

Union Township Trustees
October 18, 2021

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on October 18, 2021. Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater's roll call showed the following trustees: John Slater, Charles Prince, and Randy Weekly present. Paula Greene, Township Administrator, and Road Supervisor Dave Cable were also present. Trustee Slater led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests – Tonya & Curt Painter, Gerry & Curt Painter, Casey Curtis, Roger Start, Michael Painter, Stacy Stoner, Paige Seymour, Valerie & Gary Mockus, Rick Black, Jeff Sharps, and Leslie Barth.

Minutes

Mr. Weekly moved to approve the October 4 Trustee meeting and Big Ambitions Text Amendment minutes. Mr. Prince seconded. Motion approved.

Bills

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

Road and Bridge

117 Williamson – A resident contacted Dave and said that while the Township was mowing the dry hydrant next to his property, dry brush/wood was struck and caused damage to the side of his home and wanted reimbursement for the damages. Dave said he could not verify whether the mower caused the damage, that the area being mowed was approximately 144' from the residence. After a discussion, it was determined to obtain the repair cost and contact the Prosecutor's Office and Insurance Company for a course of action.

Chip Sealing/Street Sweeping – Chip Sealing has been completed. The roads will be observed for the next two weeks for excess stone. If an excess of stone exists on the newly chip-sealed roads, the roads will then be swept. The excess stone will be stockpiled for future use.

Fire/EMS

Reimbursement – Refugee Canyon Fire District submitted a check (\$2,781.58) for the utilities and mowing paid for by the Township before being transferred in the district name.

Satellite Station flooring – The additional cost to replace flooring in the "high traffic" areas of the Satellite station was discussed. The work was expanded to replace the soiled carpet in the hallway outside the bunk rooms with the same heavy-duty vinyl flooring installed in the high traffic areas. The additional work will add a maximum of \$2,000 to the \$9,500 initially approved for the project.

Motion – Mr. Prince moved to approve an additional \$2,000.00 to complete the flooring replacement in the high traffic areas of the Satellite Station. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer – The District's fiscal officer submitted her resignation effective November 2.

Administration

Zayo – The Zayo Company submitted a performance bond of \$91,901.00 for work to occur in the right of way. Zayo was advised of the added language to the contract and the correct job titles.

Pickup Trucks - The GovDeals check in the amount of \$11,283.44 has been received, and the trucks have been removed from the Township's Insurance Policy. Vehicles are now in possession of the new owners.

Miscellaneous - The Licking County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a change to subdivision regulations on November 22 at 6:00 pm. The application to work in the right-of-way has been posted to the website.

JEDD

Email communications – Paula reviewed last week's email communication. On October 12, Village of Hebron Community Development/Stormwater Coordinator Linda Nicodemus emailed Amelia Mansfield of Burton Planning, asking that the agricultural properties be removed from the JEDD map. She added that during the Village's September 7 meeting, Curt and Geraldine Painter had asked to be removed from the JEDD map. Amelia emailed a revised list of property owners Wednesday, reducing the number of property owners from 93 to 43.

Trustee Slater and Attorney Carolyn Carnes, Civil Chief, Licking County Prosecutor's Office, were advised of the situation.

Throughout the week, it was learned that several informational JEDD emails had been exchanged between Village of Hebron, Burton Planning, and Attorney Harris dated back to October 4, 2021.

Attorney Harris advised in one email that farmland in the JEDD was not exempt from the JEDD income tax. Previously Mayor Layton said that Agricultural ground in the JEDD would not be subject to the income tax.

Mr. Slater asked Mrs. Carnes who is eligible to withdraw from the JEDD map and the process. Ms. Carnes responded that any property owner within the JEDD can elect not to participate through the petition process (owner does not sign the petition). After the

adoption, a Township Resolution and Village Ordinance must be passed to remove a parcel from the JEDD.

There are also concerns about a JEDD existing without adjacent properties with the Village of Hebron. Mrs. Carnes advised that there can be gaps as long as each side of the gap property is contiguous to a contracting party.

Through Jarod Rose, ^{Co-counsel} ~~Council~~ for the Village of Hebron, Mayor Layton said that he wanted it on record that he had been speaking with Charlie Prince and Randy Weekly and had left several messages with John Slater that were not returned. According to Mr. Rose, the Township was to have all of the same JEDD information that the Village of Hebron held.

It was also noted that Mrs. Nicodemus was meeting with parcel owners designated for the Township to contact after Mrs. Carnes had asked the Village to stop communicating those on the Township's list (to avoid any more confusion). The division of the JEDD revenue had not been discussed with those who had been contacted. One resident said Mrs. Nicodemus commented that Hebron was not "getting anything" out of the JEDD.

Attorney Rose inquired if the Township had any signed petitions. Paula advised him they had not. Late this afternoon, Paula requested a list of the parcel owners Hebron has contacted, signed petitions and refusals.

Mr. Prince said he had spoken with Mayor Layton the previous week regarding the possibility of holding a meeting with both boards and the general public. Mr. Weekly did not indicate that he had spoken with Hebron officials. Mr. Slater said he did not receive any messages from Mayor Layton or his staff.

Mr. Slater said there is plenty of confusion and is concerned about how the map can be changed without being discussed or approved by the Township. In addition, Mr. Slater was concerned about the "opting out" process and that it didn't make sense to tax those not receiving water.

Mr. Prince believes the State legislature created the confusion by changing the JEDD process with little public input via the biennial budget bill. Mr. Prince said the JEDD needed to start over with correct information. Commercial properties in the Township need water, and the Township needed the benefit of not being annexed by Hebron.

It was decided to suspend contacting property owners at this time and that the Trustees would be available for a public meeting with Hebron the week of November 8. Paula suggested holding the meeting at the Complex as the meeting room would accommodate a larger audience.

Leslie Barth asked if an Economic Impact Study had been done (it has not) and shared comments on commercial and industry's obligation to give back to the community. Ms. Barth felt the JEDD issue should be postponed until after the elections and asked if the residents had been notified of the JEDD. The process was discussed with Ms. Barth.

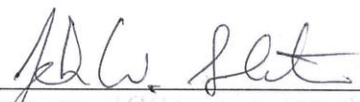
Roger Start asked if the agreement could be modified as it was not favorable to the Township. It can be. Mr. Start was concerned that the Township had not retained a firm to represent the Township's interest. Mr. Slater said he has spoken to others who have worked with JEDD's and Southwest Licking Water District. Mr. Prince said the process was rushed as they wanted to have the JEDD approved before the new law became effective. A brief review of the parties involved with the JEDD was held.

Valerie Mockus said from discussions held with the Village a sewer and water line was to be installed. Paula said the new law requires plans for water and sewer to be part of the agreement. Mr. Truillo said Hebron was not interested in a sewer at this time.

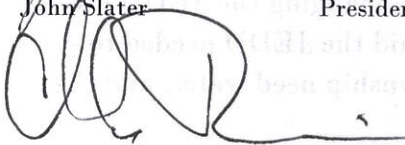
Commissioner Black said there is a county sewer system along State Route 37 to MPW. Mayor Layton contacted the Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer (LCWS). He said the Village has a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Commissioners to extend water to the State Route 37 and US Route 40. Commissioner Black said he has not signed any agreements and has asked for the MOU to be produced.

Commissioner Black said there is a Right of First Refusal Agreement with LCWS. Mr. Slater said others had advised him of this agreement. It is the document to be located.

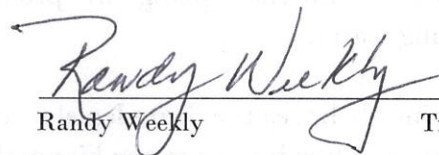
There being no other business, Mr. Weekly moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Mr. Prince seconded. The next regular meeting of the Union Township Trustees will be held on November 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.



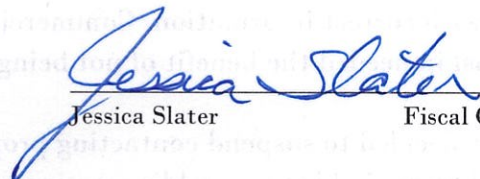
John Slater President



Charlie Prince Trustee



Randy Weekly Trustee



Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer