

Village of Lagrange Council Special Meeting Minutes
Record of Proceedings
February 12, 2018

Mayor Strauss and Councilmembers, Kincannon, Honer, Price, and Karpinski were in attendance for the LaGrange Township Regular Trustee Meeting held on February 12, 2018 at the Town Hall at 113 South Center St., LaGrange.

The topic of discussion was the detachment of the Village from the Township.

Opening Audience Participation by Trustee Doug Gardner, President of Council Gary Kincannon addressed the Trustees. Kincannon stated that the LaGrange Township receives approximately \$50,000 - \$70,000 of inside millage paid for by Village residents. Council has been told that the Township cannot use any of those funds on Village residents within the Village.

Kincannon offered the following solutions to possibly avoid the Village from detaching:

1. Each entity provides \$35,000 per year to the Community Park. Kincannon would like the Township to use the inside millage to pay the \$70,000 to the Park for both entities portion. The Village will continue to have a full time employee staffed at the Park, and the Township would continue to provide summer help. A contract would be drawn up with these details.
2. The cemetery that is within the Village limits has recently been transferred from the Township to the Village per Ohio State law. The Village administrator has quoted maintenance on the cemetery to be approximately \$10,000 a year. The Village would like the Township to continue to maintain cemetery. A contract would be drawn up with the details.

He then stated that the only additional cost to the Township would be the \$35,000, but would avoid the detachment of the Village and the confusion of Fire/Rescue coverage and levy issues. The items above would show the Village residents that at least some of their inside millage is being used for their benefit.

Kincannon closed by saying that if the Township does not agree with the above, there are other items that need to be addressed for the detachment.

Trustee Gardner questioned what would happen next year if the Township agrees to the above terms; could the Village again talk about detachment? He was under the impression that Council was going to talk about a Fire contract. Kincannon stated that the Township is entertaining a 3.5 mil. levy to replace the 2.5 mil. in place. Gardner stated that the increase would allow for full time coverage on the third shift as well as equipment and vehicle replacement. He wanted to know the time frame of the detachment. Kincannon stated that it would take a couple of months to move forward with the County Commissioners. Gardner stated that there are other issues that need to be resolved, such as the LCIC and the Park that cannot be resolved in a short period of time. Kincannon stated he doesn't see how the park would be an issue as it is jointly owned by both entities and the LCIC is an independent entity.

Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Innes stated that a detachment would be too complicated to have all issues resolved in a couple of months. He disagrees that the Village residents do not receive a benefit from the Township. He believes the cooperation of the Township with the Village has enhanced the community as a whole, while the Village has had a huge economic gain with the Park, the LCIC, and the School campus. Gardner stated the Trustees will take into consideration the proposal.

Village of Lagrange Council Special Meeting Minutes
Record of Proceedings
February 12, 2018

Karpinski discussed the increase of the current fire/rescue levy from 2.5 mil. To 3.5 mil. He indicated that the cost would increase from \$348,000 to \$498,000 at current values. He questioned what the increase would be used for. Gardner stated that the increase would allow for full time coverage on the third shift as well as equipment and vehicle replacement. Fiscal Officer Moore stated that over the years, the costs have increased and the collection of non-residents for EMS calls has decreased. She stated the Township has in the past paid cash for all its large purchases and can no longer do that; they are investigating loans.

Gardner stated that Fire/Rescue is very expensive. He didn't want to put a lower millage on if it wouldn't be enough and then to half to go back to the residents for more. Moore stated that the Township has been working off the same amount of levy funds for 30 years. Trustee Canfield stated that the Township has been very diligent with the use of the funds over the years, but the costs have greatly increased. Fire Chief Rader discussed the vehicles that are needing to be replaced and the associated costs. Fallon questioned if application was ever made for FEMA or Safer Grant funds. Rader stated he had tried. Moore stated that \$70,000 alone is to staff third shift and expand services. They would also like to expand the fire station to have a central location.

Gardner questioned if Council had been looking at a contract. Kincannon stated they have reviewed a couple that really don't pertain to the Village. The Trustees will take into consideration what was presented by Council.

Signed: _____
Kim E. Strauss, Mayor

Attested by: _____
Kimberly A. Fallon, Fiscal Officer
Date: _____