

TRUSTEE MEETING February 12, 2017

1. Salt issue. Why are we short on salt? Mr. Foreman said he didn't get the order in on time.
  
- A. Investigate items that would keep the village from leaving the Township. This is the best option in our opinion. We need to show our residents that SOME of the inside millage is used to help them. That inside millage fluctuates from \$50k-\$70,000 per year. Averaging approximately \$60,000.
  1. Each entity provides \$35,000 per year to the Community Park. We would like you to consider covering the entire \$70,000 and continue providing a "summer help" employee. The Village will keep its full-time Park Employee. We would both sign a contract with these details. **Village pays \$35,000 for operating and an additional \$50,000 wages.**
  2. The cemetery within the boundaries of the Village has recently been transferred from the Township to the Village. Our Administrator estimated that it would cost \$10,000 annually for the village to maintain that property. We would like the township to continue the cemetery maintenance and sign a contract with these details worked out. Since the township has been doing this all along, it would not reflect any INCREASE in expenses on the township side. This would, however, save the village \$10,000 per year.
  3. These two items would only reflect a real, \$35,000 increase to the township budget, yet remove the secession of the Village and the confusion of the Fire/Rescue coverage and levy issues. Accepting these two items would save us the issues of ownership of the Park Land and the status of the LaGrange Community Improvement Corporation. These items would also show village residents that at least some of their inside millage is being used on their behalf.
  4. These items would keep the township valuation and budget intact, or greatly increase, with the new construction within the village. This new construction should help the township's bottom line as long as we do not secede. Please discuss these items and let council know as soon as possible. **Gardner argued that the Village residents receive a lot from the Township by way of the Park and the LCIC. However, there aren't any additional funds expended on the Townships' behalf to even come close monetarily.**
  5. Even if the Trustees agree with these items, we have some questions about the 3.5 mill fire and rescue levy. Mr. Karpinski will address this later.
  
- B. Secession items to be discussed. (If above solution fails)
  1. Above all, fire and rescue coverage and funding is the most important item to be determined. We have discussed a Fire District and a contract. The simplest seems to be a contract for services.
  2. Contract: How will the cost of the contract be determined? At our November meeting, it was asked if we would pay the current \$122,000 per year. The answer seemed to be, yes. Since that meeting we were informed that the trustees were moving toward a new, 3.5 mill

- levy. This would increase our “yearly cost” to approximately \$126,000, based upon our calculations. Mr. Karpinski will propose some alternative financing “contract” items.
3. Fire District: At our November meeting, Trustee Burnett listed many items that would seem to make a Fire District both expensive, and perhaps, an unnecessary bureaucracy. Perhaps this can be revisited.
  4. Community Park: Dissolving the Park Board (your December Minutes) would bring on an entire new set of problems that are not discussed in our current Park Contract with the Trustees. Park land ownership, fees for anyone outside of the Village using the Park, maintenance, etc...Would all be issues that would have to be determined. Trustee withdrawal from the park would mean a surcharge on any “non-village “participant in any youth program and use of the other park facilities.
  5. Status of the LaGrange Community Improvement Corporation. To be determined. We do know that the Trustees did a Public Information Request on the income tax we have received from the Keystone School District and the three businesses located in the Business Park.

The schools are not in the Business Park so we discount their income tax. They do use Opportunity Way, which is taking a beating from all of the school traffic, especially buses. The Village also faces replacing the pavement on Liberty and Church Streets due to bus traffic, since the school still uses the bus garage on Liberty. These two streets were both repaved in the last 15 years and should have lasted much longer with the light traffic expected in that residential area.

Opportunity Way also is degraded by large trucks making deliveries to SpaceBound and Keystone Pointe. The village must plow the snow, maintain the water and sewer lines, and deal with the business oriented problems associated with a nursing home. Our lift station and sewer plant receive many damaging items from the nursing home. We have added a very expensive backup generator to the Opportunity Way lift station, and are paying for an outside firm to make certain everything functions as designed.

The LaGrange Police Department, also, deals with all traffic, civil and criminal issues that occur in the Opportunity Way corridor. This costs the village money.

So yes, we do receive income taxes from businesses. Those income taxes go toward the continuing maintenance and future, VERY EXPENSIVE, repaving of the streets affected and the promise of a reliable water, drainage and sewage infrastructure that come with Business Park.

We have enjoyed a great deal of mutual successes over the years. The village allowed the township to hold all of their regular and committee meetings at village hall at no cost. When we asked for a little help with utilities, the trustees moved their meeting to this building. The village has invested many, thousands of employee hours, in the Community Park. We have shared equipment to the benefit of both governments. The village leased many acres on village land to the trustees so that a fire and rescue “substation” could be built south of the railroad. We charged ONE DOLLAR, and use of our driveways. Regardless of what happens, we hope these mutual, non-contract courtesies can continue.

If the two items mentioned earlier are not acceptable to the trustees, and we think they are very fair, we will take the “secession” rational to the residents of the village in a Public Meeting.

Mr. Karpinski now has some items to be covered pertaining to the new 3.5 mill fire/rescue levy.