

Hamilton Township Special Trustees Meeting

June 11, 2019

Trustee Board Chairman, Darryl Cordrey, called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Mr. Cordrey, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Rozzi were present.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all in attendance.

Mr. Cordrey thanked everyone for coming out to attend the meeting. This meeting is a little different from the typical Trustee meetings. We will have each department give a 5-minute presentation followed by an informal Q & A session.

The audience went around the room, introduced themselves, and stated which HOA or neighborhood they were a part of.

Police Department

Chief Hughes started his presentation by introducing himself. He explained the organizational structure of the department stating that the department has 1 chief, 4 Sergeants, 13 patrolman, 1 administrative officer and 1 police clerk. The township is divided into four quadrants or “beats”. He explained that an overwhelming majority of the calls for service take place in the north. Community policing is a huge proponent of Hamilton Township. Coffee with a cop is an event that is always well attended. Cones with a cop is being held at UDF this year on June 21, 2019. We have two School Resource Officer’s (SRO’s); Officer’s Brandenburg and Smith. Chief Hughes gave statistical comparisons of police departments in Warren County. We also have a Citizen’s Police Academy that was brought back this year and it was a huge hit. The last one that was conducted was over a decade ago. Due to the great turn out for the citizens police academy, we are now in the process of starting the Citizen’s Police Academy Alumni Association to allow attendees to stay active and give back to the township.

Audience members asked various questions about staffing requirements, if there will be another Citizen’s Police Academy, what the criteria is for the speed signs that are placed around the township and finally about the traffic issues at 22/3 and 48.

Chief Hughes responded and said that the FBI has a standard that determines the staffing and we are currently understaffed. There will most definitely be another CPA. We are trying to decide the best time to host another one and when it is decided, we will let everyone know. As far as the criteria for the speed signs, they are mostly placed due to complaints. They are also placed if there is an increase in crashes. Chief Hughes commented on the traffic problems at the

intersection of 22/3 & 48. His opinion is that there is an issue in the design however that intersection is controlled by ODOT since they are both state routes.

Fire Department

Chief Reese began his presentation by introducing himself and explaining the Core values of the department. He explained that various classes and trainings are available through the Fire Department such as CPR, First Aid, fire extinguisher use and a newer program called stop the Bleed. As long as no training card is needed, they are free. Captain Goodpastor is in charge of setting those classes up for groups and individuals. The fire department keeps a stock of smoke detectors to replace in homes as needed. Chief Reese has his staff check on smoke detectors frequently when they go on calls just to make sure our resident's homes are equipped appropriately. Station tours are available. Stop in anytime. Ride-a-longs are also an option for those further interested in the daily options of the department. The new Station 76 is being constructed and everything is running on track. He explained the organizational chart stating that he as a fire inspector who also helps and does the zoning inspections, as well as an EMS Supervisor, and then each of the three shifts amongst both stations operate with a Captain, a Lieutenant, 4 full-timers and 3-4 part timers. Chief concluded by giving general run statistics for departments of comparable size.

Audience members asked questions about the classes that are offered, what the biggest challenges are for the Fire Department, and the number of runs that occur.

Chief Reese responded that the number of residents comes from the census, estimates each year and the number of builds in the township. There are no minimums for the classes. Feel free to call the station and Captain Goodpastor can get the classes scheduled. As far as the challenges that exist right now, staffing is a big issue statewide as well as the levels of increased senior living runs.

Public Works

Public Works Director, Kenny Hickey, introduced himself and explained the department motto of "Serve the community the best we can with what we've got." The levy that was passed this past year is helping with road repair and infrastructure. Mr. Hickey presented the road repair list and stated that we have slated 8 miles of roads to be repaired this year. Mr. Hickey explained the differentiation in Township/ County/State roads and how we acquire them. The township does not officially accept a road or subdivision until a letter is written from Mr. Hickey officially accepting the roads. We have state and county roads throughout the township. The street signs identify township roads with our Hamilton Township logo implemented on the sign. Mr. Hickey

explained that other duties of the Public Works Department are the road assessment, parks maintenance and cemetery maintenance and upkeep.

Audience members asked questions in reference to street signage, cemetery rules and regulations, the process for street and stop sign changes, and if the adjacent houses to the cemeteries were notified that the headstones were changing.

Mr. Hickey explained that the signs with the logo are provided by the township but main roads are done first. If there are signs that appear to be fading or need replaced, please email which signs those are and the public works department will come out to assess them and replace as necessary.

Mr. Centers addressed the questions about the cemetery rules and regulations and allowing upright headstones to be placed as a marker instead of only flat stones. October 10, 2018 there was a Work Session discussion at the Trustee meeting to talk about the headstones. It was a unanimous vote to overturn the previous Resolution and allow those upright headstones. There was no rule to notify the property owners of the overturning of the resolution. In hindsight, we should have reached out to the adjacent property owners. The residents complained that they wanted upright headstones for themselves and/or their loved ones so those complaints generated that work session for the Trustees.

Ms. Burns stated that she read in the minutes that Tuft's was offering a rebate for residents who wanted to replace the headstones from flat to upright. She also mentioned the newly acquired columbaria that will be placed in the cemetery.

Mr. Centers explained that after residents began to request the upright headstones is when Tuft's approached us about offering the rebates for the replacement of grave markers. He also clarified that a columbaria was purchased and will be placed as a new option for residents in the cemetery.

Another resident asked if there is any way that a privacy fence or a screen of some sort could be placed for those residents that do live near the cemetery.

Mr. Cordrey and Mr. Rozzi stated that they can look into some sort of screening and they asked Mr. Centers to bring this issue back as a work session item.

Mr. Hickey also discussed the preliminary plans for the widening of State Route 48.

Audience members further questioned the traffic lights that will be at the new Alexander Pointe development on Willow Pond Blvd. & 22/3. Mr. Hickey stated that area will be controlled by ODOT.

Administration

Mr. Centers introduced himself stating that he is the Township Administrator. He discussed the Administrative Organizational Chart and stated that we have a broad span of what we handle. If it does not deal directly with Police, Fire, EMS, or Public Works, then it comes to us. We implement the visions and decisions of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Centers discussed different community events such as the tree lighting, the Easter egg hunt, the picnic in the park, Touch-A-Truck and Trunk or Treat. Mr. Centers explained the township finances to include the major budgeting items such as the Tax Budget, which is submitted mid-year, and the Capital Budget, which is submitted year-end for the following year. We also have an Audit yearly that combs through our finances in detail to make sure that we are on track with all budgets and spending. We now have five perfect audits. Mr. Centers discussed the roles of the Trustees, Administrator, Fiscal Officer and staff. We all work together as a team and wear many hats. One of the items of communication is that the Board wanted more transparency. We have created a newsletter to inform residents and businesses of what is going on in the township. We are working on re-branding as well. We are creating a new logo to be implemented and phased out over the next two years. We currently have a website that is not as user friendly and informational as we wanted so we are in the midst of rolling out a newly designed website.

An audience member asked if we would be replacing all of our street signs and everything in the township with the new logo? There were also questions about community calendars as well as questions about a gas tax and what that would give the township.

Mr. Centers stated that this would be a process over the next two plus years and done as needed. Mr. Hickey clarified what the gas tax is estimated to give us.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Walker stated that it was good to see so many HOA's and subdivisions come and participate in this meeting.

Mr. Rozzi thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone that the regular Trustee meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday's of the month at 6:30pm.

Mr. Cordrey expressed his appreciation for everyone attending and hoped that it was beneficial.

Adjournment

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Walker to adjourn at 7:49pm.

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey Yes
Joe Walker Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes