

Held

January 22, 2013

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Deters called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Ms. Rinehart, Mr. Ritter and Mrs. Harlow were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Rowan requested the Board enter executive session for the purpose of discussing matters regarding employment public employees.

At 5:30PM, Mr. Ritter made such motion and Ms. Rinehart offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

Mr. Deters. "Aye"
Ms. Rinehart. "Aye"
Mr. Ritter. "Aye"

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:22PM. Mr. Rowan indicated that there is nothing to report.

GENERAL BUSINESS**ADMINISTRATION****Approval of Transfer**

Mr. Rowan requested the Board transfer \$50,000 from general fund 1000-910-910-0000 to zoning 2181-931-0000.

Mr. Ritter made such motion and Ms. Rinehart offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

Mr. Deters. "Aye"
Ms. Rinehart. "Aye"
Mr. Ritter. "Aye"

Appointment of FAC Members

Mr. Rowan requested the Board re-appoint Dennis Mason, John Kerr and Doug Michel to the Financial Advisory Committee.

Ms. Rinehart made such motion and Mr. Ritter offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

Mr. Deters. "Aye"
Ms. Rinehart. "Aye"
Mr. Ritter. "Aye"

These are two-year terms.

ZONING**Approval of Accela Software Program**

Mr. Milz said that the new software is needed to streamline and automate workflow. This will make the shared service model work and allow them to be responsive to complaints made on a daily basis. Functionality, this is the number one choice as the county will be implementing it on a county-wide basis in 18-24 months. Our costs will be reduced at that point. He recommends that we now do the subscription service. He recommended the purchase of the three licenses and implementation services, with a cost of \$19,882.97 for the first year and \$7,082.97 for each year until we're able to join with the county and our costs decrease.

Held

January 22, 2013

Mr. Ritter made such motion and Ms. Rinehart offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

Mr. Deters. "Aye"
Ms. Rinehart. "Aye"
Mr. Ritter. "Aye"

Mr. Ritter made a motion to recess until 7PM and Ms. Rinehart offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

Mr. Deters. "Aye"
Ms. Rinehart. "Aye"
Mr. Ritter. "Aye"

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

Mr. Deters reconvened the meeting at 7PM. He thanked everyone for attending this important meeting. He thanked the safety services for their work on the tragedy yesterday on I-275 and offered his condolences to the family of the girl who lost her life.

He said that we have lost general fund money for things we relied on. This is the first step in the process. He said that we are not talking about contracting out police service to sheriff's office as that is not a viable option for a number of reasons. He said that we also won't talk about direct cuts to the fire department. We have lost significant funding from Columbus and must move forward and engage the residents.

Mr. Rowan thanked everyone for coming and being engaged in the future of our community. We have made a lot of investment in community, including expansion of the fire and police department, the community center, the corner of Colerain and Springdale, etc. All of these add significant value to the community. However, we have lost \$1.5 million with cuts in funding from the state. He said the purpose of tonight's meeting is to engage the community with options for future.

Mr. Rowan began his presentation with the 2013 goal statement: Achieving long-term financial sustainability while maintaining a culture of value.

He asked, "How do you perceive value?" We must think about how to deal with what we have currently and manage our way through this crisis.

He offered 10 goals for the coming year:

- Goal 1 = Budget (Non-Safety Services)
 - Develop a specific five year financial and operating plan for non-safety services in which annual operating expenses are structurally aligned with projected revenues
- Goal 2 = Budget (Police Services)
 - Develop a specific five year financial and operating plan for police services in which annual operating expenses are structurally aligned with projected revenues
- Goal 3 = Budget (Fire/EMS)
 - Develop a specific five year financial and operating plan for Fire/EMS in which annual operating expenses are structurally aligned with projected revenues
- Goal 4 = Budget (Public Safety Assessment)
 - Consider proposals for an external public safety assessment (Police & Fire/EMS) that identifies lower cost delivery models

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

WORK SESSION

Form 6101

Held

January 22, 2013

- Goal 5 = Budget (Benchmarking)
 - Identify at least five peer groups based on size and demographics and benchmark key financial and operational indicators for continuous improvement
- Goal 6 = Property Maintenance/Zoning/Nuisance Codes
 - Approval of text amendments to property maintenance, zoning, and nuisance codes that addresses sign issues as well as other issues impacting the image of Colerain
- Goal 7 = Streetscape
 - Complete the Springdale/Colerain Avenue corner project (excluding ODOT Grant portion) and other streetscape improvements at 275/Colerain Ave.
- Goal 8 = Building Permits
 - Incorporate building permits within the township with total budget alignment
- Goal 9 = Collective Bargaining
 - Successfully negotiate collective bargaining agreements with Fire, Police, and Public Service unions
- Goal 10 = Public Engagement
 - Rebrand website to provide more user friendly options for community engagement including notifications and opportunities for public feedback

Mr. Rowan said identifying the pieces of the puzzle needed to achieve financial stability:

- General fund: State Budget cuts amounting to \$1.5 million annually
- Parks and Services: Operates at a \$1.1 million deficit annually. Funded primarily by General Fund
- Community Center: Operates at a \$400,000 deficit annually. Funded primarily by General Fund
- Public Works/Roads: Operates at a \$250,000 deficit annually, with no funds for Road Resurfacing
- Police: Completing levy cycle. Last levy passed in 2007 Current voted millage = 4.65
- Fire: Passed a levy in 2010. Current voted millage = 12.23

He said that over 92% of Township taxes, 18.26 mills, support Public Safety.

He said that no new taxes are proposed for 2013. He said the Board is looking at creative options to try not to come back to the voters for funds.

He said that the total millage needed to align the budget = 5.40 Mills, which would cost the homeowner of a \$100,000 home an additional \$165.38 per year.

He said that if we don't raise money, it will impact services. We have cut costs and raised fees, but many calls of concern about these.

He presented several options to align the budget:

Cost/service reductions

- Close, sell, transfer responsibility of Colerain Township Parks
- Convert Community Center to a volunteer center to align budget or close and sell facility
- No further investment in roads (patching/resurfacing)
- Reduction/Restructuring of Police Services
- Reduction/Restructuring of Fire/EMS Services

Held

January 22, 2013

Revenue Enhancements

- o Fees for Parks & Community Center
- o Increase number of rentals, programs and events that provides for budget alignment
- o Create an earnings tax on employees working in Colerain Township by developing a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD)
- o New Levies

He said that in assessing our operating costs and services, we will have both an internal and external review. For the internal review, departments heads are developing operating budgets with reduced spending and/or restructured services by March 31, 2013 that will allow for 50% reduction in annual operating deficit and total budget alignment. For the external review, we have a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public safety audits of Police and Fire Departments are under consideration that would both assess our operations for greater efficiency and accountability and present alternative delivery options for consideration. This would provide us with the data we need to be able to engage the community.

He presented some options for addressing public safety:

- o New Police or Public Safety Levy for the Police Department in 2013
- o Consolidation of the 1.15 Police Levy (passed in 2007) and the 5.27 Fire/EMS Levy (passed in 2010) into a 6.42 Public Safety Levy. This would mean no new taxes.

He said the combined levy is a creative solution to allow time for economy to recover and still sustain the Township.

On the non-safety, we must think about how to address the roads, no funding sources:

- o 2 Mill Road Levy in 2014 to provide funding for Public Works and Road Resurfacing, with an annual cost \$61.25/year (\$100,000 home)
- o Create a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) which would place an earnings tax on those employed in Colerain Township

He offered a plan for achieving financial sustainability, because we are spending more than we collect, with a timeline for total budget alignment by 2015:

- o 2013
 - o Continue to use reserves to operate Parks and Community Center
 - o Options for Police/Public Safety Levy (New Taxes) or Consolidation of Police/Fire Levy (No New Taxes)
 - o Complete internal budget alignment review for all departments
 - o Complete external public safety assessment to identify lower cost delivery models
 - o Hold a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss and engage community in results/options
- o 2014
 - o Continue to use reserves to operate Parks
 - o Community Center totally self-sufficient
 - o JEDD or Road Levy to provide for road resurfacing program
 - o Implementation of new public safety models (if applicable) after community engagement
- o 2015
 - o Total Budget Alignment (Total budget alignment for public safety services must consider levy cycles)

*Minutes of**Meeting*

BARRETT BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

WORK SESSION

Form 6101

*Held***January 22, 2013**

He said that we want to maintain a culture of value, and it matters what the community wants.

Mr. Deters opened the session for public comments.

Rich McVay said that it is pleasing to see transparency and data sharing during this adult conversation with the community. He said that asking tough questions is not meant to attack. During the benchmarking project last summer, it was noted that other communities have lower costs for parks, with maintenance costs significantly lower. He said that we have invested a lot of money in various items, like the corner and fuel storage. He asked how this spending fits with running out of money in parks.

Phil Klug said that he works for the Fire Department and thanked residents for the opportunity to be a firefighter in Colerain Township. He encouraged others to look at the data. The Fire Department goes past levy the cycle and the Chief stretches funds. He said that he would challenge anyone to move for \$165, it can't be done. He encouraged the Board to put it on ballot and let the citizens make the decision.

Yolanda is a Citizen Police Academy graduate and said that she would support the police department. She appreciated how they serve, especially the vacation home checks. Regarding the Clippard Park spray ground, she asked if we have thought about charging day care centers for using the water park. Mr. Rowan said that we do not allow out-of-township day cares to use the facility.

Bruce on Sheits Road asked what is happening with Sheriff Neil and his cooperation with the township. He said the parks should close or have fees. He said the branding issue is ridiculous and we can't be going for fluff that looks nice. With roads, how to pay for it is the issue.

Darlene Brian moved in because of the services offered and she would be willing to keep services at the current level. She is on a fixed income. The Township must live within its means and can't ask for more. She said the cost of the community center hall rental is too high.

Tom Hart has served as the chairman of police levy and last fire levy. The last fire levy passed with 65% approval, which is a tribute to the men and women who work for the department. He said that both departments have been well-rated and can't do better fiscally and operationally. An audit doesn't understand this. He said that two pumpers have been put on hold, but they are important to be purchased. He said that we need a dedicated police and separate levy for streets. It's been 15 years since the last roads levy. Voters will have a comfort level that monies spent on what is needed.

Bob Martin said he took exception to the initial statement that we don't want to talk about combining police with the county.

Mr. Deters said that we do have a relationship with the Sheriff's office, but we are concerned with new the sheriff and the county government with financial distress. He would hesitate to make a decision until we have all information. We just spent last two years dealing with state cuts and don't want to be in a position because of county cuts. It's just not right for the Township at this time.

Charlie Serino said that we could continue using reserves, but he would hesitate to significantly cut into those. Cash is king.

Held

January 22, 2013

Roger Messer said that we have overlooked the perception from taxpayers. In the 2013 budget proposals, the fire and others have given up raises, but Rowan got a \$5,000 raise last week. He also drives to and from work in Township vehicle.

Mr. Ritter said that Mr. Rowan's contract allowed for an initial base salary and two \$2500 increases. The Board gave the second instance of a raise early. Mr. Rowan has set the bar higher and is an exceptional leader. The Board accelerated the increase one year earlier than in contract because they believe in his talent and capabilities.

Mr. Messer asked why this was not turned back to the Township, like the police who opened their contract.

Mr. Deters said that the bargaining units both were given other benefits in return for the pay freeze. He said that we needed to change our course and make the Township run more like a business, which rests in the leadership of the CEO. This allows the Board to stay focused on big decisions.

Kathy McNally said that we have culture of value and trust. She has voted for every levy and will vote for levies until that trust is broken. She said that if the Board puts out a public safety levy, she would not vote for another levy.

Bob Stenger spoke about the old Groesbeck tavern. He said that the Colerain Business Against Crime group believed in the commitment and vision to turn this to the substation and raised \$175,000. He said that crime is down in the area since its opening. We need to keep our police here. He said that the group also raised \$7,000 to purchase "active shooter kits," at \$550 each for each school.

Bernie Fiedelley said that in his 40 years in business they have had four recessions and each time came back stronger, more efficient. The cuts in the LGF and estate tax are the Township's recession. He told the Board to be strong, be bold and figure out how to do it better. He supported the idea to make area around Colerain Avenue a JEDD.

Michael Hayes said that a public safety levy would rob Peter to pay Paul. He suggested that the Board should put it on the ballot and let the people decide.

Paul Janzen asked if there will ever be a time that Dan Meloy will stop hearing that Hamilton County should take over, that we can do better with them. He cited such innovative programs as the CARE program and the substation and again asked why does he always have to hear that Sheriff can do it better.

Peggy Smith is a Citizen Police Academy alumni. She said that she and the 350+ members have volunteered many hours and saved the Township money. By reducing staff, it would slap volunteers in the face.

Jeff Stephenson has been a volunteer coach for youth sports for eight years. He said they seek sponsorships for the teams' uniforms and other expenses. Field rental is their largest expense. He said that they get no funding and must pay for all field rentals. He supports the parking fee, but there is not enough parking at Colerain Park.

Dick Stemple is a 45-year resident and said that what we really need to do is work together. He said we should generate revenue within the park system with user fees. He said that branding is important; we need to know who we are and

Held

January 22, 2013

others need to know Colerain is special. All must work for the common good of the whole township.

Elaine Gauck said that we need to vote for a road levy.

Charles Deitschel said that we're between a rock and a hard spot. The support seems to be for dedicated levies for the things the government is all about. He worked for a long time in this community. Dedicated levies keep it simple.

Kathy Mohr said that public safety are most valuable services. Paying for an outside audit is a waste of money and not necessary. The Board should have confidence in the leaders of the departments. Since Mr. Rowan came on board, she sees less transparency. She said that they don't explain items at a meeting, the Board just passes a resolution. She has asked for more openness. She said that we have excellent departments which should be a model for others and each levy should be separate. We shouldn't be giving raises to those who haven't been here a year.

Keith Miller said that he hopes the Board will consider what people have said and that plans are not a conclusion. A combined levy was tried in 1988 and it didn't work. He said that people want their right to say how their funds are spent and a combined levy is taking away the decision.

Phyllis spoke about the parks and asked how many more we want and how much they cost. She said that we need to repair our roads.

Karen Schmidt said, regarding Mr. Rowan's salary increase, if he's good, you get what you pay for. She uses the parks a lot, but we will need someone to collect the fees. She supports a JEDD.

Ms. Rinehart said that she greatly appreciates everyone's thoughts tonight and said she wants this feedback.

Mr. Ritter offered his thanks and gratitude to everyone for coming tonight. He said that we will solve this problem collectively.

Mr. Rowan said that he appreciates everyone's time and offered his phone number and e-mail address.


ADJOURNMENT


With no further business to come before the Board, at 8:41PM, Mr. Deters motioned for adjournment. Ms. Rinehart offered a second.


Mr. Deters. "Aye"


Ms. Rinehart. "Aye"

Mr. Ritter. "Aye"


Fiscal Officer


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee