

UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 1, 2021

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session via zoom on March 1, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Roll call showed Trustees John Slater, Charlie Prince, and Randy Weekly present, along with Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater, Township Administrator Paula Greene, and Road Supervisor Dave Cable. Guests via Zoom: Martha Cable, Bill McWilliams, Patty Costello, Leslie Herro, Rick Black, Jack Justice, Amanda Perkowski, Susan Ginese, Paul Rutter, Traci McMillen, Dan Gibson, Mikayla Sumner, and other unidentified zoom callers.

Minutes

Mr. Prince moved to approve the Zazworsky Map Amendment and February 16 Trustee minutes. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Bills

The clerk certified the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or is in the process of collection. Mr. Weekly motioned to pay the bills. Mr. Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Road and Bridge

The Chevrolet dump truck's hoist is inoperable. Ace Truck Repair is accessing the problem.

Crack Sealing/Motion - The purchase of crack sealing material was discussed—the crack sealing process aids in protecting the pavement from water damage.

Motion - Mr. Weekly motioned to purchase three skids of crack sealing material at the cost of \$1,900 per skid. Mr. Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Certified Road Millage – The certificate needs to be signed and sent to the Licking County Engineer's Office. The trustees will sign the form once it's located and send it to the Engineer's Office.

Mowing Bid - The Township's mowing contract needs to be placed up for bid. Mr. Prince requested the Satellite Station to be added. It will be determined at a later date if the Township will be obligated to provide mowing for the station.

Motion – Mr. Weekly motioned to place the 2021 Union Township's Mowing Contract for bid. Mr. Prince seconded. Motion carried.

Precision Geophysical/David Hill, Inc. – Gary Sitler submitted an amended map/permit increasing the search area on Beaver Run Road.

Motion -Mr. Prince moved to approve the revised map. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion passed.

Fire/EMS

Memorandum of Understanding – Mr. Prince, said the draft MOU with the Fire District sent last week by the Fire District was not feasible and recommended the MOU be revised and condensed by the Licking County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Prince said the MOU should address the Fire District assuming 6265's utilities, including; gas/electric, cable/internet, waste removal, and the reimbursement of said utilities to the Township and third parties retroactive to March 7, 2020. The remaining issues can be addressed in an agreement between both entities and include a 90-day negotiation period with an option to extend to 120 days if needed. Mr. Prince said the Fire District had not assumed the utility bills as there is nothing in

writing giving the District the authority to do so.

Mr. Slater and Mr. Weekly said they would like maintenance and maintenance funding discussed in this MOU. Mr. Prince said the District Board wants to address the maintenance issue and recommends maintenance be included with other issues during the negotiation period due to impending utility shutoffs. Mr. Prince requests the MOU be revised and approved before the Fire District's March 14 meeting. Mr. Slater asked who would be the Township's point person on the MOU revision, and Mr. Prince volunteered. He said he would provide some suggested language to the Township's legal counsel ASAP.

Township Fire Board Representative – Mr. Weekly received two applications for the position. Mr. Weekly recommended in-person interviews on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

Administration

Map Amendment Hearing – The Trustees will hear a Map Amendment filed by the Ullman's at 6:30 pm on March 15 via zoom. One zoom ID will be used for both the Amendment and Trustee meetings.

End of Year Report – Mrs. Slater said the Township's UAN 2020 End of the Year Report was completed and submitted to the state.

Public Comments

Leslie Herro said that Union Township residents attended Township meetings and clearly voiced against creating a Fire District. When the Fire District's levy was defeated by 72% (Union & Hebron combined), Mr. Prince, Mr. Weekly, and the Fire District Board should have realized the community would not support the Fire District.

Ms. Herro then referred to an (11/12/20) memorandum written by Mr. Prince and supported by Mr. Weekly that she felt went against Resolution 19-12 and included a clause transferring the Township's property at 6265 Lancaster Road to the Fire District. Ms. Herro asked why a Union Township Trustee would want to transfer property ownership to a Fire District that could not obtain funding from its residents. She said residents feel two trustees are conflicted about their interests, and they are not being heard. Mr. Slater said many people had shared similar concerns with him.

Mr. Slater said the Trustees have yet to discuss the levy defeat and her levy results are correct. Mr. Slater said he had not been supportive of the Resolution creating a Fire District and at the time felt securing funding (by levy) would indicate if the residents wanted a Fire District. Mr. Slater said it is clear from the District's levy attempt in November that a Fire District is not wanted. Mr. Slater said he continues to have reservations about the District and wants to ensure the residents receive Fire/EMS service.

Ms. Herro asked Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly why they wanted to transfer property to the Fire District when the residents do not want a Fire District. Mr. Weekly said the Resolution was not adopted, and the property was not transferred, and Assistant Prosecutor Carolyn Carnes rejected the Resolution.

Ms. Herro asked why Mr. Prince would write a document giving Township property to the Fire District. Mr. Prince said the document was a starting point. Mr. Prince said the District has achieved precisely what they had wanted by providing 24/7 service from the satellite station, increased staffing, and reduced response times to the central and western portions of the Township. Mr. Prince said that by creating the Fire District and not starting a Township-owned Department, residents had been saved a million dollars plus in Fire/EMS equipment and supplies. He said the Township had helped pay for some of that equipment via service contracts with the Village of Hebron.

Patty Costello asked if Granville Township's offer to operate the satellite station had included staff and equipment. It did, but Mr. Prince said Chief Curtis advised new equipment would be needed eventually.

Ms. Herro asked Mr. Prince and Mr. Weekly if they were supporting the fire department or the Township. Mr. Prince said he wanted improved Fire/EMS service response for all residents, and it was the 8.5 levy residents opposed. Mr. Prince said the question of "Did the residents want to return to ten minutes plus response times" did not appear on the ballot.

Mr. Slater said response times in some Township areas were not improved with the District's creation. Mr. Slater said he could not justify 8.5 mills when all the residents were not receiving the same service (response time). The Fire District needs to operate on an affordable level.

Mr. Prince said no one is now proposing 8.5 mills, and it will not be needed given the Township's updated property valuation.

Ms. Costello said the northern portion response time has not improved. Mr. Prince said it is as good or better than with the contract with Granville Township. Mr. Slater agreed, and there are portions of this area he did not know how response times could be reduced, not even with the District.

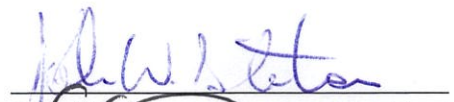
Ms. Herro said when speaking with residents in the Hebron service area, they were okay with the response time and did not want an 8.5 mill.

Ms. Costello asked why the Fire District was not paying the utilities at 6265 Lancaster Road. Mr. Prince said the subject was to be addressed in the memorandum of understanding. Ms. Costello asked to see the memorandum before the public meeting. The memorandum will be posted once the Prosecutor's Office releases it.


Trustees –

OPEC-HC – Mr. Prince updated the board on the bankruptcy receivership involving the Township's membership in the former OPEC-HC healthcare cooperative. Outstanding medical bills have been paid. A court-appointed receiver is completing a State Auditor-ordered financial audit of OPEC-HC accounts. Upon completion, a recommendation will be made to the Franklin County Common Pleas judge overseeing the case whether unpaid subcontractors should be paid and whether former members be assessed for those payments. The attorney is advised to wait and see what the receiver is going to recommend. Mr. Weekly thanked Mr. Prince for his work in this matter.


With no further business, Mr. Prince moved to adjourn at 8:13 pm, Mr. Weekly seconded. The Trustees' next meeting will be held on March 15, 2021, at 7:00 pm via zoom, with a Map Amendment being heard at 6:30 pm.



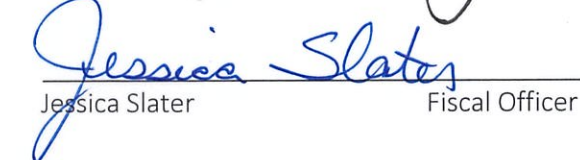
John Slater President



Charlie Prince Trustee



Randy Weekly Trustee



Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer