

The regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Trustees held on August 11, 2008 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Chairman Winkler, present; Trustee Upton, present; Trustee Linnenberg, excused; Fiscal Officer Straus, excused.

Chairman Winkler moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 28, 2008. Trustee Upton seconded the motion and all voted aye.

A PowerPoint presentation was given for the purpose of providing residents with information regarding trends in emergency service calls and personnel levels. A brief description of each of the 19 slides presented is as follows:

1. Green Township Fire/EMS Department Total Emergency Runs from 1997 through 2007 - The total in 1997 was 3,921 and increased to 6,091 in 2007, which equates to a 55% increase.
2. Maximum Staffing Levels - Green Township has the lowest staffing level of any comparable Township Fire Department in Southwest Ohio.
3. Emergency Runs per FTE (Full Time Equivalent = Total number of man-hours worked divided by 2,080) With the lowest staffing level of any comparable large Township Fire Department in Southwest, Ohio, Green Township has the highest number of runs per FTE.
4. Per Capita Expenditures - Green Township has the lowest per capita expenditure of any comparable large Township in Southwest Ohio.
5. Per Capita Staffing Levels - Green Township staffing results in an on-duty per capita firefighter workforce to population ratio more than 50% greater than the next closest comparable Township.
6. Green Township Fire/EMS Department Total Emergency Runs Percentage Increase vs. Percentage Increase in Staffing (1997 - 2007) - Emergency runs have gone up 55%, while staffing levels have only increased by 13.5%.
7. Cincinnati Enquirer Article - As reported in the Cincinnati Enquirer on August 3, 2008 Green Township fire run response times are some of the longest of any professional Fire Department in Hamilton County. A fire will double in size every 60 seconds. 5-minutes without oxygen will result in permanent brain damage.
8. Percentage of fire emergencies reached within six minutes by Department - Demonstrated that Green Township only reaches a fire emergency within six minutes 75% of the time.
9. Green Township Fire Department General Information - 1. Half of the Township's fire stations are staffed with only one crew of firefighter/paramedics; 2. When the fire truck leaves the station, the paramedic ambulance sits in the fire station unavailable for emergency runs; 3. When the ambulance leaves the fire station, the fire truck sits in the fire station unavailable for emergency runs; 4. This situation frequently results in longer response times to emergency runs in these fire station response areas.
10. Police Minimum Staffing - Green Township was divided into six police beats in 1983, while the population and calls for service have increased dramatically, in more than two decades. (Minimum staffing, one officer assigned to each beat manned 24/7).
11. Green Township Police Calls For Service from 1990 to 2007 - Demonstrated that there were 22,894 calls for service in 1990 and 35,225 calls for service in 2007, resulting in a 53% increase.
12. Police Officer to Population Ratio (Number of Citizens per Police Officer) - Of the more than 35 Police Departments serving local governments in Hamilton County, Green Township has the lowest (worst) officer to population ratio.
13. Hamilton County Officer to Population Ratios (Number of Citizens Per Police Officer) - Demonstrated that the Ohio average is 476 citizens per Police Officer. Green Township has 1,359 residents per Police Officer. This does include Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to Green Township.
14. Police Department Concerns - 1. Lowest officer to population ratio; 2. Continued population growth / call volume; 3. Deterioration /

- encroachment of surrounding neighborhoods; 4. State funding cutbacks and Hamilton County charging for deputies.
15. Police and Fire/EMS Funding - In 2007, the existing levies failed to cover approximately \$2 million dollars of the cost to operate our police and fire departments. In 2008, this shortfall will be even greater.
 16. Increasing Emergency Calls Impact Service - 1. As the volume of police, fire and emergency medical calls have been increasing, our staffing levels have not kept pace. As a result, our level of service has declined; 2. As it appears that this trend of increased demand will continue, our ability to respond quickly to emergencies will continue to suffer unless we add personnel; 3. With our current budget situation, we cannot afford to raise minimum staffing levels without a levy; 4. If we elect to hold off on allowing the voters to decide on a levy now, any future levy to add personnel would need to be so large that it would be unlikely to pass.
 17. Emergency Calls Up, Service Down - Increases in population and annual emergency runs without increased staffing will result in declines in emergency response service to our residents.
 18. 2008 Comparison of the eight largest Townships in Southwest Ohio - Green Township has the lowest residential effective millage rate of all eight of the largest Townships in Southwest Ohio.
 19. Conclusion: Let the Residents Decide - The Administrator and each of our Department Heads recommend that the Board of Trustees allow a Safety Services Levy to be placed on the ballot in November. This would allow the public to decide whether they want to add additional police officers and firefighter/paramedics to keep up with the growing number of emergency calls.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-A

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution accepting and approving the financial reports as submitted. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-B

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution for permission to travel for Chief Doug Witsken to take the level 5 Certification Course for the Homeland Security Certification on September 2, 2008 in San Diego, California. Chief Witsken will pay all travel, lodging and meals to attend the class if the Township will approve the \$495.00 course fee that is available in the training tuition budget for 2008. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-C

Trustee Upton moved to approve a tax levy in excess of the 10 mill limitation for police and fire services under Section 5705.19JJ of the Ohio Revised Code for a period of five years in the amount of 1.9 mills to be placed upon the 2008 tax list duplicate for first collection in calendar year 2009. Chairman Winkler seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

Chairman Winkler stated that she is very proud that Green Township has the lowest millage of any comparable Township in Southwest Ohio and has been able to do that for such a long period of time and still provide excellent services. However, at the same time she recognizes that the Township continues to grow and the need for services has increased. She stated that additional funds are needed to add staff in order to continue to provide those services. If those funds are not generated, staffing levels will have to be cut.

Trustee Upton stated that the Township does have TIF Funds available, however, by law, those funds cannot be used for salaries. Therefore, TIF Funds are not a source that can be considered to generate the necessary funds to increase staffing levels. Trustee Upton also stated that Hamilton County is going through a budget crisis and is looking at a 6% budget cut this year and an approximately 12% budget cut next year. The budget cuts at the County level will negatively impact services provided by the County to the Township.

Trustee Upton reported that in 2007, the State of Ohio almost cut \$2.5 million dollars out of the Township's budget. The Townships fought at the State level to stop the State from cutting Estate Tax Funds and Cable Franchise Fees. The amount of revenue for Local Government Funds from the

State of Ohio have been frozen. The Township has only 135 employees to provide services to over 61,000 residents in Green Township. The Township has many costs that are out of our control, such as gas prices and road salt prices. Healthcare is rising. Workers' Compensation rates are rising.

Trustee Upton stated that there is money available in other funds that are restricted for particular uses, however, the General Fund is the fund that is needed to pay the bills, wages, etc. Expenses continue to rise and revenue increases have not kept pace. Trustee Upton stated that a levy is necessary at this time to continue to provide the services needed in Green Township and is pleased that the issue will be going before the voters.

Chairman Winkler read the following letter submitted by Trustee Linnenberg, who could not be present at this meeting:

I apologize that I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I have great respect for my fellow trustees, the administrator and the department heads that support this levy based on the projections of a future deficit.

However; even without this levy, Green Township will have a positive general reserve balance through 2011. While it is discouraging that we are depleting our general reserves, the purpose of a general reserve fund is to add to it in good economic times and to deplete it in bad economic times. We are currently in a bad economic time.

Furthermore, their placing a 1.9 mill levy on the November ballot is just one of many steps in addressing the township's future deficit. We must find new sources of revenue. In past years, our trustees had the foresight to create TIF districts. They began charging health insurance companies for ambulance services. Moreover, we will have multiple JEDDs in place providing additional revenue by 2011. We must continue this search.

Additionally, there are areas in the budget where expenses must be cut. These cuts won't consist of large amounts, but small cuts will add up. The yearly increase in the township's expenses should be locked at or below 3%.

I was appointed to fill this position roughly two months ago. Out of respect for my fellow trustees, who have dedicated years to the township, I will refrain from taking a position on this levy, and were I here, I would abstain from voting on this issue.

No matter the outcome, I assure you that Green Township will continue to provide the residents with the excellent service you expect.

David W. Linnenberg

RESOLUTION #08-0811-D

The following properties were declared as nuisances. The Township Attorney was directed to notify the owners of the properties listed below of this resolution:

1. 3479 Centurion Drive (550-0062-0202), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
2. 5672 Childs Avenue (550-0171-0512), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
3. 3041 Crestmoor Lane (550-0131-0140), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
4. 3829 Ebenezer Road (550-0241-0099), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
5. 3460 Eyrich Road (550-0172-0168), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
6. 6905 Harrison Avenue (550-0320-0068) (ORC Section 505.87, high grass and weeds, garbage, junk and debris), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
7. 6905 Harrison Avenue (550-0320-0068) (ORC Section 505.871, junk vehicle), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
8. 5434 North Bend Road (Rally's) (550-0070-0021), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
9. 5242 Parkview Avenue (550-0041-0072), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
10. 4244 Race Road (550-0111-0015), Motion made by Trustee Upton and seconded by Chairman Winkler. All voted Aye.
11. 4451 Race Road (550-0181-0253), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
12. 5065 Valley Ridge Road (550-0193-0021 and 0022), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.

The Ohio Department of Liquor Control has sent notice of application from

M. Steven Ells and Montgomery F. Moran, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc., 6475 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45248. Police Chief, Bart West, had no objections. The Trustees will not request a hearing.

Administrator Celarek made the following announcements:

1. The Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at the Hamilton County Administration Building, Room 805, 138 E. Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 to hear the following cases:
 - a. Case # 2008-11, applicant is Mauro Zappasodi, 1551 Anderson Ferry, for the approval of the construction of an in-ground swimming pool with less rear yard setback and a retaining wall and fence with less side yard setback.

Development Director Goetzman gave a brief overview of the proposed project. The applicant was not present.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-E

Trustee Upton moved to pass a resolution recommending approval of Case # 2008-11 to the Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals subject to the following conditions: 1. That the subject property be surveyed prior to the installation of the pool; 2. That the retaining wall be installed no less than 24" from the rear property line, or in the same location as the existing wall provided the existing wall is located entirely on the subject property; 3. That any pumps or other mechanical equipment be located on the south or east side of the pool enclosure; and 4. That any privacy fencing installed in the pool enclosure be installed with the good side facing adjoining residential properties. Chairman Winkler seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

- b. Case # 2008-12, applicant is Ruth C. Holthaus, 2866 Westbourne, for the approval of the construction of a storage shed in the side yard of the property in question.

Development Director Goetzman gave a brief overview of the proposed project. The applicant, Ruth Holthaus, was present and presented information regarding the construction of the shed two years ago.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-F

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution recommending approval of Case # 2008-12 to the Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals subject to the following conditions: 1. That an evergreen screen be maintained on the south side of the shed; and 2. That no additional sheds be permitted on the property. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

- c. Case # 2008-13, applicant is Lackner Signs for owner Crookshank Properties and lessee Buy Backs at 5081 Glencrossing Way, for the approval of a third wall sign to be located on the façade of a building not considered to be building frontage.

Development Director Goetzman gave a brief overview of the proposed project. The applicant was not present.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-G

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution recommending approval of Case # 2008-13 to the Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals subject to the following conditions: 1. That the sign be constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted; and 2. That the sign be permitted for the proposed Buy Backs user only, and that no replacement sign be permitted without prior approval of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

- d. Case # 2008-14, applicant is Oak Hills United Methodist Church, 6069 Bridgetown Road, for the approval of a Conditional Use Certificate for an Infant Child Care Facility on the property in question.

Development Director Goetzman gave a brief overview of the proposed project. The applicant was not present.

RESOLUTION #08-0811-H

Trustee Upton moved to pass a resolution recommending approval of Case # 2008-12 to the Hamilton County Board of Zoning Appeals as presented subject to the approval of the Hamilton County Building Department and the

Green Township Fire Department. Chairman Winkler seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

Fiscal Officer, Tom Straus, was not present.

Township Attorney, Frank Hyle, stated that there is no need for executive session.

Administrator, Kevin Celarek, thanked Chairman Winkler and Trustee Upton for their support of the Safety Services Levy.

Director of Public Services, Fred Schlimm, was not present.

Director of Development, Adam Goetzman, described a recent incident where a family member was involved in a three car motor vehicle accident on Cleves-Warsaw Avenue in Green Township. Mr. Goetzman stated that two life squads from Miami Township arrived to take the first two victims to the hospital and it took approximately twenty minutes for a third life squad from Green Township to arrive to transport his relative to the hospital. He stated his support for the Safety Services Levy.

Fire Chief, Doug Witsken, thanked the Board for giving the residents of Green Township the opportunity to vote on the Safety Services Levy and decide on their own if they would like to keep their safety service levels strong.

Trustee Upton read a thank you letter from a resident regarding how much she appreciated the Green Township Citizen's Fire Academy Program.

Police Chief, Bart West, thanked the Board for their support of the Safety Services Levy and for allowing this issue to go before the voters to decide for themselves if they want strong safety services. Chief West also reported that recently the Channel 9 I-Team was doing a story on governmental entities and if they are overpaying for gasoline. On the day that Channel 9 was at Green Township filming, the Township purchased gasoline at \$3.09 per gallon. Chief West reported that the Township is purchasing gasoline at the Hamilton County contract price. The I-Team was surprised that the Township is purchasing gasoline below the State of Ohio contract for purchasing gasoline. Chief West pointed out that Fire Chief Doug Witsken will be attending a training course in San Diego, California. Chief Witsken will be paying for his own travel, lodging and meals to attend the class, therefore, the Township is being frugal with the taxpayers money and thanked the Board again for their support of the Safety Services Levy.

Lt. Mike Horton, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, reported on two aggravated robbery incidents that occurred in Green Township.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, August 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Excused; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye. Meeting was adjourned 8:08 p.m.