

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Special Meeting of Webster Township

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS - 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held January 9, 2020 6:30 P.M. 20

Present:

Webster Township – Mark Bushman, Trustee; Jim Cajka, Trustee; and Julie Foos, Fiscal Officer

Freedom Township – Kent Schuerman, Trustee; Rick Rahe, Trustee; Dave Bruning, Trustee; Ron Golightly, Fiscal Officer; and Bob Rentz, Road Maintenance

Troy Township – Ken Recker, Trustee; Matthew Brinker, Trustee; Richard Greulich Jr., Trustee; Laura Abke, Resident; Mark Lowry, Resident; and Scott Abke, Resident

Eastwood Community Improvement Corporation – Roger Mullholand, Township Committee; Joe Hirzel, Township Committee; and Keith Madaras, Township Committee

Pemberville Freedom Fire Department – Duane Martin, Chief; Andy Sergent; Shelly Vajen; Kent Appelhans; and John Vaughn

Troy Township Fire Department – Randy Woodruff, Chief; Carl Schulte; and Zach Sarver

Pemberville – Carol Bailey, Mayor; Susie Rahe, Resident; and Kim Vaughn, Resident

Luckey – Cory Panning, Mayor; and Randy Bielinski, Resident

Roger Mullholand opened the meeting and stated one of the ECIC's goals is to make the Eastwood District the best and safest place to live in Ohio. After Freedom Township's levy for a new building failed, the Township asked the ECIC to form a committee and make a recommendation for the future. Roger Mullholand said the committee thought about various ways to make residents' lives better while saving on taxes, and the ECIC suggested looking into consolidation of fire and EMS services. Roger Mullholand provided examples of joint fire districts and cited resources that may be able to be combined, benefits of consolidation, and various challenges that may come up. Roger Mullholand mentioned there are more homes being built in the area, more businesses coming into the district, and Otterbein is expanding its facilities.

Joe Hirzel stated back in the 1960's there was a lot of pressure to annex 600 acres into the city of Toledo, and he believes the Eastwood communities are going to face similar pressure soon from Perrysburg and Bowling Green. Joe Hirzel has asked some of the major companies why they chose to come to this area. These businesses are attracted to the area because of the good school districts and access to PENTA's students who have technical training. Joe Hirzel believes growth is coming rapidly and the townships need to stay up with the times.

Rick Rahe stated although Freedom has never had a fire and EMS levy fail, he wanted the townships to meet now. Rick Rahe wondered if within ten years, the voters will decide they no longer want to pay for fire and EMS services with other taxes rising.

Cory Panning mentioned he does not want to get too far down a path towards consolidation without hearing if Troy and Freedom Townships have a five year plan or a succession plan for their departments. Cory Panning wondered if the departments are competing against each other for the same pool of people, and then the people are leaving for better pay and better benefits.

Ken Recker said Troy Township does have a succession plan and a long-term plan in which they are already halfway through. Troy Township's next step is to have 24 hour EMS services by June of 2020. Ken Recker thinks the two township departments are funded separately but act like one department under two roofs. Ken Recker said Troy Township is not interested in consolidating, because he feels like the townships work together very well as it is. Ken Recker mentioned there was a huge fight when the elementary schools consolidated, and thinks it would be worse if the fire departments consolidated as well.

Kent Schuerman said the decision to consolidate needs to come from the taxpayers. The township may have its own plan, but everything is ultimately up to the voters.

Carol Bailey mentioned she doesn't have an opinion yet without knowing more about the issue.

Cory Panning said the Eastwood Community is everyone's community, and the entities need to know they can ask each other for help if needed. Cory Panning mentioned everyone needs to have an open line of communication.

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Ken Recker said none of the fire equipment is cheap, and both Freedom and Troy Townships do not need to duplicate some specialized equipment.

Jim Cajka said Webster Township is fortunate to contract with four departments for fire and EMS protection. Jim Cajka wished the townships had met before Troy Township built their new building, because the townships could have gone in together on it somehow.

All the Trustees discussed where they currently buy salt, fuel, and insurance and if they could collaborate more to save more money.

Rick Rahe said it sounds like consolidating fire and EMS services is not what the group wants. Rick Rahe thinks the townships should either go to each other's meetings more often or meet quarterly to discuss working together on other things, sharing five year plans, etc.

Matthew Brinker said if the ECIC wanted to do something, it should start a scholarship for people training to be EMT's. The townships struggle with training people and then they leave for better pay elsewhere.

Cory Panning said Luckey has a similar problem with police officers. Cory Panning also mentioned it would be nice to have a list of equipment that could be shared between entities.

Keith Madaras thinks some people still have a grudge about the original Eastwood consolidation. The townships might be able to use their collective buying power to save money.

Duane Martin clarified Freedom and Troy already provide 24 hour coverage, but do not have full time people working 24 hours. Duane Martin thinks the departments would not be able to cut enough other places to accommodate enough full time people.

Keith Madaras asked how new construction impacts the fire department. Matthew Brinker said the new businesses just mandate coverage.

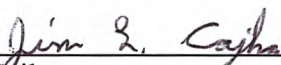
The Troy Townships Trustees explained their situation with the JETT agreement with the city of Toledo and how Troy generates tax dollars.

Various Trustees discussed the process and expense for becoming a paramedic and ways the townships could set up a scholarship fund in exchange for a commitment to work for the townships for so many years.

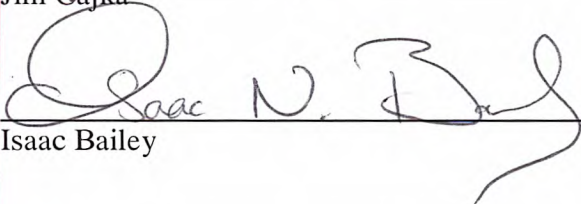
The Trustees decided to have quarterly meetings that move locations to discuss ways to work together. Troy Township will host the next meeting at their new maintenance building on April 16 at 6:30 P.M.



Mark Bushman



Jim Cajka



Isaac Bailey