

SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
MORGAN TOWNSHIP / WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
NOVEMBER 16, 2022
UTICA TOWN HALL; 6:30 P.M.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED

THERE WERE SOME 29 PERSONS PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS (INCLUDING SEVEN (7) TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS).

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CALLED OUR MEETING TO ORDER
PRESENT: REX STEVENSON, SAM PARSONS AND PHIL SHAW (MR. SMITH ABSENT)

PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS READ ALOUD: "TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES."

MR. PARSONS REPORTED THAT BOTH TOWNSHIPS ARE DISCUSSING FORMING A FIRE DISTRICT WHICH IS A SEPARATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY FROM THE TOWNSHIPS. THE DISTRICT WILL COVER MORGAN TOWNSHIP, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF UTICA AND WILL LEVY ITS OWN TAX MONEY TO OPERATE. MR. PARSONS REPORTED THAT EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY WILL HAVE ONE MEMBER ON THE NEW BOARD. HE DISCUSSED THE PROS AND CONS OF FORMING THIS NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY: RESPONSE TIME, COSTS FOR PAYROLL, EQUIPMENT AND THAT THIS DISTRICT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS THAT THE TWO PRIVATE ENTITIES ARE CURRENTLY NOT ELIGIBLE.

MR. STEVENSON REPORTED THAT A RESOLUTION TURNING OVER ALL ASSETS OF THE UTICA EMS TO THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT HAS BEEN PASSED.

MR PARSONS REPORTED THAT A RESOLUTION TURNING OVER ALL ASSETS OF THE UTICA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSETS TO THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT IS IN THE WORKS.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

1. STEVE SMITH ASKED: WILL SERVICE CHANGE, WILL COST CHANGE, AND HOW WILL THE NEW BOARD BE SET-UP?
2. CRAIG FISHER REPORTED THAT THE UTICA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS HAVE DISCUSSED THE FORMATION OF THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT AND AGREE IT IS BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY.
3. BRANDON RHOADS REPORTED THAT THE UTICA EMS IS USING PAID AND VOLUNTEERS ON A "PAID ON CALL" SYSTEM CURRENTLY (WHEN APPLICABLE).
4. ROB PIERPONT ASKED ABOUT THE STUDY FROM THE OHIO FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION AND HOW WILL THE NEW CHIEF FOR THE DISTRICT BE CHOSEN?
5. LINDA KERR ASKED: WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE UTICA EMS RUNNING OUT OF MONEY AND WILL THE EMS RUNS BE COVERED IF THAT HAPPENS?
6. PAT LANKER ASKED IF THE COMMUNITY COULD FUND RAISE FOR THE UTICA EMS AND THE NEW DISTRICT, ALSO HOW MUCH WILL THE NEW DISTRICT COST THE PROPERTY OWNERS?
7. ASHLEY BAKER ASKED MR. PARSONS TO GO OVER THE PROS AND CONS OF FORMING THE NEW DISTRICT AGAIN AND ABOUT GRANTS.
8. CHRIS CASEY REPORTED THAT THE UTICA EMS APPLIED FOR AN ARPA GRANT TO HELP WITH PAYROLL AND THAT THE ONLY REASON THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE GRANT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT A PUBLIC ENTITY.
9. PHIL SHAW ASKED MR. PARSONS TO EXPLAIN A "PAID ON CALL" SYSTEM AGAIN.
10. JOHN KARAM ASKED ABOUT LOOKING TO THE FUTURE REGARDING EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS FOR THE DISTRICT.
11. ERIC FAHNER ASKED ABOUT FUNDING THE DISTRICT.
12. MATT MCELROY REPORTED THAT HE THOUGHT A DISTRICT IS A GOOD THING FOR THE COMMUNITY.
13. JULIE HELPHREY ASKED IF THERE WERE OTHER OPTIONS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS - TOWNSHIP OWNED DEPARTMENT(S) OR OTHER ALTERNATIVES? THE TOWNSHIPS COULD NOT APPLY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES GRANTS FOR PRIVATE ENTITIES.
14. ANNA HUMPHREIS REPORTED THAT SHE WAS FOR THE NEW DISTRICT AS WELL AS ARE OTHER RESIDENTS.
15. ANDY MOSLEY ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET THE PROSECUTOR(S) AND/OR THE COUNTY AUDITOR(S) TO COME TALK WITH THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NEW DISTRICT?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

THE TRUSTEES REPORTED THAT GOING FORWARD WITH A FIRE DISTRICT IS IN THE DISCUSSION STAGE AND ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS WITH LIMITED OR NO LEGAL INFORMATION TO GO ON OR PROVIDED.

MR. PARSONS MOVED TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY MR. STEVENSON; VOTE – PARSONS-YES, STEVENSON-YES, SMITH-ABSENT, MOTION CARRIED

REX STEVENSON ; TRUSTEE

NELSON SMITH; TRUSTEE

SAM PARSONS ; TRUSTEE

PHIL SHAW; FISCAL OFFICER