

CLAY TOWNSHIP

Special Meeting

November 18, 2019

Trustee Vore called the Special meeting to order at 4:01pm concerning the Fire/EMS contract with the Village of Phillipsburg. Trustee Winner and Trustee Vore were present. Pledge of Allegiance was said and rollcall was taken:

Winner – present Woolf – absent Vore - present

Fire Chief Justin Saunders and acting Mayor Becky Hodge from the Village of Phillipsburg were present to discuss the Fire/EMS contract.

Trustee Woolf arrived at the meeting.

There was general discussion on the status of the Village of Phillipsburg Fire/EMS and their plans. Phillipsburg Fire/EMS continues to need additional monies and are concerned with the recent levy that was voted down twice in 2018. The Village of Phillipsburg receives 35% of the Fire/EMS monies collected by Clay Township. Trustee Vore indicated we may need to rethink the Fire/EMS Districts operate and getting community support to fund Fire/EMS service is very important. Chief Saunders indicated funding issues are nationwide and they are experiencing a drop in volunteers as well. Trustee Woolf inquired the Village of Phillipsburg's plan 10 years down the road considering the current situation. Chief Saunders believes there is a strong move toward Fire/EMS districts.

There was general discussion on status of the Fire/EMS departments in Clay Township and the status of levies. Trustee Vore suggested that the three districts get together to create a plan for service for the area which may include community meetings. Currently, City of Brookville Fire/EMS receives 60% of the monies collected by Clay Township, Village of Phillipsburg Fire/EMS 35% and the Village of Verona Fire/EMS 5%. Trustee Vore indicated that Clay Township is one of the highest taxing district in Ohio and many of the residents feel they are "taxed out." Trustee Vore indicated that community support is critical and there was discussion on what can be done for support of the community in light of issues over the years.

Trustee Woolf indicated the ORC require Townships to provide Fire/EMS services. Trustee Woolf stated any new levies in Ohio will not have homestead rollbacks for the residents and

other items happening at the state level to address Fire/EMS issues throughout the state. Trustee Vore indicated there may be an opportunity for special levies for Equipment to have community support. Trustee Woolf indicated that there is a need to get a levy passed to replace the levy that is going to expire and to address future funding as well. There was discussion on a renewal vs replacement vs new levies.

The Trustees indicated that they would probably present a contract with basically no changes. Trustee Woolf shared that there is a 90-day clause in the contract to allow both parties to address issues as they occurred. The Trustees indicated that there is an issue that the Township has to pass levies to provide monies for the three Fire/EMS departments to operate which the Township has no control. Retired Fire Chief Matt Rhoades expressed a concern with the Addendum for coverage with the Village of Verona. The Trustees will look into apparent inconsistencies in the contracts for coverage between Villages of Phillipsburg and Verona and update the contracts accordingly. The Trustees will work on getting contracts prepared and distributed so the Villages and City of Brookville can pass by the end of the year. Trustee Woolf will forward drafts of contracts to legal counsel that continue the existing contracts with the related changes discussed. After the contracts are completed and approved, work needs to start early next year on what needs/can be done for levies for at least a renewal of the existing levy and other issues to be addressed.

Trustee Vore moved to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Winner seconded the motion.

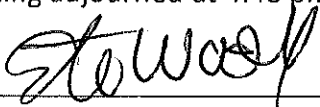
Roll call:

Winner – Yes

Woolf – Yes

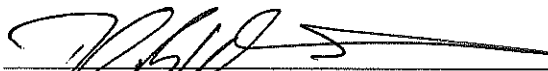
Vore - Yes

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.

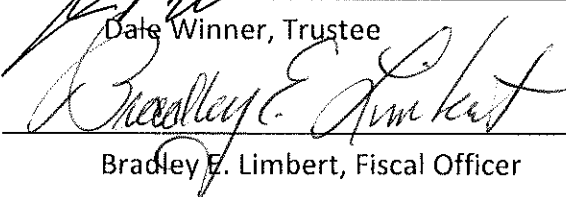


Steve Woolf, Trustee

Dave Vore, Trustee



Dale Winner, Trustee



Bradley E. Limbert, Fiscal Officer