



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

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

**5181 NORTHWEST PARKWAY, HILLIARD, OHIO**

*Held*

**July 25, 2022**

The special meeting was called to order at 1:58 PM by Chairman Charles Wm. Buck.

Roll Call – **Charles Wm. Buck, Chairman – Present**  
**Timothy Roberts, Trustee – Present**  
**Jerry O’Shaughnessy, Trustee – Present**

Also Present – **Dave Baird, Norwich Township Fire Chief**  
**Jamie Fisher, Norwich Township Administrator**  
**Jake Wells, Norwich Township Assistant Fire Chief**

Judge Mackey conducted the swearing-in for the new Township Trustee Jerry O’Shaughnessy.

Mr. Buck shared that we are meeting to discuss the police contract cost. Mrs. Fisher shared that the general fund has been used to offset the police contract costs with the City of Hilliard and that our police levy brings in \$350,000 annually. Mrs. Fisher shared that the Township has been in discussions with the City of Hilliard and that she received a response from City Manager Crandall on the Township’s proposal of consideration to receive 80% of the Township’s levied fire and ems dollars for both incentive districts proposed by Hilliard. Mrs. Fisher shared that the two districts were Old Hilliard and TruePointe on Trueman Boulevard. The City responded to the Township’s request and stated that it would not be economically feasible to allow the Township to be paid 80% of the fire and ems tax dollars from those two development areas and because we cannot come to an agreement, City Council is unable to offer the Township a year of free police coverage. Mrs. Fisher shared that the City’s original request to the Township was that the Township would agree to the two TIF districts to receive free police coverage for one year. Mrs. Fisher shared that the email from the City did not include a counteroffer to the 80% of the fire and ems tax dollars from those two development areas. Mrs. Fisher shared that she contacted the Township’s attorney, Pete Griggs, and he provided a resolution that will have to be submitted to Franklin County by the end of the week. She shared the Township’s options. Option one is to use the general fund to offset the difference for 2023 and to work with the City of Hilliard and police department to receive a 0% increase in cost for 2023. The second option is to go on the ballot and meet the August 10, 2022, deadline with the County. Mrs. Fisher shared that the Township attorney proposed that the County provide figures for 1.0 mill, 2.0 mill, and 3.00 mill. Mr. Roberts added that the Township asked the City if the police department could tailor the coverage and reduce the cost for coverage. He shared that Michelle Crandall stated it is not possible. Mr. Roberts stated he finds it hard to believe. Mrs. Fisher shared that if the City could agree to tailor services that would be another option for the Township. Mr. Buck shared that the City will not have the figures for these TIF developments for another two or three months and that seems unreasonable for the Township to agree on. Mr. Roberts shared that he cannot make a fathomable decision to trade an estimated \$11,000,000 that the City projected for the TruePointe TIF district for a year of free police coverage at \$515,000. Mr. Buck added that in the past five years the city has diverted \$8 million that the voters had approved for the Township to use for services. Mr. O’Shaughnessy asked if the City uses other forms of financing other than TIFs. Mrs. Fisher shared that traditionally the City used CRAs and TIFs. Mr. O’Shaughnessy shared that maybe there is an alternative that they can be using. Mr. Buck shared that the Township wants to work with the City and that the Township appreciates the police department but that it is the level above the police department that the Township has issues with. Mr. Buck shared his issues with getting the letter late on a Friday. Mrs. Fisher shared that the City has a charter in place that requires approval from the Township and the School district for mixed-use developments. Mr. Buck



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shared that he spoke with the Franklin County Sheriff about offering coverage options to avoid going on the ballot for the unincorporated residents. Mr. O'Shaughnessy shared his knowledge of sheriff coverage for unincorporated areas and that it could be 8 hours of coverage versus a proactive police department that is always there when needed. Mr. Buck shared the Township's previous police coverage with the Sheriff was based on the levied dollars brought in annually. Mr. Roberts shared that fire and police departments have always had a great relationship and he wanted that relationship to continue no matter the issues at the political level. Mr. Buck shared the same and added that it is the level above the police department that he has issues with. Mr. Buck also shared that he does not want to raise taxes but if we go on the ballot the residents will get to decide. Mr. Roberts agreed. Mr. O'Shaughnessy shared that maybe something can be worked out between Norwich and the City. Mr. Buck also thanked the Fire Department for their efforts in the ISO rating and for their efforts over this busy time. Mr. Buck also mentioned Davidson Road and Leppert Road construction. Mr. O'Shaughnessy asked Police Chief Woods if the police department has seen an uptick in runs. Chief Woods will provide those details to the Board. Chief Baird shared that Renner Road was closed again. Mr. Buck shared that this resolution is not to put the levy on the ballot but the first process. Mrs. Fisher requested the following approval:

Motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, to approve the resolution declaring the necessity for levying a tax exceeding the ten-mill limitation and requesting the County Auditor to provide certain information pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03(B).

Vote: Buck-Yes Roberts-Yes O'Shaughnessy -Yes

Motion passed - #220725.01

Mr. Buck shared with Kevin Corvo that this is just to begin the process and that they do not want to be on the ballot.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy shared a few words thanking those that came to support him being sworn in.

Motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, to adjourn the special meeting at 2:24 PM.

Vote: Buck-Yes Roberts-Yes O'Shaughnessy -Yes

Motion passed - #220725.02

  
Charles Wm. Buck, Chairman

  
Jamie Fisher, Township Administrator