

Minutes of the Board of Licking Township Trustees, Special Meeting, held at the Fire Co. Station 3, Jacksontown, OH at 7:00pm on August 11, 2008.

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order with the following members present: Joseph Hart, David Miller, Joseph Cooper and Jill Linn.

Others present: Jack Creiglow, Will Kern, Larry Gerlach, Joe Walker, Mike Wilson, Mike Payne, Ron Walsh, Marshall Eubanks, Richard Cash and Rhonda Carte.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Special Meeting is to consider a resolution necessary to place an additional tax levy on the November 4, 2008 General Election for Fire and EMS operations and services in Licking Township.

Mike Wilson received updated information from Cindy Haas regarding the amount that the taxpayers would be paying which is an increase from the last meeting. Mike asked that the Trustees move forward.

Mr. Cooper mentioned that he is disappointed in the increase but feels that his role is to allow Mike Wilson to run the Fire Co. and accept the recommendation from Mike and have the residents make the decision.

Mr. Miller was also disappointed with the new figures and stated that with the economy would there be any other alternatives to a six mill. He also commented that maybe putting it on the ballot in spring would be better.

Mr. Hart agreed with the future plans for the Fire Co. but he could no longer support a six mill levy and would prefer to reduce it to a three mill levy. If the Trustees proceed with reducing the levy to a three mill and the public supports the three mill he would like to hire the recommended medic, three firefighters and fill the other position with part time personnel. Mr. Hart would like to proceed with placing the three mill on the November ballot so that Mike Wilson can have public meetings.

Mike Wilson said that he is not against any options that work. His concern is giving the public what they want. He would like to see the six mill so that they don't have to go back for another levy. Mike mentioned that they have run the department on two mills and that other departments have been running on six mills for ten years. He said that maybe we should wait until the May election.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he has a problem with putting the levy on in May and then turning around and placing the one mill levy on in November because it might put significant jeopardy on the second levy being passed in the same year. Mr. Hart mentioned that if Mike decided to hold public meetings regarding the

levy that he not present to the public that the Board of Trustees would not go back to them for additional tax dollars. Mike said that he knows what the department has accomplished for the last 13 years, he can't say never, but the public has to have the belief that the way the department has been run in the past is the way it will be ran in the future and everything will be done before they have to go back for a levy. Mr. Hart doesn't disagree with that.

Mr. Cooper mentioned that he is not comfortable with a spring election since we may have a levy which needs to be passed in November of same year. Mr. Cooper believes that the residents should decide.

Mr. Miller agrees with both Mr. Hart and Mr. Cooper and that this is the most important decision that they make. A lot of people will be out voting and he would like to wait before placing it on the ballot and that eight to ten weeks is not a lot of time to inform people of what is needed.

Ron Walsh mentioned that something should have been on the ballot a year ago. His main concern is the amount of millage and that we would be going from the second lowest to the second highest in the county. He believes that a four mill levy would be easier to sell and that something needs to be done now.

Mr. Hart made a comment on the respect and family atmosphere in the Fire Co. Mr. Hart asked Mike what he would like to do because they cannot pass a resolution for a three mill tonight and on Monday change it to a six mill.

Mike Wilson suggested that they proceed with the three mills he will run the numbers.

Mr. Hart made a motion to pass a resolution determining that it is necessary to levy a tax outside the ten-mill limitation for fire protection and requesting the Licking County Auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the township and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by a three mills additional levy. Mr. Cooper seconded the resolution. Roll call: Hart, yes; Miller, yes; Cooper yes.

The resolution is on file with the fiscal officer.

Marshall Eubanks can't say enough about the Fire Co. He said that he did an informal survey of about 20 people and they were very favorable.

Richard Cash mentioned that it is a good idea for Mike to put the numbers together for a three mill so that people will know the cost.

Rhonda Carte mentioned that Mike is going a good job and if he needs six mills he should get six mills.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. Roll call: Hart, yes; Miller, yes; Cooper, yes.