

Village Council Meeting As  
A Committee of the Whole  
March 10, 2020  
6:30 PM

ROLL CALL: Bill May, Louann Artiaga, Richard Bingham, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer, Mindy Curry, and Bob Keogh. Also present were the following: Mayor Don Atkinson, Administrator Jordan Daugherty, Fire Chief Joshua Hartbarger, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Francis, Clerk Susan Miller, Waterville Fire Chief Doug Meyer, Ed Kaplan, David Williams, Martin Fuller, and Neil Raymond.

Motion by Richard Bingham, seconded by Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting. 6 ayes

Safety Services

The first order of business was a discussion of the Whitehouse Fire Cooperative Proposal.

- The current path is unsustainable, need a corp, preventing failed response, demands on Volunteers have grown, larger community, rising calls for service
- Three people at the station 24/7, takes care of \$1.2 million purchases as we approach citihood
- A 3.25 mill levy will be around \$114/\$100,000 home, ensures sustainability
- Nationwide problem, we haven't had any fail responses yet due to incredible staff, evening and weekend hours have been covered by Chiefs after 60 hour work weeks
- We are a bedroom community, the cost to supply services is higher per household
- We need to find a revenue source, or reduce levels of service in other services or reduce Fire/EMS services
- The Village invites questions
- This discussion has been taking place internally for about 12 years, and externally for 3-4 years, this is a nationwide issue
- Current system relies heavily on volunteers, since 2007 the run volume has increased 3 times – especially EMS runs, 10 years ago - 297 runs, 2016 – 706 runs, 2019 – 927 runs
- Council can vote for this to go to the Auditor for a millage number, in a couple of months Council can vote for this to go to the ballot
- Town Hall meetings will be held
- There is no requirement due to becoming a City. Staff and funding would be needed even if the Village did not become a City
- Proposal is lean, but not bare bones, designed for a growing community, doesn't have fluff
- Whitehouse Fire Department coverage area 29 square miles, The Village of Whitehouse, half of Waterville Township, Swanton Township, part time employees 25, volunteers 25, full time 13
- Insurance grading could go up, lowering rates
- Coop would have arrangements with other departments in place, wouldn't need to call for Assistance
- Run volume significantly increases for nursing homes, strain for public EMS, high Maintenance, low income
- Taxes are split to many areas for a bedroom community, millage will go straight to the intended Service
- Each community will contribute similar millage
- If one community passes and another doesn't capital needs would be readdressed, equipment would not be needed to serve an area that is not participating

- The current level of service is unsustainable and will be affected if the coop doesn't pass
- The Village could contribute from the general fund
- Nursing home medicare and medicaid reimbursements, Whitehouse residents soft billed, Outside of the Village hard billed. FEMA cost recovery sheet
- Burgeoning demand, EMS treating on scene
- Safety of those we serve as the priority, thoroughly and professionally dealt with, never asked for this before, held off as long as we were able
- This is about lives saved
- Looked at all of the scenarios
- The Village is responsible for the schools, there's a lot of cost to it
- Thank you to the Fire Chief Joshua Hartbarger, Waterville Fire Chief Doug Meyer and Deputy Chief Jason Francis for all of their work on this

Motion by Mindy Curry, seconded by Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer to recommend to Council to approve requesting a projected number from the Lucas County Auditor for 3.25 mills. 6 ayes

The next order of business was a discussion on Lucas County 911 Regional Council of Governments Agreement.

- Dispatch in the hands of professionals in that businesses
- Politicians oversight is a bad idea

Motion by Bob Keogh, seconded by Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer to recommend to Council to approve the RCOG version already passed by Toledo, Lucas County, and other Municipalities

Other items discussed:

- Issues with the Buckeye cable contractor's laying the cables, ground fire, spectrum, lost power, lost AT&T internet, broke water line, replaced transformer
- Positive experience with Buckeye cable contractor, knicked line, but fixed before next morning

Motion by Bob Keogh, seconded by Mindy Curry to adjourn at 7:34 PM. 6 ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Miller  
Clerk of Council