

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Held MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019 20

President Bruce Koellner called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Fire and Police Building Discussion

Mr. David King, Home & King Architects, was present to discuss scenarios regarding the fire and police building on the Sunset site. He discussed a single story, a single story with a basement, and two-story, with a partial basement. He said a three-level concept would not work on Sunset as it would have on Cleveland Massillon with the slope condition. The single story would take up the entire site on Sunset. Concept floor plans would be done; not in detail, but just enough to know what is going on. Mr. King asked if the Board thought that cost estimates should include any improvements to Sunset Drive. He asked if the right-of-way issues had been resolved. A schedule will need to be established.

Trustee Dressler said cost is an issue and asked what Mr. King thought was best. When asked about a basement, Mr. King said basements are not inexpensive. It would have to be at least fourteen feet deep. "The key to that site is to make it more compact

Trustee Koellner asked if it was more compact would it save money and leave room for other development. Mr. King agreed. He stated the Township is better off to make it more compact on Sunset. Site costs for that site (Cleveland Massillon) are a lot more expensive than this (Sunset) site. General trade costs were less expensive on Cleveland Massillon Road; because it was compact. "To make it vertical and more compact will save in the general trades."

Trustee Humphrys asked if the original cost on Sunset included the road and utilities. Mr. King answered in the affirmative. Trustee Humphrys asked if it included the cost of reconstruction of Sunset Drive. Mr. King answered it did not. Ms. Humphrys said Sunset Drive is dedicated by prescription, in other words, the Township took care of it for over 21 years. "The county engineer would sign off on it at the time it was only for a police building. But if other development is expected he recommended total reconstruction along with negotiations with the utility companies. It would have to be to county specs."

Trustee Koellner said he met with Matt Springer and Janice Marshall and they will contact the county to see what they will need for Sunset before they go to the abutting landowners.

The Trustees asked Mr. King to price a one-story, a one story with a basement, and a two-story with a partial basement on Sunset Drive.

Fire Levy Discussion

Mrs. Janice Marshall discussed the levy yields for the continuous 2.5 levy alone and with increases of 1 mill, 1.5 mills, and 1.9 mills.

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	\$531,115.50	\$346,870.50
Replace 2.5 & Increase 1 mill	Current 2.5 mill	New Yield with 1 mill increase		Projected Deficit	
	\$ 1,149,648.00	\$ 1,867,451.00	\$ 717,803.00	\$ 531,115.50	\$186,687.50

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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 \$531,115.50	Difference \$453,465.50
Replace 2.5 & Increase 1.9 mills	\$1,149,648/00	\$ 2,347,652.00	\$ 1,198,004.00	\$531,115.50	\$666,888.50
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 \$531,115.50	\$720,244.50

During the past few years, the fire department's carryover balances have been decreasing due to a variety of factors. Due to increased payroll and benefits, decreased revenues that were previously given to local governments have been cut. Property values decreased in 2008 during the recession period while all the other expenses have been rising throughout the years.

Mrs. Marshall called upon Fire Chief Chris Bower to present a Power Point presentation based on Mrs. Marshall's comments. Chief Bower said in 2019, the department has not spent on what it takes to run, i.e. did not purchase replacement turnout gear. Next year, they would not be able to purchase a replacement ambulance, not be able to increase staffing next year. Chief Bower said they could save on ambulance building (\$70,000 per year) by doing it inhouse. Chief Bower predicted the department would be calling upon mutual aid from its neighbors excessively.

Discussion centered on Insurance Services Office (ISO)Public Protection Classification (PPC) ratings as referenced in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Article 1710. To improve an ISO rating would require adequate staffing and a fully equipped engine. Copley's ISO rating is a two. All discussion is on tape and on file.

Discussion followed on the cost of a new ambulance, which is a new squad fully equipped costs \$310,000. Chief Bower said because of the separation from Bath, money for the squad was absorbed for personnel expenses. To fully equip an existing squad, it would cost approximately \$180,000 to \$190,000. Chief Bower said entering 2020, he would need two squads.

Discussion followed on the leased equipment on the fire tender and self-contained breathing apparatus, several cars, and a grass fire truck. All discussion is on tape.

Trustee Humphrys asked about utilizing a private ambulance service for non-life threatening calls to a facility that utilizes the department frequently. "Some of them require the police instead of paramedics. Chief Bower said it has decreased somewhat. Trustee Humphrys asked for an updated report on the calls.

Ms. Humphrys noted the deficit dollars has decreased from the last meeting; asking what has changed. Mrs. Marshall said she saw a decrease in salaries and overtime, since Chief Bower said he has cut overtime. Mrs. Marshall said she also removed the turnout gear and new ambulance from this year's appropriations, which decreased a projected deficit. So, in Fund 2111, we saved about \$173,000.

Trustee Koellner moved to send to the ballot a replacement (2.5 mills) and increase of 1 mill for the Fire Department. The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Koellner asked for a motion. **Trustee Humphrys moved Resolution 161-2019 to replace the 2.5 mill Continuous Fire Levy and Increase it 1.5 mills to equal 4 Mills.** Ms. Humphrys said that would give them a carryover of \$453,000 that should carry his payroll and benefit expense through the first quarter in 2021. Trustee

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

COPLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held

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Dressler seconded the motion. Discussion on the Resolution. Trustee Koellner said his thought was to increase it only by 1 mill which is a 14% -15% increase in the budget and see how it turns out and hopefully return the 3.30 mill levy to the original 3.50 mills.

Trustee Dressler said the general fund supported every department. He said future levies need to support its respective departments.

Township Administrator Marshall presented slides on the General Fund's carryovers (Tax Budget projections). In 2017, it was \$2.4 million carryover; in 2018, it was \$1.8 million carryover. This year, we are projecting \$711,000; and next year, in the tax budget, \$158,000. JEDD monies are not included as other revenues until they are received. Mrs. Marshall said it is a very conservative approach and we still do not have any debt. "The Board has through this conservative approach, warded off raising taxes, warded off increasing levies."

Trustee Humphrys felt confident the residents would support the fire levy. She added that she felt it was time to utilize the current administration staff to help with administrative duties. Trustee Koellner agreed suggesting taking the ambulance billing inhouse, which costs \$70,000 per year.

Mrs. Marshall reminded the Board that the 3.30 mill fire district levy expires December 2020.

With no further discussion on the Resolution, Ms. Peiffer called the roll: Trustee Dressler, Aye; Trustee Koellner, Aye; and Trustee Humphrys, Aye.

Executive Session

Trustee Humphrys requested an executive session to discuss benefits in the Fire Department. The time was 7:08 p.m. Trustee Koellner so moved; second by Trustee Dressler. **Roll call: Trustee Dressler, Aye; Trustee Koellner, Aye; and Trustee Humphrys, Aye.**

Trustee Humphrys moved to go into open session at 7:13 p.m., Trustee Koellner second; the motion carried.

Trustee Koellner stated that he considered benefits as in the case of the fire chief taking the chief's car home, as operations, not a benefit, and was not executive session material. Trustee Humphrys disagreed and said she would request an opinion on it.


Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, Trustee Dressler moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., second by Trustee Koellner; the motion carried.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted:


Bruce D. Koellner, President


Linda J. Peiffer, Fiscal Officer