

Colerain Township Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Minutes  
May 13, 2014

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Michel called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with the following members present: Dan Armbruster, John Kerr, Scott Taylor and Doug Michel. Heather Harlow, Township Fiscal Officer, and James Rowan, Township Administrator, were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the March 11, 2014, minutes, as amended. Mr. Kerr offered the second. All voted aye.

POLICE LEVY

Mr. Rowan said that the levy is currently winning by 11 votes, but there will be a recount. He said they were surprised at the results, based on feedback before and on Election Day. He said that they do have a contingency plan, if it happens to fail. This is a big year with accreditation this summer. They are planning to move forward and stretch out the funds as far as possible.

The group had a discussion about the changes in the fire department based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed last week.

JEDZ UPDATE

Mr. Rowan offered an update on the progress of a potential JEDZ. He said that Springfield and Sycamore townships recently passed JEDZs. Because of a change in legislation, we have until the end of the year to do this. In preparation, we are working with the attorney and have sent a RFP to municipalities to see a fee structure. He said that a potential schedule might be to have an initial vote of the Board of Trustees at the June 10 meeting, with a public hearing thereafter. Then, the Board will ask the FAC for a recommendation. He said there is such a need to address public infrastructure (streets, curbs, sidewalks, gutters) and the JEDZ should be specific to that purpose, to do anything more general would be detrimental. He said that there will be opposition, but it's not a tax on our residents. If we do not proceed with a JEDZ, then we would look at a levy, or sell off/close parks, community center, etc.

Mr. Taylor asked about the tax on employees and businesses. Mr. Rowan said that the CIC can provide a grant back to the business. There is still discussion on this.

In response to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Rowan said that a JEDD requires the vote of the owner of the property, but a JEDZ is a district. In a JEDZ, there can't be properties with voters in the mix. The proposed zone is along Colerain Ave., from Struble to Galbraith and along the connecting roads, with adjacent commercial property. He said that south of Galbraith is a CRA area.

In response to Mr. Armbruster, Mr. Rowan said that the 1% rate will produce about \$1 million/year, but we're not sure how many grants will go back.

Mr. Kerr said that he is philosophically opposed to JEDZs. He said that unfortunately we are dealing with the repercussion of decisions already made: we could have not opened so many parks, taken on so much debt, etc.

Mr. Michel said that he thinks this will be seen as a money issue, as a money grab.

Mr. Taylor said that he is not opposed, but feels strongly that the businesses should be rebated. Mr. Kerr agreed that if a JEDZ comes to pass, the businesses should receive grants back.

Mr. Rowan said that a no vote will not mean we will ignore the roads.


The FAC will consider a meeting date, to be determined, after the public hearing.

#### AUDIT

Mr. Rowan said that the Auditor of State grouped three townships together for the audit bid process, with the award for all three. Our audit will be performed by Plattenburg & Associates for the four-year cycle. He said the 2012 Audit Cost (2010 & 2011) was \$24,150 and the 2014 Audit Cost (2012 & 2013) will be \$13,200.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36PM, Mr. Armbruster made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Taylor offered the second. All voted aye.

  
Fiscal Officer

  
Committee Chairman