

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Held

**TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019**

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President Bruce Koellner called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed fire and police facility and to consider placing a levy on the November ballot for the fire department. **Note:** The Meeting room's audio system malfunctioned. The first 40 minutes are inaudible.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Linda Peiffer, Fiscal Officer**

**151-2019 Resolution to accept a grant from Walmart for Halloween in the Park Events.**

**WHEREAS,** Copley Police officials applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from Walmart for the annual Halloween in the Park expenses; and

**WHEREAS,** previously in February of this year, Walmart gave a donation of \$750 toward the event.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board approves the following:

**SECTION 1.** That the Trustees accept \$2,000 in grant funding from Walmart.

**SECTION 2.** That a fund be created as Fund No. 2930 entitled 2019 Walmart Grant.

**SECTION 3.** Revenue Account No. 2930-805-0933 Halloween Event - be created to receive said monies and Appropriation Account No. 2930-210-420-0000 Operating Supplies be created to pay for said expenses.

**SECTION 4.** That the \$750 already be received be paid into Fund 2930 to total \$2,750 for Halloween in the Park expenses.

**SECTION 5.** That the Certificate of Estimated Resources and the 2019 Final Appropriations be amended to include the \$2,750 increase.

Trustee Humphrys moved approval; second by Trustee Dressler. **Roll call: Trustee Dressler, Aye; Trustee Koellner, Aye; and Trustee Humphrys, Aye.**

**Board of Trustees- Fire Levy Discussion**

Township Administrator Janice Marshall explained the different revenue streams that fund the fire department. The Fire District Fund 2111 is a 3.3 mill three-year levy; the Fire/EMS Fund 2191 is a continuous 2.5 mill levy; and the Ambulance Fund 2281, which receives money from EMS transport billings. Mrs. Marshall explained that the Township does not balance bill residents; only receiving what the insurance company pays. Non-residents are balanced billed.

Mrs. Marshall stated after reviewing all the revenue received from the funds and then reviewing expenses for personnel, training, equipment and operations; the funds come up short an estimated \$648,548.00. Mrs. Marshall presented a spreadsheet with projected levy numbers.

2.5 mill Current Levy	Revenue Generated	New Yield if just Replaced	INCREASE IN \$\$	Projected Deficit	Difference
	\$ 1,149,648.00	\$ 1,333,893.00	\$ 184,245.00	\$ 648,548.00	<b>\$(464,303.00)</b>
Replace 2.5 & Increase 1 mill	Current 2.5 mill \$ 1,149,648.00	New Yield with 1 mill increase \$ 1,867,451.00	\$ 717,803.00	Projected Deficit \$ 648,548.00	\$ 69,255.00
Replace 2.5 & Increase 1.5 mills	Current 2.5 mill \$ 1,149,648.00	New Yield with 1.5 mill increase \$ 2,134,229.00	\$ 984,581.00	Projected Deficit \$ 648,548.00	\$ 336,033.00
Replace 2.5 & Increase 2 mills	Current 2.5 mill \$ 1,149,648.00	New Yield with 2 mills increase \$ 2,401,007.00	\$ 1,251,359.00	Projected Deficit \$ 648,548.00	\$ 602,811.00

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Mrs. Marshall said she has not asked for the 2-mill yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer but did include it for information. Fire Chief Bower gave a Power Point presentation to illustrate the department's needs and spoke to the added expense at Stony Hill Fire Station on Medina Road when Bath Township Fire pulled out of sharing personnel and equipment expenses beginning 2017. (Calls for service were running 60% for Copley and 40% for Bath.) Bath Fire only shares the cost of the building utilities and repairs. The trustees concurred to request two more increments of levy yields from the Summit County Fiscal Officer.

**152-2019 Resolution** - A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of a Tax to Replace and Increase the Current 2.50 Mill Continuous Levy With an Increase of 1.9 Mills to Constitute 4.40 Mills for the Benefit of Copley Township and Requesting that the Summit County Fiscal Officer Certify the Total Current Tax Valuation of the Township and the Dollar Amount of the Revenue That Would be Generated by That Levy. Motion by Trustee Humphrys, second by Trustee Koellner. **Roll call: Trustee Dressler, Aye; Trustee Koellner, Aye; and Trustee Humphrys, Aye.**

**153-2019 Resolution** - A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of a Tax to Replace and Increase the Current 2.50 Mill Continuous Levy With an Increase of 2 Mills to Constitute 4.50 Mills for the Benefit of Copley Township and Requesting that the Summit County Fiscal Officer Certify the Total Current Tax Valuation of the Township and the Dollar Amount of the Revenue That Would be Generated by That Levy. Motion by Trustee Humphrys, second by Trustee Koellner. **Roll call: Trustee Dressler, Aye; Trustee Koellner, Aye; and Trustee Humphrys, Aye.**

### **Fire and Police Facility**

Discussion centered on funding the new fire and police building. Trustee Humphrys felt that the building could be covered by police, fire and general fund money, which does not have an additional increase in taxes. Humphrys cited the Ohio Revised Code that stipulates what can be voted for i.e., personnel, retirement, communication services, buildings, equipment, etc.

**Below is the actual cite from the Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.19 for Fire (I)** For providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section [145.48](#) or [742.34](#) of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs;

**And Police: (J)** For providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, other equipment, buildings, and sites for such buildings used directly in the operation of a police department, for the payment of salaries of permanent or part-time police, communications, or administrative personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section [145.48](#) or [742.33](#) of the Revised Code, for the payment of the costs incurred by townships as a result of contracts made with other political subdivisions in order to obtain police protection, for the provision of ambulance or emergency medical services operated by a police department, or for the payment of other related costs.

Trustee Humphrys said bonds would still be sold but not as a levied bond. Humphrys believed the residents know a facility is needed, they just do not like the location of the facility. Both Trustees Dressler and Koellner said they were in favor of going to the voters for partial funding for the building.

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Trustee Koellner asked the Board their decision on the building with a split expenditure to fund part of the repayment and subsidize the rest from fire, police, and general funds. With that in mind the following resolution was proposed by Trustee Dressler.

**154-2019 Resolution to Request a Yield from the Summit County Fiscal Officer for one-mill for a bond levy. Motion by Trustee Dressler. Trustee Koellner seconded the motion. One mill would bring in approximately \$523,000. Roll call: Trustee Dressler, Aye; Trustee Koellner, Aye; and Trustee Humphrys, Aye.**

Trustee Dressler said he would like to see final numbers from the architect. Janice Marshall said Mr. King does have final numbers. She would like to schedule a committee meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and present to the Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Trustee Humphrys asked if that would include Trustee Dressler and herself on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. She was answered, just the committee would meet on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. John Gamauf said the trustees should place the fire and police facility on Sunset Drive. Mr. Gamauf thought it would be feasible to see what it would cost to get the road dedicated. He felt the Trustees should focus on more business development versus residential allotments which has less strain on safety services and would bring in extra revenue.

In response, Mr. Gamauf was told that is exactly what the Township is doing through the Community and Economic Development and the Community Improvement Corporation. Mr. Gamauf was also informed that EMS response and transport services are paid for through health insurance billings.

Mrs. Jane Scott, 462 Kings Court asked Trustee Humphrys that if she did a bond levy that she would be asking the chiefs to take out of their budgets each year and from the general fund to pay for the building. Trustee Humphrys answered in the affirmative. Mrs. Scott asked why that was not done when the police levy was passed last year. Trustee Humphrys answered that it is not in the current new levied budget, but it could have been. When it was just the police building, Mrs. Humphrys said she demonstrated that the \$6 million price tag could have been paid for out of the General Fund. Mrs. Scott said she appreciated all that the fire department does as she was a receiver of their services and she is in full support of any levy the fire department needs.

Mr. Gene Wind, 1661 Moreview Drive. Mr. Wind said from what he saw in the Fire Chief's presentation is that Chief Bower said that a new facility is needed but not at the expense of personnel, vehicles and equipment. He said his budget is tight keeping people. Trustee Koellner said that is correct that lack of funding will cause a decrease of service to the public. Mr. Koellner went on to say that it is now proven that the way the fire department operates is detrimental to the safety and health of those providing services. "Our priority is giving the services as we always do and secondly, is to make it as safe as possible to the individuals providing those services. It has been proven that firefighters live seven years less."

Mr. Wind asked Trustee Humphrys if she said 'when the Police Chief's budget was approved, was the money for the building included.' Trustee Humphrys answered no, that was not what was said. Ms. Humphrys explained that for the police building alone, they were looking in the general fund to pay for it. Mr. Wind questioned use of approved levy money and decreasing the amount to pay for a building.

Trustee Koellner said there are two separate issues, one to vote for the fire department and one to pay for a building.

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## **Location of the Facility**

Trustee Koellner said he is concerned that the levy for the building may not pass based on location. He based his comment on what he has heard from the Westview residents, social media, and talking to other residents. He is concerned that the levy would not pass based on solely the location. Trustee Koellner said he heard from one person at the Classic Car Show that felt he did not want to pay anymore taxes. Mr. Koellner said he would like to re-evaluate the pros and cons of the location with the Trustees.

Trustee Humphrys asked if the residents have seen the design/site plan. Hearing they have not, she asked that the residents be provided the design plan and the analysis that Dave King provided. Trustee Dressler said he would prefer Dave King to answer questions. Trustee Humphrys agreed and preferred that the scheduled committee meeting take place instead on the 23<sup>rd</sup> during the regular Board of Trustees meeting. "We value your recommendations as you are professionals in each of your services, but it is unfair to the rest of the Board of Trustees, which there are only three of us, for the next night to be given a recommendation without discussion on how you arrived at it without our input."

Trustee Koellner said the reason the building committee was formed was to do the legwork and generate all the facts and figures and then bring them to the Board because the Board could not meet without it being in a special meeting atmosphere. The architect sat in the building committee meetings and gave them his recommendations and the building committee gave the Board their recommendations.

After discussion, it was agreed that the architect will be present on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to re-evaluate the decisions on the building. Trustee Humphrys asked that the design plan for both building locations be placed on the Township's website along with the architect's analysis of locations. The residents were asked to sign up for a group email so they can be kept apprised of the status of the project.

Mr. Bob Peiffer asked if the analysis would include soil samples, lighting, concrete, etc. He was answered it is just the design concept at this time. Residents were asked to email their questions to Janice Marshall, and she would forward them to the architect.

Mrs. Betty Coben said the only control the citizens have over where the building is going to be built is the levy.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the board, **Trustee Dressler moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., second by Trustee Humphrys; the motion carried.**

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted:

  
Bruce D. Koellner, President

  
Linda J. Peiffer, Fiscal Officer