

SPECIAL

October 21, 2014

OPENING OF MEETING

Ms. Rinehart called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. All Board members were present.

ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Rowan said that as we consider issue 30 and the JEDZ, we must pause and reflect on where we want to go to make Colerain Township a best in class community.

He said he was hired two-and-half years ago, he was charged to look at the budget and streamline costs before we ask for money. For the road program, the JEDZ is the best choice for funding. We have talked about the issues in the past and the bottom line is that we have made cuts in non-safety services, including administration, public works, planning & zoning. The JEDZ is an innovative way to address our needs without impact on our residents. Any levy would have been an increase on tax and we don't want to tax residents further. We are using this legislation as the best path forward to raise revenue to address streets in our neighborhoods.

Mr. Rowan presented some facts about the proposed JEDZ:

- Doesn't Increase Tax Burden on Colerain Residents/Businesses
 - 1% earnings tax on the Colerain Corridor
- Residents/Businesses eligible for a grant in the form of a check equal to 100% of tax paid
- Non-residents may be eligible for credit from residential income tax
- Townships have no authority to collect the tax requiring a partnership with a City
 - City of Harrison provided the lowest fee allowing more funding to stay in Colerain
- JEDZ must be contiguous commercial property and cannot include residential properties where electors reside
- Funding will be used for public infrastructure (streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc.)
- JEDZ is not a job killer. Example: Rumpke employees pay 2.1% to City of St. Bernard

Mr. Rowan discussed other JEDZ in the area and how they compare to our proposal.

- Sycamore Twp..075%
 - Grants to residents (Not businesses)
 - Partner City – Madiera, Deer Park and Amberly (90/10) 2.5% Collect
 - Purpose: General (Police, fire, public works, etc.)

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- Springfield Twp. 1.5%
 - Grants to residents
 - Grants to businesses with 50% residential ownership
 - Partner City – Mt. Healthy (85/15) 2.5% Collect > \$1.5 million (90/10)
 - Purpose: General (Police, fire, public work, etc.)
- Colerain Twp. 1%
 - Grants to residents & businesses
 - Partner City – Harrison (91.5/8.5) 2.0% Collect
 - Purpose: Public Infrastructure (Streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc.)

If issue 30 fails:

- Our public services may be affected
 - Parks may Be Closed or have restricted hours
 - Road Conditions will Continue to Deteriorate
 - Winter Salting may Change to a Salt/Ash Mixture
 - Seasonal workers May Be Eliminated
 - weekend park maintenance, decreased mowing
 - Summer Events May Be Eliminated
 - Concerts and Movies, Baseball, Soccer, Shelter, Rentals, Taste of Colerain, sprayground
 - Event/rental fees may increase
- Our Senior Center may be affected
 - Senior Center may be Closed
 - Social Activities may be Eliminated
 - Cards, Billards, Bingo, Members Parties, Birthday Parties, Scrabble, Mah Jong & Greetings Committees
 - Classes may Be Eliminated
 - Watercolor, oil & acrylic Painting, Sewing, Computer, Clavinova, Breakfast with the Arts, Jewlery-Making, stained Glass, pottery
 - Wellness services may be Eliminated
 - Daily Meals, Bus service, exercise classes, blood pressure checks, Shot Clinics, nutrition lectures, medicare assistance
 - Transportation services may be Eliminated
- Our Neighborhoods may be affected
 - Property Maintenance Enforcement May be Eliminated
 - Tall Grass, Trash, nuisance, zoning
 - Staffing Reductions will be considered
 - Planning & Zoning Department restructured
 - potential fee increases

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- Snow routes may be restructured, due to staffing reductions
- Our Institutions may be affected
 - Colerain Historical Society office may be closed
 - Financial support for Chamber of Commerce may Be eliminated
 - Community Athletic Association impacted

Mr. Rowan said our roads are deteriorating. Without the JEDZ we will have to divert funds from other sources to pay for our crumbling infrastructure.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jim Acton approached with some questions for Mr. Rowan. He said the Groesbeck Athletic Association has asked about taking over maintenance on the fields and asked why the Board has not moved forward on this.

Mr. Rowan said this was not a good decision, but to liability issues and access to equipment. He said there were also changes in leadership.

Mr. Acton said that Mr. Schwartzhoff has applied to the community development program for \$170,000 in road funding. He presented budget data for other townships in the area and the average age of their roads. He said the Township has some monies at .89 mills, the motor vehicle license tax and gas tax. He said about \$2 million has been spent on roads. He said he supports the JEDZ. He asked why people in this building are not subject to the tax.

Mr. Rowan said the zone must be continuous and may not include any residential parcels. Mr. Rowan explained the at the road department funds are not all for fixing roads, as the funds are for all department needs including patching roads and mowing grass. He said there are no funds for resurfacing.

Bruce Peirano of Sheits Road said he is against the JEDZ. He said the state has determined these are not good. He said that small businesses do not support this. He asked if the Township talked to people.

Mr. Rowan said the Financial Advisory Committee recommended the Board approve the JEDZ and suggested the rebates to businesses. He economic development committee also endorsed the JEDZ.

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Mr. Peirano said he did talk to small businesses, who said they were not queried, and it's possible this will run them out of the Township.

In response to Mr. Ritter, Mr. Birkenhauer said that 80% of businesses are already paying taxes to other jurisdictions.

Mr. Birkenhauer said that we're not seeing businesses leave cities to come here for no income tax. He said that businesses can enjoy no income tax south of the Galbraith in the CRA.

Mr. Peirano said this was not well vetted with small businesses. He asked how much it costs to run the summer events.

Mr. Ritter said the Taste of Colerain is not a huge drain and it's designed to break even. The larger expense was with the 4th of July.

Mr. Peirano said there are 13 parks in the Township.

Mr. Rowan said that not all are fully functioning and some are cemeteries, which we must mow and take care of.

Mr. Peirano said he has no need for parks in 30 years he's lived here. We shouldn't have new taxes. We need to look at ways to cut, ways to be a township, not be a city.

Mr. Deters asked Mr. Peirano about the businesses' complaints on the JEDZ.

Mr. Peirano said that it was that the issue was not vetted by the business group, they were not involved.

Mr. Deters said he talked to dozens of businesses and he heard no reason why businesses don't want this.

Mr. Rowan said that the legislation has changed and requires a council of the top four businesses.

Mr. Birkenhauer said that he's never seen income tax put anyone out of business.

Bernie Fiedeldey said that Mr. Rowan cleared up a lot, that no residents will pay extra taxes and no businesses will pay extra taxes. It's a good thing. He said he's looked at it

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pretty in depth. Rumpke sat on the board of the Chamber of Commerce and Tom Hart is on the board of the CTBA both of which are supposed to spur development. Tom Hart against says would be more paperwork. He said Mr. Hart is not looking out for community as a whole, and is only self-serving. He said he's not for taxes, but this is a win-win. He said that the Township has borrowed money for the corner, given tax breaks, fixed the bridge over 275, all to help Colerain businesses. We provide meeting space for the CTBA who is now out fighting us. We need work on streets and curbs. He said that a tax levy won't fly. Here, residents get the benefit.

Jim Acton approached the Board regarding the statement Mr. Fiedeldey made and said that Tom Hart is against the JEDZ, not the CTBA.

Mr. Rowan said that all businesses, not just those owned by residents, will get granted back.

Mr. Acton asked how we will get money if we grant it back.

Mr. Rowan said that according to the HCDC, the amount which goes back is minor. We don't know exactly, but the majority is from non-residents.

Mr. Deters said that most of this money is coming from other municipalities, where our workers live. This is money other governments would have. Lobbying effort behind the removal of this tool is the municipal league.

Mr. Ritter said that voters have an obligation to research and know the issue. He said that it's really simple: we let roads deteriorate, pay property tax or pass the JEDZ. He said the JEDZ is the lesser of all evils. We could close all parks and it still wouldn't make up the loss from state funds.

Mr. Birkenhauer said that he has received calls from residents about misinformation from outside call centers. This is confusing the issue and preying on residents.

Mr. Deters said Rumpke will have spent money on this and questioned why they would suddenly care. He said it's frightening what they're doing to the community.

Mr. Acton said to Mr. Ritter that he spoke to some businesses about this and even spent ½ hour with one to explain. He urged folks to ask questions.

Mr. Ritter said the Board has an obligation to educate the public on the issue.

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Mr. Fiedeldey said the first priority is roads, police and fire. It's a non-starter to cut parks, as these drive economic development.

Mr. Rowan said will be another factual mailing going out to all residents.

Tammy Simendinger said people should know the issues. She pointed out why this is an issue: the elimination of the estate tax and local government fund. Communities have to put other levies on ballot to make up for this loss of funds. We need a state representative to bring back the local government fund.

Mr. Ritter said she is just here to campaign and is not adding value.

Mr. Deters said this is an important issue and everyone needs to educate themselves.

Ms. Rinehart said that some might feel that we are threatening them before the election. This is not goal. This board's goal is to communicate as much as possible. We will us every resource we can use to educate and listen to the public. These are not threats, it's just the facts and the possibility of what could happen.

ADJOURNMENT


With no further business, at 5:45PM, Mr. Ritter made a motion adjourn and Mr. Deters offered the second. The roll was called:

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


Fiscal Officer


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee