

SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
MORGAN TOWNSHIP / WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
NOVEMBER 9, 2022
UTICA TOWN HALL; 6:30 P.M.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED

THERE WERE SOME 24 PERSONS PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS (INCLUDING EIGHT (8) TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CALLED OUR MEETING TO ORDER
PRESENT: REX STEVENSON, NELSON SMITH, SAM PARSONS AND PHIL SHAW

PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS READ ALOUD: "TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF EMERGRNCY 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 CURENTTLY NOT ELIGIBLE.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

1. JOHN TORRENS -COSTS TO THE TAXPAYER AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE EQUIPMENT PRESENTLY OWNED BY THE UTICA EMS AND THE UTICA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS?
2. DENNIS MCNAMARA – STAFFING?
3. BRANDON RHOADS - MUTUAL AID?
4. DAN HELPHREY - MUTUAL AID?
5. PAT RYAN - WILL THE VILLAGE OF UTICA HAVE A SAY IN THE OPERATION OF THIS DISTRICT?
6. ANNA HUMPRIES - WHERE WILL THE NEW DISTRICT BE LOCATED?
7. REX STEVENSON REPORTED THAT IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE, THE UTICA EMS WILL BE OUT OF MONEY IN 2023 WITH CURRENT FUNDING.
8. ANDY MOSLEY- WILL THE NEW DISTRICT BE ABLE TO USE PAID AND VOLUNTEER MEMBERS TO COVER DAYTIME HOURS OR WILL THEY HAVE TO DEPEND ON MUTUIAL AID?
- 9.ASHLEY BAKER - WHAT ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY BY THE OHIO FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION THAT WAS DISCUSSED IN PRIOR MEETINGS AND WHAT ABOUT A TOWNSHIP TAKING OVER BOTH DEPARTMENTS?
10. LISA BAKER - HOW DO WE GET THE INFORMATION OUT ABOUT THIS DISTRICT ?
11. JAMES QUINIF - ADDED THAT FACEBOOK COULD BE USED.
12. NELSON SMITH ASKED THE PUBLIC IF ANYONE PRESENT WAS AGAINST GOING AHEAD WITH THE FIRE DISTRICT. NO ONE PRESENT WAS OPPOSED.
13. THE MEMBERS PRESENT, FROM THE UTICA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, SAID THEY WILL DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE RESIDENTS.
14. THE MEMBERS, PRESENT FROM THE UTICA EMS, SAID THEY WERE FOR THE 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.

SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY PARSONS; VOTE - ALL" YES"

REX STEVENSON

NELSON SMITH

SAM PARSONS

PHIL SHAW

