

REGULAR MEETING
UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
October 7, 2019

Present: Charlie Prince, Trustee
John Slater, Trustee
Randy Weekly, Trustee
Paula Greene, Administrator
Jessica Slater, Fiscal Officer
Dave Cable, Road Supervisor
Thomas Lucas, Patrolman

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on October 7, 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 Township Trustee Dan VanNess, Granville Fire Chief Casey Curtis, Hebron Fire Chief Cliff Mason, Rich Moore, Rick Black, Mike Bishop, Martha Cable, Laney McLaughlin, Nancy Geiger, Russ Ginise, Beth Wait, Ken Kerns, Jeff Kalinoski, Judy Marshall, Jack Voll, and Bill McWilliams.

Minutes

Mr. Prince had yet to review the past three township meeting minutes. The outstanding minutes were not approved.

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.

Road and Bridge

Road Sweeping – Strawser equipment vacuumed the loose stone from the chip seal projects, going over the streets twice. The excess limestone has been stored at the Township Complex.

Mr. Weekly asked if the excess stone could be set aside for next year's road projects. Dave said chip seal stone needs to be washed limestone. By next year the material will be too dirty. The stone will be used for other township projects such as graveling the Complex parking lot or with the dura-patching.

Granview Bridge - The sandstone along the Granview Road bridge east of Hayes Road has been slipping from the bank. Repairs have been done.

Mowing/Brush Removal/Dura-patching – The mowing season will conclude soon. Weather permitting the road staff will begin cutting back brush. Dura-patching work continues until the emulsion supply is exhausted.

Administration

Health Insurance – The health insurance company sent a CMS notice regarding creditable coverage as it relates to Medicare drug coverage costs. Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly

received a copy of the information as they have spouses on Medicare.

208 Sycamore Road – Persons living at this address were evicted. The former residents left a considerable amount of trash and other debris in the yard. The owner of the property, Mrs. Brust, resides in a nursing home and is represented by a Newark law firm. The Licking County Health Department has begun the process of declaring the property a nuisance. The clean-up cost will be assessed to the property taxes. Paula will issue a notice regarding the clean-up of the noxious weeds surrounding the house.

Williams Complaint – Licking County Common Pleas Judge Branstool scheduled a status conference for October 9.

Refugee Road Partners – Shai Real Estate contacted Paula regarding the Zoning Classification for RRP at State Route 37, north of I-70. Paula requested information as to what activity was taking place on the property and advised the business sign is illegal.

Map Amendment - Andy Green submitted a map amendment application to rezone three acres of his property to RR3. Portions of the application are incomplete; therefore, a hearing date has not been set.

Trustees

Trash - Mr. Prince said the mattresses left on county property along Lees Road had been removed. Mr. Prince noted Paula asked the Licking County Highway Department to pick up the mattresses last week. The mattresses were dumped several weeks ago.

OPWC - Mr. Prince submitted the OPWC grant application to align the Beaver Run Road at SR 37 (west) Intersection. The Trustees held a special meeting on October 2 to approve the resolution to submit the grant and the township's financial contribution to the project in the amount of \$16,200.00. This amount is 16% of the estimated project cost. This contribution should earn additional points for the application.

Funding Update - From the increase in the State's gas tax, the township saw a rise in the gas tax revenue. The Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation refunded \$3,887.84 in payments made in 2017 as part of its continuing refund program.

Satellite Station - The estimated cost for legal occupancy of the satellite station living quarters (Phase One) will exceed \$50,000. The project will go through the open bid process. Phase 2 will be the expansion of the existing three-bay garage to house a medic, engine and possibly a grass truck. Mr. Slater moved to begin the bid process for the satellite station's modifications. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Bishop asked the total of funds spent on the satellite station to this point. The expenses are estimated to be \$365,000.00 at this time.

Levies – The Licking County Auditor's Office notified the township that the 1.8 Fire/Ems levy expires in 2020 with collection ending in 2021. The deadline to submit Resolutions for any levy is December 18 at 4:00 pm.

Fire

Trustee VanNess asked why the finance meeting was not held. Mr. Prince said the district

budget was a work in progress. The public will be notified if a budget meeting is scheduled. Mr. Prince said the Village of Hebron is discussing budget issues. Mr. VanNess commented that finances should be in order before remodeling begins. Mr. Prince said a budget would be in place before the modification starts.

Mr. Ginise asked if the trustees would review and consider the plan and budget submitted to them before forming a fire district. Mr. Prince said they would.

Mr. Prince said there is a major unresolved funding issue with the Village of Hebron. He has been in negotiations with Hebron and feels the problem will soon be resolved.

Mr. Kerns asked what the issue was. Mr. Prince said Hebron is deciding how to handle a significant funding issue, and explaining would hurt negotiations with Hebron.

Mr. Slater said he wanted to make it clear that he has no involvement with Mr. Prince's negotiations or talks with the Village of Hebron. Mr. Prince agreed, stating he (Prince) is involved with the discussions with Hebron.

Mr. Kerns asked when they would see a budget. Mr. Prince said there is an unresolved issue with a crucial part of the budget that has a significant impact on Hebron. The Hebron's 2020 budget and the Fire District budget are separate issues.

Mr. Kerns asked if the trustees have met with Granville Township Trustees. Mr. Prince said they would once Hebron had resolved their issue.

Mr. Kerns asked with Hebron's extension ending soon should another extension be discussed, so the trustees are not rushing into an agreement. Mr. Prince believes there will be a budget meeting before the fire contract extension ends.

Mr. Kerns said the perception is that Mr. Prince is working on his own. Mr. Prince said negotiations are difficult to have in a public meeting, so he is acting as one member of the board during the negotiations. The board has made no decisions.

Mr. Kerns asked what length of time would the public have to review the budget before the trustees make a decision. Mr. Prince said they should have time. Mr. Prince said voters make the ultimate decision as they can choose not to approve a new levy. Mr. Kerns asked what Mr. Prince estimates the fire district millage to be. Mr. Prince said the millage would not be over nine.

Mr. Ginise asked if Chief Mason had been directed to create an 8.5 mill budget. Mr. Prince said yes, he had. Mr. Ginise asked for more than a week to review Chief Mason's budget and to hold at least one public meeting for discussion. Mr. Ginise agreed the community could vote a levy down but, only after forming a fire district, all fire revenue becomes the district's revenue without consideration to Granville Twp. Fire.

Mr. Ginise encouraged the board not to rush into a fire district once they have received a budget and to have a discussion with all those involved before rendering a decision. Mr. Prince said he does not intend to terminate all revenue to Granville Twp. Fire.

Mr. Kerns said he was confused as Mr. Prince has spoken with five contractors regarding

a satellite station but won't drive ten miles to talk with Granville Twp. Trustees.

Mr. Prince said as there is a crucial element not resolved with the Village of Hebron, that he will not discuss.

Mr. Kerns said he is frustrated with Mr. Prince for that reason. Mr. Prince said he could not publicly discuss the issue during negotiations.

Mrs. McLaughlin asked if Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly knew what the key element Mr. Prince refers to is. Mr. Slater stated no. Mr. Weekly shook his head no. Mrs. McLaughlin said it bothers her that Mr. Prince has not discussed the problem with the other two trustees.

Mr. VanNess thought Mr. Slater was part of the finance committee, but now, Mr. Prince is working with Hebron. Mr. Prince said the rearrangement of committees took place after they were formed, and Mr. Slater has been busy with the fall harvest. Chief Mason has contacted Mr. Slater and will meet with him. Mr. Prince said they have jobs along with being a trustee. Mr. Slater said that should not be an excuse.

Mr. Ginise said being transparent and disclosing issues could be done faster and doesn't know what there is to negotiate as the trustees are in control of the funding. Mr. Ginise wants the trustees to take their time with the final budget once it has been disclosed, allowing everyone concerned to review it.

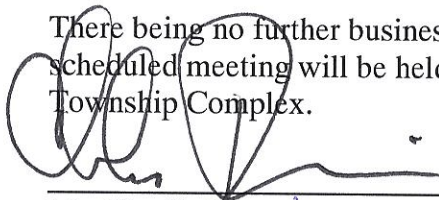
Mr. Kerns asked if the trustees considered a proposal from Granville. Mr. Slater said Granville's proposal caused the trustees to take an in-depth look into Hebron's plan.

Executive Session

Mr. Prince moved to enter into executive session at 7:45 pm to discuss a personnel issue.

Mr. Slater moved to return from executive session at 8:05 pm. Mr. Slater moved that on or about January 1, 2020, move current part-time employee Dennis Vest to full-time employment. Mr. Weekly seconded the motion. Motion approved.

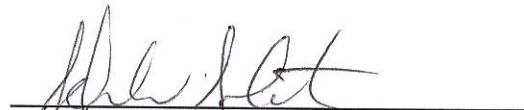
There being no further business, Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn at 8:08 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Complex.



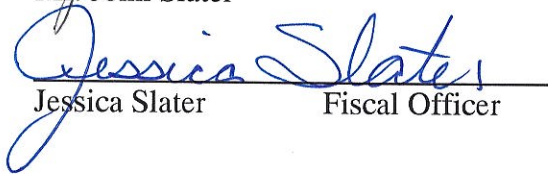
Mr. Charlie Prince



Mr. Randy Weekly



Mr. John Slater



Jessica Slater

Fiscal Officer