

**SPECIAL MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
October 28, 2019**

<u>Present:</u>	Charlie Prince, Trustee	Paula Greene, Administrator
	John Slater, Trustee	Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer
	Randy Weekly, Trustee	Dave Cable, Road Supervisor

The Union Township Trustees met in special session at 7:00 pm on October 28, 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: See the attached sign-in sheets.

Minutes

Mr. Weekly moved to approve the September 3, September 15, October 2, and October 7 meeting minutes. 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. Mr. Slater motioned to pay the bills. Mr. Weekly. Motion passed.

Fire District Resolution

Mr. Prince announced that the Fire District Resolution language had been amended to make clear that any debt brought into the Fire District by Hebron Fire Department will return to the Village of the Hebron should the fire district disband.

Dianna Tarone has concerns about Hebron voting for four of the members that would sit on the fireboard (2 council/2 trustees). Mrs. Tarone said the proposals for service concerned her. Mr. Prince said the ORC governs the voting laws and feels that Granville's proposal to operate the satellite station was higher and left Hebron without the proper funding to operate.

Cornelia Brown questioned the fire district proposal. Mr. Prince explained the process as established by the ORC and the steps after both parties approve the resolution. Mrs. Brown feels there will not be a fair representation on the fireboard. Mr. Prince said there would not be a conflict of interest with two township trustees serving on the fireboard. Mr. Slater feels the township operating a department of their own, would be a better solution.

Brian Crock asked why the drastic changes as there are no complaints and will Granville continue to serve the township. Mr. Slater feels the satellite station will improve service; a district would bring higher taxes without much improvement to function, which he cannot justify. Mr. Slater wants Granville's service to continue in the township. Mr. Prince pointed out to the charts showing the areas he has determine to have long response times. Chief Curtis advised that either department could operate the satellite station

without entering into a fire district.

Walter Grant asked if creating a fire district would stop service to their area. Mr. Prince said the fireboard plans to reduce Granville's service area. Mr. Grant asked if Granville could refuse to service the area. Mr. Prince believes Granville would be the only department in the state that refused to provide mutual aid. Mr. Grant asked again if Granville could refuse to respond outside the proposed new service area. Mr. Slater said, yes. Mr. Grant feels his service would decrease. A discussion was held on mutual aid.

The audience became upset with the answers they were hearing. A resident asked the fire district issue to be placed on the ballot. The crowd supported this comment. Mr. Prince said service would have to improve to get voters to support a new levy.

Russ Ginise asked how the updated resolution addressed Hebron's debt. Mr. Prince said the resolution states the Village will be responsible for the debt if the district disbands. Mr. Slater voiced concerns about the lack of funding and providing ems/fire service if levies drop off or fail and the liability to the township.

Mr. Prince wants more input into the ems/fire service than what contracting gives the trustees. Mr. Slater said the township has representation with the trustees and didn't understand what more Mr. Prince wanted, and the frustration between the trustees and the village would still exist. Mr. Weekly feels with representation from both entities on the fireboard; the failures would be worked out. The crowd disagreed.

Mr. Ginise said Mr. Prince had given false information to create a need that is not there; Granville gave a presentation to provide additional service, and he decided the proposal was not acceptable and did not request a formal proposal. Mr. Ginise said there was no reason to enter into a fire district at this time that would increase taxes and asked Mr. Prince request from surrounding fire departments to give service proposals. Mr. Ginise asked that Mr. Prince to the right thing for the township.

Michelle Doran repeated the same concerns that have been stated and asked to place the issue of creating a fire district on the ballot and let the voters decide. Michelle Richard said she agreed with the previous statements and wants to be heard.

Ken Kerns asked Mr. Weekly his plans to service the northern end of the township should Granville stop service at the end of the 90-days and fears his ems/fire response times would drastically increase; and does Granville enforcing the 90-day clause to end their contract affect his decision to with move forward with the fire district. Mr. Weekly said if the satellite station were not operating by the end of the 90 days, he would look to other agencies to provide service and that it was Granville's decision not to provide service. Mr. Weekly said he would vote for the fire district now. Bob Seaton asked Mr. Weekly with people against the fire district did he believe voters would support district funding. Mr. Weekly said it would be up to the voters.

Penny Slater asked the trustees to discuss the issues the people are interested in, among the board, as she did not believe the trustees understood each other's point of view.

Kevin Sograne asked when the trustees would place ems/fire service up for competitive bidding. Mr. Prince said the ORC does not require bidding as the remodeling does.

Rebecca Todora asked if the fire district budget has been reviewed. Mr. Weekly said he had. Mrs. Todora was upset the issue would not be on the ballot, no bidding for service, and possibly inheriting Hebron's unknown debt. Mrs. Todora referred to ORC Section 308, which allows voters to file for a recall of the trustees for not doing their due diligence. Granville is exercising the 90-day clause because they have not heard from the board. Ms. Todora said a group plans to annex out of the township.

Brad Eckenrode feels Mr. Weekly has a conflict of interest as he is the former Hebron Fire Chief, and his family members work at the department. The group thinks that due to Mr. Weekly's history with Hebron, it would be difficult for him to be unbiased.

Mr. Prince said Mr. Weekly's not gaining anything and is capable of making an unbiased decision. Mr. Weekly said he had been ridiculed throughout this process and is dedicated to improving fire and ems service.

Laney McLaughlin said she believes in the satellite station but not the fire district and is upset is there are no plans or budget. Mrs. McLaughlin hopes there is a plan when the district fails. Mrs. McLaughlin said she is not a resident but is paying the taxes on 250 acres that she can't vote on, which is upsetting to her and encouraged the audience to remember what she said when they go to vote.

Dr. Davidoff feels the decision to proceed has been made and doesn't believe levies supporting the district would pass when everyone is against the district.

Amanda Gottfried said the public has not received an honest answer and asked how they will benefit from a fire district no one wants, and no one present wanted a district. Mr. Prince said he didn't like her statement, and many residents have response times well over six minutes, and his motivation is to give everyone a better response time.

Amy Deeds said the 14 minutes rural response time was appropriate for this area and was unaware of Hebron's debt and asked if Chief Weekly worked for Hebron at the time the debt was incurred. Ms. Deeds has serious concerns about another department reaching her home on Deeds Road. Trustee Weekly said he was Fire Chief at the time and that Hebron Village Council made the decision to remodel the fire station. Mrs. Deeds does not understand why Mr. Weekly does not recuse himself as he was Chief when the debt was incurred.

Mr. DeMent asked whom the fireboard reported to and what are their terms of office. Mr. Prince explained the fireboard and the positions.

Mr. Prince asked for a motion. Mr. Weekly moved to approve the fire district resolution. Mr. Prince seconded the motion.

Discussion - Mr. Slater feels they have not thoroughly discussed the fire district and its benefits. This decision affects many people and their taxation. He's not seeing that we gain any efficiently and feels there are ways to address issues without creating another layer of government, and the responsibility lies with the trustees. Mr. Slater said he is committed to the substation and does not agree that the district is the way to manage the substation. The substation needs to be a Union Township service, whether we have our

own department or contract for services. The audience agreed with Mr. Slater

Mr. Weekly said they are going into the resolution to discuss the district. Mr. Prince said the system is broken. Mr. Slater disagreed. Mr. Prince said discuss issues during public meetings, and the public becomes upset. Mr. Slater said voters in the southeast section of the township don't understand how raising the taxes will improve their service. Mr. Slater says he doesn't and cannot support the district.

Mr. Prince said approving the resolution does not commit them to a district. Mr. Slater asked who would be representing them in on the fireboard. Mr. Prince said that was to be determined. Mr. Slater said two trustees could not serve on the fireboard.

A discussion was held whether or not a district would be formed by approving the resolution. Mr. Weekly said the resolution allowed them to investigate a fire district. Chief Curtis said if they passed the resolution a district would a legally be formed. Mr. Ginise said once passing the resolution, and the district receives all of the township's fire funds. Mr. Prince agreed. Brittney Smith noted when discussions began; the trustees promised her service would not change.

A discussion was held on the trustees meeting with Granville Township Trustees.

Mr. DeMent said the people are getting upset because Mr. Prince is not listening to the constituents who do not want a fire district. The group asked where the people are that want a fire district.

Mr. Prince then closed public comments.

Roll call: Mr. Slater – No; Mr. Weekly – Yes; Mr. Prince – Yes

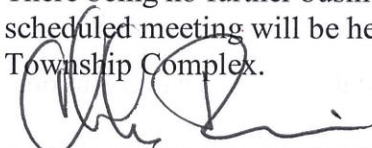
Mr. Slater's vote was cheered.

Health Insurance


The township's health insurance broker has submitted the 2020 Health Insurance quotes Medical Mutual \$112,284.00 (current) and Anthem Insurance \$79963.68. Anthem Insurance came in 17% lower than the 2018 Medical Mutual cost.

Mr. Slater moved to accept the Anthem MEWA for 2020. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.


There being no further business, Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn at 9:17 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 18, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Complex.



Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. John Slater



Mr. Randy Weekly



Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer