

JEDD Public Hearing  
September 7, 2021

The Union Township Trustees held a Public Hearing on September 7, 2021, at 6:00 pm, to discuss and hear public comments regarding Union Township and the Village of Hebron entering into a JEDD agreement with utilities.

Roll Call by Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater showed Trustees John Slater, Charles Prince, and Randy Weekly present. Paula Greene and a court recorder were also present. The Court Recorder swore in all those wishing to speak.

Guests: Lisa Messinger, Curt and Geri Painter, Rick Black, Valerie & Gary Mockus, Roger Start, and Joe Shirtzinger

Trustee Slater explained the purpose of the JEDD Public Hearing. The Village of Hebron plans to extend water from US Route 40 to State Route 37 and would like to do so with a JEDD agreement. In addition, there are businesses in the area that would like public water. Mr. Slater opened comments to the Board.

Mr. Prince said entering into a JEDD would bring Hebron water to businesses and stop the City of Heath's aggressive annexation of the Township. Residents in the Canyon and Seminary Road areas are concerned that their properties could be annexed into the City of Heath.

Mr. Weekly said he would like to help those in the State Route 37 corridor who do not have access to quality water.

Township resident Roger Start asked if the 50/50 revenue split is typical. Mr. Slater said he believed the proposed 50/50 split was not typical and could be negotiated, and initially, the Village of Hebron wanted 100% of the revenue. Mr. Slater said he had been speaking with others involved with JEDD agreements.

Mr. Start said he has learned that the Village of Hebron has almost five million dollars in their Water Department funds and asked why the Village requires a loan to pay for the waterline. Mr. Slater said he did not know, that would be a question for the Village of Hebron. Mr. Prince said Hebron agreed not to annex if we joined the JEDD. It was noted annexed into Heath occurred to access city water.

Mr. Start asked how far along the JEDD process was at this point. Mr. Slater said the ORC laws to be followed in creating a JEDD. However, on September 29, 2021, the ORC will change, requiring additional steps to create a JEDD. Property owners in the designated area can choose whether or not they wish to participate, but no one has been contacted at this time. To proceed with the JEDD process, 51% of the property owners in the proposed JEDD must agree to participate.

Rick Black, Union Township resident and Licking County Commissioner, said Licking County agencies and schools system would receive a percentage of funding from the JEDD.

Joe Shirtzinger, Lees Road, asked about the location of the JEDD area and the taxing authority. The creation of the JEDD board, JEDD location, and taxing process was explained.

Mr. Start asked how the Township's JEDD revenue could be spent. At this time, it is believed the revenue goes into the General Fund.

Lisa Messenger said she attended the Village of Hebron's Public Meeting earlier today. During the hearing, the Village representatives said the JEDD agreement with Union Township would be adopted by October 13; the Village was working closely and were on the same timeline as the Township.

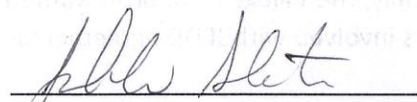
Mr. Start asked if MPW would be participating in the JEDD. Mr. Slater said initially, MPW wanted to be involved; however, at this time, their participation is unknown.

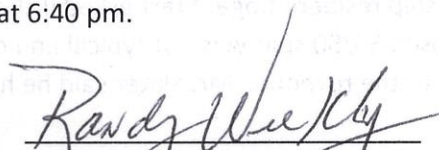
Mr. Prince said no residents or businesses would be forced to attach to the water system. In addition, Mr. Prince said installing sewer lines was not being considered at this time.

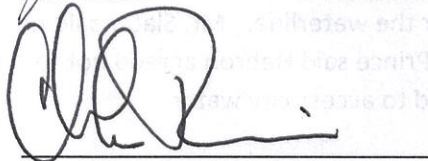
Mrs. Messenger said Village representatives said they plan to run sewer lines within the next two years. Mr. Slater questioned the practicality of installing a sewer line at this time. Paula said during our meetings that the Village did not mention any plans of running a sewer line at this time; however, with the change in the law, the Village had to submit a sewer plan along with a water plan to participate in the JEDD.

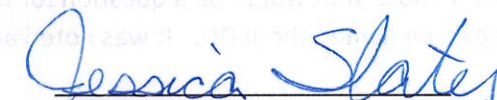
Mr. Slater said he intends to keep the Township a rural environment and is not ready to run sewers through the Township.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

  
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John Slater                      President

  
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Randy Weekly                      Trustee

  
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Charlie Prince                      Trustee

  
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Jessica Slater                      Fiscal Officer