

Sugar Creek Township, Wayne County Ohio

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the special meeting on May 28, 2020.

PRESENT WERE JON HOFSTETTER, TOM GREGORY SCOTT WIDMER; AND FISCAL OFFICER ANITA FISHER.

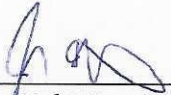
- Jon Hofstetter called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Jon Hofstetter presented the special meeting minutes from May 6, 2020 for approval. Jon Hofstetter moved to approve the special meeting minutes and Scott Widmer seconded. Motion carried.
- Jon Hofstetter opened the discussion on the fire protection funding. Kidron Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) was represented by Phil Neuenschwander and Amos Garber who stated that the KVFD board has discussed the needs of the department relating to fire levy funds but had not yet finished their budget which they plan on doing at their next meeting. They plan to have more information for us by our next regular meeting in June. Tom Gregory suggested that they come up with a dollar amount needed and then the Wayne County Auditor will determine the millage amount needed for that.

Jon Hofstetter reviewed the email from East Wayne Fire District (EWFD) regarding the future levy. The email highlighted three main points. One, suggested names for the new taxing area of "East Wayne Fire District" taxing district of Sugarcreek Township or "Northern Sugarcreek Township" taxing district. Two, the amount requested of \$369,500 which represents three employees, 12 hours a day, 365 days a year. And three, a two-year minimum levy. An option EWFD would like to propose is having the Sugar Creek township put the northern unincorporated portion of the township back into the EWFD. Jon Hofstetter made a motion to allow for public discussion between the entities represented at the meeting. Tom Gregory seconded. Motion carried. Dalton Mayor Dennis Finley mentioned that he sees two years as the optimal time amount for a levy. He would also like to see Dalton and Marshallville on the same levy. Phil Neuenschwander mentioned not having the levy be on the ballot at the same time as the trustee terms. Tom Gregory mentioned that we want to get as many people on the same page as possible. He also mentioned that he has heard talk about placing the northern unincorporated part into the district and he hesitates that this may not be the time to do that. It was cautioned to not do too much too quickly.

EWFD was represented by Blake Nussbaum. He asked how can we make this as simple as possible? The pros and cons of a one-year versus a two-year levy were discussed as well. Tom Gregory mentioned that we still need to get public support for putting the northern unincorporated portion of the township back into EWFD. Phil Neuenschwander questioned whether the township will get opposition from the unincorporated northern township residents concerned that they will get pulled into whatever the Village does due to the concentration of people? Jon Hofstetter mentioned that we would need to look at the polling data information after a township ran levy this year to see if there is overwhelming support for the two levies or not and that could tell us whether there would be support for putting the unincorporated portion of the township back into EWFD or whether that would need to be reevaluated.

Jon Hofstetter mentioned that the two portions of the township are different in that the northern area needs staffing and the southern area is blessed by volunteers. This will need to be stressed when looking at millage amounts because one is paying for staffing and one is not. Scott Widmer mentioned that the millage amount of the levies is going to be important and a one-year bridge levy could gradually move us up to where we need to be. Potential millage amounts discussed could be 1.5 in the Southern District and 2.9 in the Northern District with the difference between them being the difference of keeping the lights on versus having staffing. Scott Widmer questioned if this was too great of a gap between the northern and southern parts of the township and what size gap will still allow the levies to pass? Tom Gregory asked that if we go with the higher millage amounts of 1.5 and 2.9, would a two-year levy be appropriate? Scott Widmer made a motion to authorize Jon Hofstetter to go to the Wayne County Auditor to see what 1.5 millage in the Southern District and 2.9 millage in the Northern District would get us in terms of dollars and let the prosecutor know we are looking at a 2-year levy. Tom Gregory seconded. Motion carried.

- The Fiscal Officer presented an excel spreadsheet projecting possible revenue reductions due to COVID-19 and explained the process to the trustees. The spreadsheet was reviewed and discussed. It was determined that the Road Supervisor can move forward with the chip and seal project for this summer.
- Next regular meeting is June 9, 2020 at the township garage.
- Scott Widmer made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Jon Hofstetter seconded. Motion carried.


Jon Hofstetter, President


Anita Fisher, Fiscal Officer