

**REGULAR MEETING  
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
August 19, 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 August 19, 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, John Black, Bill McWilliams, Russ Ginise, Licking County EMA Director Sean Grady, Rick Black, Leslie Herro, Kevin Keller, Andrea Chapman, Valerie, and Greg Mockus.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the July 29 Special Trustee Meeting were presented. Mr. Weekly moved to approve both minutes. Mr. Slater seconded. Motion passed.

**Bills**

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.

**Chip and Seal**

The Chip and Seal project will begin on Wednesday in Fairmont, followed by Stone Creek and Old Farm Road.

Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater asked if the funds to proceed with chip sealing were approved at the last meeting. Mr. Prince said they approved the project but did not have a total cost. Mr. Prince said they followed her recommendation. The project will be a little over \$100,000 and not \$160,000. Mr. Curtis asked if there were funds available to cover the project. Mrs. Slater said the Road and Bridge Fund did not and that she would have to transfer money from the General Fund.

Mr. Slater asked the status of the Road and Bridge Fund. Mr. Prince said the following were the fund balances per the fiscal officer as of 8/1/19: Road and Bridge \$73,207.36; Gasoline Tax \$77,516.40; and Motor Vehicle Tax \$27,744.69. These three funds are to be used exclusively for road and bridge expenses. Sweeping the stone after paving is estimated to cost \$2 – 3,000.

Mr. Curtis questioned the road and bridge fund levels and if there was adequate funding to last until the end of the year. Mr. Curtis is concerned the trustees are overspending the Road and Bridge Funds and feels the trustees should be discussing a road levy.

Mr. Prince said there had not been enough time before the chip sealing project to decide on a road levy. Mr. Curtis said the trustees knew a road levy was needed and was not a new issue.

Mr. Prince said the condition of the township's roads is comparable to surrounding townships. In 2020 there will be approximately \$40,000 more from the state gasoline tax increase effective July 1, 2019.

A discussion was held regarding a possible fire levy rate increase. Mr. Slater said some members of the board would not agree to the proposed nine mills. Mr. Prince said the satellite station would move forward, and some residents will see better response times, and everyone will benefit from the availability of at least two additional firefighters/EMTs. Mr. Prince said not everyone benefits from the township roads and our primary responsibility is fire/ems. Mrs. Herro said stating everyone would benefit without knowing the cost for the service was not a practical statement.

Mr. Prince acknowledged an email received before the meeting from a Stone Creek Estates resident stating the roads have not been resurfaced in 12 years and requested asphalt. Mr. Prince said he understands that the township may need a road and bridge levy, but will be receiving an additional \$40,000 next year from the gasoline tax increase and can add another five dollars to the license plate fee which would generate approximately \$35,000.

#### Administration

The Trustees proclaimed River Roundup Day on Saturday, September 7, 2019.

The Licking County Health Department issued Randy Williams a cease and desist order for installing his septic system without permits. The Township's complaint against Mr. Williams has been set for trial on September 10, 2019.

Thornwood Drive and Deeds Road are now open.

#### Milliken Rail Road Tracks

Mr. Weekly reported on his meeting with Rob O'Neill of Southgate Development and the industrial park companies using the railroad crossing on Milliken Drive. The township is responsible for the approach (15' each side of tracks) and has committed to the repair. Mr. Weekly said the railroad company did not attend the meeting, and the group would be researching ways to pay for an estimated \$100,000 to \$200,000 of repairs.

#### Project Bright

Project Bright remains on hold. Jobs Ohio will release its portion of the project funds if businesses on Enterprise Drive or O'Neill Drive commit to creating ten additional jobs. Mr. Prince said he was concerned that the township could be penalized on future OPWC applications because of the delay in moving forward on Project Bright.

Mr. Prince discussed applying for an OWPC grant to re-align Beaver Run Road at State Route 37. Applications are due October 4, 2019. Mr. Slater moved to submit an Engineer's Request for a study of this area. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

### OPEC-HC

Mr. Prince said the court-appointed receiver for OPEC-HC signed off on the proposed settlement of approximately 40 cents on the dollar with Jefferson Health Plan. We are waiting for JHP to reschedule the four equal payments.

### Fire District Budget

Mr. Prince said there would not be a Fire District budget presented from Chief Mason, who is attending a Hebron Village combined committee meeting. Mr. Prince said Hebron told him before tonight's meeting Hebron wants the township to approve the resolution to enter a fire district at our next meeting so that the Fire Board could be appointed.

Ms. Herro said Mayor McFarland does not want a fire department and creating a fire district would get rid of their debt.

Mr. Slater said in general Mayor McFarland wants out of the fire business, but it is unknown what that exactly means. Mr. Prince listed Hebron Village's fire department assets. The current fire contract with Hebron ends on August 31.

Ms. Herro said she has been waiting to ask Chief Mason's questions regarding his fire district budget which includes the operation of 6265 Lancaster Road. Chief Curtis has given the trustees a proposed budget for operating 6265.

Mr. Slater did not believe Chief Mason was asked the cost to operate the satellite station but was asked to prepare the costs to run the Fire District. Chief Mason determined he could operate a fire district on nine mills.

Ms. Herro questioned Chief Mason's determination of revenue and felt there was money not accounted for. Mr. Prince said revisions had been made but, there are critical numbers in which guidance from Hebron was needed.

Ms. Herro asked Mr. Prince why Hebron did not submit a proposal to operate 6265 Lancaster Road for comparison. Mr. Prince said this a complicated matter, and 2020 will be a tough year as 2021 would be the earliest a Fire District would receive revenue.

Mr. Prince said Chief Curtis' proposal to operate the satellite station significantly reduces Hebron's revenue from the township and Hebron would not be able to continue their current standard of operation. Mr. Prince said he is not in favor of 10 mills and hopes a Fire District could operate with nine mills or less. Mr. Prince acknowledged Chief Curtis proposal is a three mill increase but leaves Hebron with very little money.

Mr. Ginise asked Mr. Prince to explain what he meant by he was waiting on critical information.

Mr. Prince said he was not in the position to elaborate and that the information could affect negotiations. Mr. Ginise said he did not believe the trustees were in negotiations. Mr. Prince would not comment on his previous statement.

Mr. Ginise said the fire district discussion has gone on for several months and forming a fire district would not be logical without a budget everyone agrees on. Once the township enters a fire district, dissolving the district would be difficult.

Mr. Prince said things in Hebron are uncertain as they thought they knew who the new mayor would be. Ms. Herro said who the Mayor would be was not relevant and should not affect the process of discussing ems/fire services. Ms. Herro said she has been waiting for Chief Mason to explain his budget for several months.

Mr. Slater said Chief Mason feels that it is not his responsibility to provide a budget for the fire district. Chief Mason feels he has gone above and beyond at this point and that a Fire District Board should be appointed and then a budget developed. Mr. Slater feels the budget needs to be determined before forming a fire district.

Ms. Herro said any business determines a budget before moving forward. Ms. Herro said only the members of Hebron's administration want a fire district and no one from the township does. A fire district does not affect response times. Ms. Herro asked what the benefit of a Fire District would be.

Mr. Slater said, in theory, a fire district should be more economical to operate. Mr. Prince said the trustees would have more input in the operation of a fire district. Ms. Herro feels the trustees would have less control.

Mr. Slater said Hebron voters could vote for four of the five positions held on a fireboard as residents of Hebron can vote for Trustees and Council whereas the residents of the Township can only vote for Trustees.

Mr. Prince said there is a legitimate issue that needs to be resolved by Hebron Council.

Mr. Ginise said the two budgets presented by Chief Mason have not been rational, and cutting the funds to Granville will negatively affect service. Ms. Herro feels Chief Mason does not want to answer questions regarding the budget.

Mr. Prince said Chief Mason was attending a Committee Meeting and at the previous trustees meeting he was responding to a fatal on Interstate 70, where a fire chief should be. Chief Curtis said Chief Mason responded to the fatality as an employee of the Licking County Coroner's Office and not Hebron Fire Chief and was not in Hebron's response area.

Mr. Slater asked if the fire district committee meetings could begin again. Ms. Herro asked why the August 12 meeting had been canceled.

Mr. Prince said he knows of a Village issue that has a significant impact on the budget and does not know what the Village discussed during their combined committee meeting. Mr. Prince said we had been working on response time, and they asked for an outside opinion, which Dr. Kramer recommended a fire district. Ms. Herro said Dr. Kramer gave seven choices. Mr. Prince said his top recommendation was a fire district.

Chief Curtis said his presentation did not include funds to Hebron but would have met with Hebron to determine the revenue they needed to operate. Chief Curtis said Granville has sufficient staffing, including running the satellite station. Hebron changes their staffing numbers which change their budget. Operating the satellite station with two members is not appropriate. With Granville operating the satellite station, Hebron's runs

into the township would be reduced to 100-120 a year.

Chief Curtis asked the trustees to meet and discuss plans to operate satellite station. If they begin discussions now, the satellite station would be in operation in January. Chief Curtis asked why the trustees were waiting on Hebron.

Ms. Herro said she feels Hebron is being problematic and being bullies on purpose and doesn't understand why the trustees would not consider talking with Granville.

Mr. Prince said he knows what the numbers are, should Granville operate the satellite station, Hebron would not have the funds to run their department. Mr. Prince feels Hebron should be taken care of as they are part of the township.

Ms. Herro said she does not know what the numbers are. Mr. Prince said he knows the millage numbers and it leaves Hebron with significantly less than half its current revenue from the township. Chief Curtis asked what that revenue was.

Mr. Prince said he wanted to develop long term organizational mechanism for the trustees to run the district; people in Hebron should not be paying ten mills for fire/ems.

Mr. Ginise said it was not Mr. Prince's concern if the Village residents are not willing to pay ten mills. The Village Administrators approved to remodel the fire department that was too big for the size of the community and now want the township to bail them out.

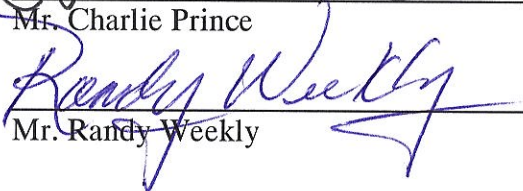
Mr. Ginise said he didn't understand why Mr. Prince wanted to give Hebron all the power, and he continued to wait, especially when the two budgets that have presented did not work for the township. Mr. Ginise said the public representatives should have a plan and asked the trustees to meet with Granville and Hebron create a credible plan.


Ms. Herro said she is disappointed Chief Mason has not attended the past meetings as she wanted to discuss his budget and information she has obtained of Chief Mason's previous actions while holding a public office adding that a person's reputation is essential. Ms. Herro said she contacted Channel 10 news regarding Chief Mason. Mr. Prince interrupted and said they are not going to talk about people are not here and to send her comments in an email.

Ms. Herro said that he needs to here and Mr. Prince is putting them in a position where they are going to Channel 10 news. Ms. Herro said she and the others are concerned that Chief Mason would be appointed Chief of the proposed fire district.

There being no further business, Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn at 8:10 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Complex.

  
Mr. Charlie Prince

  
Mr. Randy Weekly

  
Mr. John Slater

  
Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer