why the township would want to enter a fire district.

Mr. Prince said the only way to improve response time is to open a satellite station. No decisions have been made on a district, satellite station, or the township opening their

own station. The purchase of the property saved the township over a million dollars.

Mr. Ginise asked if it was true the Trustees entered into a contract for 6265 Lancaster Road before Dr. Kramer, and Mr. Prince's study has been completed. Mr. Prince said it was not, Dr. Kramer's preliminary report was available in January, which recommended a satellite station.

There being no further business Mr. Slater moved to adjourn at 8:35pm.

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



Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer