

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting

Held

JUNE 21,

2007

Chairman Spanovich called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. with Mr. Angelou and the Fiscal Officer, Nancy White, present. Mr. Stewart was absent.

Clinton Township Trustees Larry Wilkes, John Coneglio, Bruce Tjampiris and the Fiscal Officer, Rebecca Christian were also present.

Also present were:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Jim Mills | 214 Flint Ridge Dr. |
| Randy Stickle | Clinton Twp. Fire Chief |
| Jim DeConnick | Mifflin Twp. Fire Chief |
| Fred Kauser | Mifflin Twp. Deputy Chief |
| John Harris | Clinton Twp. Asst. Chief |
| Jim Williams | City of Gahanna |
| Brian Van Meter | Mifflin Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Robert Olt | 1710 Hess Blvd. |
| Jean Sheridan | 2227 Ferris Rd. |
| Shawn Barnett | Mifflin Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Dolly Hanning | 2354 Agler Rd. |
| John Shinkle | Clinton Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Gary (Dick) Moore | Clinton Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Brian Fraley | Clinton Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Tyler Poe | Clinton Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Jeff Wright | Mifflin Twp. Battalion Chief |
| Michael Grossman | Mifflin Twp. Battalion Chief |
| Jason Strohmeyer | Mifflin Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Brian Roy | Mifflin Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Timothy Taylor | Mifflin Twp. Battalion Chief |
| William Brown | Clinton Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Kevin Childs | Clinton Twp. Fire Dept. |
| Martin Rozenman | The Columbus Dispatch |

Mr. Angelou led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and asked everyone to meditate and pray silently for a few seconds under God for our government, our procedures and decisions that we are asked to make today. Mr. Wilkes asked for a minute of silence for the nine firefighters that were killed in South Carolina.

MIFFLIN/CLINTON PARTNERSHIP PROJECT - Mr. Spanovich introduced and turned the meeting over to Jim Mills, the Ad Hoc Citizens Advisory Committee Chairman that was formed to study the feasibility of the proposed Mifflin/Clinton Partnership Project. He distributed hand-outs to go along with the slide presentation. He also presented both Boards with manuals of the Committee's comprehensive report. Mr. Mills thanked the other Committee members, Nick Gani, Richard Sparks and Doug Cochran for all of their help in preparing this report. (See Referral File for slide presentation hand-outs. The report manual is on file with the Fiscal Officer)

Mr. Mills started his presentation by stating that the whole idea of a Partnership began because your Fire Chiefs discussed some common problems that both entities faced and began to realize that there were some problems that might be solved by some form of sharing. A presentation was given the Boards last May, 2006 and permission was given to form a committee of firefighters to study the matter further that included recommendations. That study resulted in a document called The Partnership Project Report. After this report was presented, a series of public meetings were held and some questions and points of concern were raised. It was then determined that a third party not directly in fire service such as citizens might best be the ones to review the information and put together a report to convey the idea. Mr. Mills said he does have prior fire service but he was asked to chair the committee that was formed with citizens from both Townships and he was happy to do so.

Mr. Mills said the Partnership would help manage growth and strained administrative resources. It would also result in improved service because at this time there is one medic and one engine at three of the Mifflin stations and the Clinton station but there are only enough personnel to man one of these vehicles at a time. If another call comes in for a medic and it is already out, then another station or entity would be called making an additional delay.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting

Held

JUNE 21,

2007

Not having fully staffed vehicles in all the stations is called cross-staffing and is probably one of the main points for the Partnership. Creating a balance in resource distribution is another improvement that would result in the combined services of the two Townships that he mentioned. Mr. Mills discussed what each Township seeks to achieve by implementing this Partnership Project. The main one for both is to save tax dollars. The original committee formed to research the benefits of joint operations between the Clinton Station and Mifflin Station 132 did a lot of ground work which the Citizens Advisory Committee has used. There have been a lot of changes over the years to conform to the standard of care required now which has increased the administrative work load dramatically which both Townships have had to deal with, especially Mifflin. There were five possible solutions listed in the presentation and the recommended solution was – “The two departments blend all human and physical assets into a single organization and operate from a joint fire station.” If both operations stay the same, in time both Townships will have to go to the voters for new money sooner than absolutely necessary. This option would save both Townships money and help solve the staffing situation but the building of a joint fire station is something that would probably be done in the future.

Mr. Mills said the main accomplishments for forming the Partnership would be (1) eliminate cross-staffing – get all of the vehicles on the road and provide maximum service to the residents and (2) save money – which we can. He pointed out that the two Townships are close to each other (Sta. 132 & Sta. 61) with low service demands per day and by combining them, sharing costs equally and protecting original identities would allow the redistribution of extra staff to increase services and save each Township approximately \$500,000 annually. This number will probably increase and in four years Clinton Township would save \$1.3 million and Mifflin Township would save \$2.9 million. It is not true that Mifflin would be paying for Clinton’s fire services as each would share the cost equally. Community identity is important and has been a concern to some. It is suggested that in the Partnership Station – the one on the west side of Mifflin and east side of Clinton, “Serving Mifflin and Clinton Townships” be added to the vehicles and “Serving Mifflin Township and Gahanna” be added to the vehicles in the east Mifflin stations.

Mr. Mills said that this Partnership would not be as big a change as some might think as the two Townships have collaborated heavily in the past for many years and many work part time in each other’s stations. He said that the Partnership idea is good because it will save taxpayers money and improve services for residents in Clinton and Mifflin Townships and also Gahanna by sharing emergency services, administrative services and eliminating or reducing cross-staffing. The transition period will take some time and would be up to the pace established by the Fire Administrators and Trustees. Mr. Mills said there have been a small number of citizen concerns and opposition from both Townships and the Committee has tried to address them. The Partnership is supported by both Fire Departments, the Labor organizations, the City of Gahanna and a positive reaction from the Media.

Lt. Dick Moore, a member of the original in house committee to research the feasibility of blending the two Fire Departments spoke in favor of the Partnership Project and said it was evident after only a few meetings that this would solve staffing problems and save money for both Townships. Union representatives from both Townships spoke in favor of the Partnership and said their organizations have been in support of the project from the beginning. Mr. Mills summarized by saying if the Partnership is adopted, everybody wins.

POLL VISITORS FOR COMMENTS - Mr. Spanovich asked that anyone having questions or comments to stand and state their name.

Dolly Hanning – She said she is from the unincorporated area of Mifflin Township and is the one who had the petition signed by those in opposition of the proposed merger and all the names are residents from the Northglen and East Linden areas. She said she is against the merger and wants to keep Sta. 132 as it is because it has been there for years and they have provided very good service. If additional service is needed, they can get it faster from Columbus than from Clinton.

Ken Bing – He commented that he recently had a fire on Ferris Road which Clinton responded to and did a very good job. He said that Clinton is closer to Ferris Road than Mifflin.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of **MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Meeting

Held

JUNE 21,

2007

Roberta Olt – She said she is a resident of Clinton Township and has been in favor of the idea of this whole thing from the very beginning. She said she is not sure of some of the details but thinks that cooperation between the two Departments will be in the best interest of both Townships and that something like this needs to be done county-wide or state-wide in order to provide excellent fire service for everybody.

Someone asked if this Partnership would result in the closing of a fire station. Mr. Mills responded that both stations are old and eventually it would be best if they relocate to a new station. Details would need to be worked out if in the future the Departments opted to go back to independent status.

Richard Angelou – Mr. Angelou said to remember that this is just a model that was put together starting in May of 2006 and is before the Boards being studied and where it goes from here they do not know. If this model or another model or anything like it is to happen, it is going to have to answer a lot of questions with everything in place for it to work

Larry Wilkes – Mr. Wilkes, a Clinton Township Trustee, said he feels we are starting something here today that is going to go state-wide and as townships have more financial problems, there will be more mergers, partnership agreements and things of this nature to survive.

Richard Angelou – Mr. Angelou agreed as we have a model for communications called the MEC Center and we have tweaked it and it is evolving. It was a start and this Partnership is a start and a discussion and a way to break the ice on the concept. This is just a start.

Dolly Hanning – Ms. Hanning asked who was in debt, Mifflin or Clinton, and was told by Mr. Mills that according to his report, neither are to his knowledge.

Rebecca Christian – As the Fiscal Officer for Clinton Township, she said that they do not owe anybody but they do have some other issues. She said she only recently took over as Fiscal Officer again and has not had a chance to work on a lot of this but the immediate numbers that come up show that there are some revenue issues in the Fire Department. Some serious changes have been made to change cash flow but it will probably be another four to six months before that end result is seen which is not unusual for a Department that is recovering from a bad time. She said she can not say what the bad time was but obviously they had one. Hopefully in the future it will level out and they will be back to where they were. Things are tight now and in answer to Mr. Angelou who asked if Clinton could write a check right now for their share to get this project off the ground, she answered no and did not know if they could even do it in six months.

Bruce Tjampiris - Mr. Tjampiris, a Clinton Township Trustee, said in answer to Mr. Angelou who questioned if this was suppose to be a Joint Fire District, that it started out as a Joint Fire District but in order to maintain identities that would probably be the best way to do this. He said this is the first time he saw this report and there is a lot of information to go through. It looks like from the report that actually we are now talking about this Partnership where Mifflin is going to hire the Clinton Township firefighters and Clinton Township would no longer have a firefighter employee on their books. They then would pay their share of this Partnership which he would consider a contract situation which is basically what they have on the west side now with Upper Arlington but they are not paying anywhere near this kind of money for those services as it looks like they would be paying under the Partnership.

Randy Stickle – Clinton Fire Chief Stickle, said the financial concerns previously mentioned are the exact reasons he strongly feels they should form this Partnership. The financial stability of the Clinton Township Fire Department is actually going to improve as time goes on with the initiation of the Partnership. The current financial issue can be resolved as regards paying their share in the Partnership by either paying on a monthly or quarterly basis. They do not have to come up with three quarters of a million dollars at square one.

Richard Angelou – Mr. Angelou questioned if a monthly payment would suffice Mifflin for what they need to do. Clinton's Fiscal Officer said that until Clinton starts to make their recovery and things are looking better, she would not commit to anything. Mr. Angelou said not even a monthly payment and she responded no.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of **MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Meeting

Held

JUNE 21,

2007

Bruce Tjampiris – Mr. Tjampirir brought up the point that Clinton is now being dispatched by Columbus and under the Partnership would be dispatched by the MEC Center which would probably cost more than what they are paying Columbus. This is another hidden cost that Clinton Township would assume that is not in the report. Mr. Mills said that there is no start-up costs that he can think of no matter what steps are taken and from day one, both Townships will save money. He said he understands that Clinton can not write a check for \$500,000 right away but they can meet their payroll so why couldn't they pay half that amount on a monthly basis which is what Clinton would be doing under the Partnership.

Rebecca Christian - In response to Mr. Mills, she said that right now she just paid a payroll and there is enough cash on hand to make one more payroll and they will not get any more checks until August. When that comes in she said she will know better where they stand. They are losing a full-time person which will make a big difference in that. She said she would rather pay her people first than write a check for a contract. Mr. Mills said he believed that the dispatching was not one of the shared costs and what they are paying for dispatching would go back into their pockets.

There was discussion on the differences of the two Townships such as salary, benefits and Union and non Union. Mr. Mills said there should be no lay-offs and that merging the two work forces would result in extra personnel that could be transferred to the Gahanna stations. Mr. Mills did clarify for Rebecca Christian that the personnel from the two Partnership stations would hardly ever go on runs to Gahanna.

Jim DeConnick – Chief DeConnick, Mifflin Fire Chief, said that we know there are some issues out there but after talking with many people, personnel, etc., and looking at the negatives and positives, the positives outweigh the negatives by a big majority. He said he knows this is unfamiliar but we are up to the challenge and both Administrations are in line with this and this will be something good for the citizens and personnel for both Townships. There will be more vehicles in operation to both districts at a less cost to the citizens and we will not have to go back as soon for levies. Anything we can do to improve services at a lesser cost should be presented to the Boards. It is up to them to decide to choose this and if they do not, we would just go back to status quo. We have been working with Clinton for a long time and if there is an emergency, you don't care if the vehicle says Mifflin or Clinton, you are just glad to get help. We want to do what is best for everybody and feel this is the opportune time to accomplish this.

Roberta Olt – Ms. Olt said she is the former Clinton Fiscal Officer, and is convinced from attending meetings with other Fiscal Officers, that the way the State is doing their funding these days by constantly cutting back funds they are trying to put townships out of business. She says she feels the only way townships are going to survive is to find ways to work together whether or not it is through this plan but something must be done.

Larry Wilkes – Mr. Wilkes said that the Fire Chiefs and Asst. Fire Chiefs from both Townships have many years experience and he trusts their judgments. If they feel this Partnership is the best way to go and the finances will work out, then he agrees this is a step forward not only for our Townships but for all Townships in the State of Ohio.

Gen. Jim Williams – Gen. Williams, the Emergency Operations Director for the City of Gahanna, said he is the designated Fire Service liaison for the City because they do not have a Fire Department and Mifflin Township provides the Fire and EMS services for Gahanna. He said their basic concerns that were pointed out to them have been totally resolved after reviewing this report. The City recognizes that the decision to do this rests with the Mifflin Township Trustees and the City of Gahanna makes up about 85% or 90% of the Mifflin Township Division of Fire service area. He said the issues they had basically stemmed from not knowing what was happening with this proposal and now that they have been a party to it, all of those issues have been resolved. The letter prepared to the Mifflin Township Trustees say their issues have been resolved but withheld until after this meeting so they could see what the presentation and report said. He said he heard something this morning that may cause a problem. The City has no problem with the Partnership but the mention of the Joint Fire District causes a real issue with the City of Gahanna and may make them to rethink everything because under the new State Annexation Laws as Gahanna annexes territory to the

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of *MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES* Meeting

Held

JUNE 21,

2007

east into Jefferson Township, Jefferson Township is now providing Fire Service for portions of the City of Gahanna. Any area that is in Gahanna that is annexed from Jefferson Township from now on will have to have Jefferson Township Fire Service and there are a lot of issues in that regard right now. So the City is being serviced by these two Fire Departments so if we are talking Joint Fire District now they will have to rethink about what the Partnership is. The Partnership is very supportive by the City of Gahanna for the reasons that have been identified. He said they see Fire Service increased to the City of Gahanna and do not see any taxation increases for Gahanna residents and they do not see anything but improvements to the Fire Service. So, there are no issues with the Partnership at all but when he heard the word Joint Fire District, he said he was compelled to say that if that is under consideration, the City will have to reconsider.

Richard Angelou – Mr. Angelou said that in 1972 the City of Gahanna said that any land annexed into Gahanna goes to Mifflin Township. Lately, the State has intervened and said you have a 12 year moratorium where they can collect their taxes and could revert back to the home district. He said that our Chiefs are willing to forego that and let it go into Jefferson at this time. Chief DeConnick said that after the 12 years, the annexed area would come back to Mifflin Township. Mr. Mills said the Committee thought about a Joint Fire District but did not consider that it should be on the list as one of the options to consider and does not recommend it.

Mr. Spanovich said we all have the report before us and there have been a number of questions that should be answered and will be answered once we digest all this information. The exact costs, savings, salaries, Unions, etc., are some matters that need addressed or clarified. Mr. Spanovich asked what would happen if this Partnership was not approved. Mr. Mills said that Clinton would continue to operate but it would be forced to have to cut back to remain solvent and Mifflin would not be able to do the cross-staffing unless some money could be found such as going back to the voters. In other words, we would have understaffed stations and have to go the voters sooner for more money to keep operating. Mr. Wilkes suggested putting something in the Partnership contract that if the contract is broken, everything would go back to the way it was such as salaries, staff, administrators and a resolution for the equipment. Mr. Angelou said there are things to be resolved and we all need to do our homework. He said he would also like certification on how Clinton would be able to fund their share. He said this is a good concept and model but he will not vote for something if the money is not there.

Mr. Spanovich made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and Partnership issues and was told by Nancy White, the Fiscal Officer for Mifflin Township, that was an improper motion. After discussion, it was decided to go into executive session to discuss a legal issue.

Res. 162-07: Move Into Executive Session

Mr. Spanovich moved to go into executive session to discuss a legal issue. Mr. Wilkes seconded. All Trustees from both Boards voted yea. Motion carried.

Both Boards came out of executive session at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened into regular session.

Res. 163-07: Approve Sending Partnership Report to Prosecutor's Office for Opinion

Mr. Wilkes moved to approve sending the Partnership Report to the Prosecutor's Office for review as to whether or not this is even legal to do this and if there are any personnel legality ramifications. Mr. Coneglio seconded. All Clinton Township Trustees voted yea. Motion carried.

Mr. Mills said that Deputy Chief Kauser sent the original Partnership Project to the Prosecutor's Office for an opinion. Mr. Wilkes stated that both Boards feel the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Citizens Advisory Committee should be sent to the Prosecutor's Office.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of *MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES* Meeting

Held

JUNE 21,

2007

Res. 164-07: Approve Sending Partnership Report to Prosecutor's Office for Opinion

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve sending the Partnership Report to the Prosecutor's Office for review as to whether or not this is even legal to do this and if there are any personnel legality ramifications. Mr. Angelou seconded. All Mifflin Township Trustees voted yea. Motion carried.

After discussion, both Boards agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee did everything that was asked of them. Mr. Mills said their report is complete and respectfully asked that the Committee be discharged.

Res. 165-07: Approve Discharging the Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Committee

Mr. Wilkes moved to discharge the Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Tjampiris seconded. All Clinton Township Trustees voted yea. Motion carried.

Res. 166-07: Approve Discharging the Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Committee

Mr. Angelou moved to approve discharging the Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Committee. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All Mifflin Township Trustees voted yea. Motion carried.

Both Boards thanked and commended Mr. Mills and his committee for all the work they did on this report.

Both Boards agreed that more time was needed before a decision could be reached regarding the Partnership Project with a date to be determined around the first part of December for another joint meeting.

Res. 167-07: Approve Setting Another Joint Meeting Around the First Part of December, 2007 for a Decision on the Partnership Project

Mr. Tjampiris moved to approve setting another joint meeting around the first part of December, 2007 for a decision on the Partnership Project. Mr. Angelou seconded. Mr. Spanovich, Mr. Angelou, Mr. Tjampiris and Mr. Coneglio voted yea. Mr. Wilkes voted no. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Mr. Spanovich moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wilkes seconded. All Mifflin and Clinton Township Trustees voted yea. Motion carried.

Joseph F. Spanovich, Chairman

Nancy M. White, Fiscal Officer