

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, met in Work Session on March 16, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., at 2090 Ferry Road, Sugarcreek Township, Ohio 45305.

1. Mrs. Daugherty called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and promptly adjourned to Executive Session to discuss litigation issues.
2. The meeting resumed at approximately 6:05 with no action taken and Board Members Nadine Daugherty, Mike Pittman and Scott Bryant being present. In addition to Mr. Tiffany, Township Administrator, others present were Chief Pavlak, Chief Brown, Barbara Burson, Jim Martin, Donna Hellman, Stephanie Hayden and Joe Garrett (TREBELlc).

Discussion Items:

Fire – Chief Pavlak said he had two vacant full-time positions and discussed the need to fill at least one those positions while he works through his current budget issues. He said he could save thirty thousand on one of the full time positions but needs one to keep the stations staffed. Mr. Tiffany said we have a resolution on the agenda tonight to provide for a short fall in funding Fire payroll if our tax distribution doesn't arrive by tomorrow. Mr. Bryant said he wished to discuss his frustration with the whole issue. He said over a year ago we started a study with Steve Knopp for establishment of a base to determine how we compared to other communities similar to us to see how we rank. He said we hit roadblocks and the study fell apart. Mr. Bryant said here we are today with the same issues now. He said we saw this coming and did nothing.

Chief Pavlak said he spent \$100,000 on radios last year and \$40,000 on a ladder truck he hadn't planned on spending. Mr. Bryant said he was sure there were reasons but we still put in place a plan and it fell apart. I want to know how we stand as a Fire Department. Is our Budget reasonable? Mr. Tiffany said Miami Township services a larger community and has less staffing. Chief Pavlak said they have a large volunteer base. Mr. Tiffany agreed their environment may be somewhat more conducive to volunteers. Mr. Pittman asked why the study never progressed. Mr. Tiffany said he knew Mr. Knopp had health issues and it fell apart slowly. Chief Pavlak said his staffing has been reduced from 9 a day to 7 a day and he took huge cuts from the state. Mr. Bryant said we have all taken cuts.

Chief Pavlak said he thinks we can bridge the gap with a new staffing plan and that the Centerville issue is still a question. Mr. Tiffany suggested we try to get some volunteers on our schedule. Mrs. Daugherty asked how many part-timers we have. Mr. Tiffany said about 43 Firemen full and part-time. Chief Pavlak said he can't rely on the part-timers showing up. Mr. Pittman said we discussed the problem with showing up in 2013. Chief Pavlak said we pay the lowest in the area. Mr. Tiffany said we could bring up the wages of the part-timers. Mr. Bryant said he is not convinced the problem with part-timers is solely wages. He said he would like a benchmark study before voting for a new levy. He suggested an outside source like a graduate student. Mr. Tiffany suggested Miami University.

The Board agreed to go with one full-time position to be filled. Mr. Pittman said he would like to discuss not raising the part-timers pay and thought we needed an austerity program for the Fire Fund. Mrs. Daugherty agreed. Mr. Tiffany said we will begin processing Chief Pavlak's first choice for the full time position. Mr. Bryant said until he better understands the part-time turnovers, he is not ready to increase their pay.

Mr. Tiffany said Chief Pavlak needs an influx of part-timers. He suggested we advertise at Sinclair College. Chief Pavlak said he also had other processes he would get started.

Mr. Joe Garrett, TREBELlc, introduced himself and talked about municipal utility aggregations and the services they provided. He also provided information about other entities they were providing their services to. Mr. Bryant said we had too much going on now and he would not be interested at this time. Mrs. Daugherty asked if he could leave us some information.

Mr. Hodson gave the Board a copy of the temporary appropriations showing the changes made to arrive at the permanent appropriations put on tonight's meeting agenda.

Mrs. Daugherty moved to adjourn at 6:52 pm. Mr. Pittman seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Pittman – Yes
Mrs. Daugherty – Yes
Mr. Bryant - Yes

Theodore L. Hodson, Fiscal Officer