

Archbold Village Council
German Township Board of Trustees
March 20, 2017

The Archbold Village Council requested a meeting with the Trustees of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio in an extra session for the purpose of discussing the proposal for the Fire Department. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers.

Present: Bruce Lauber, Kenneth Leupp, Randy Ruffer, Keith Short, Vaughn Bentz, Kenny Cowell, Kevin Eicher, Brian Huffman, Ed Leininger, Kevin Morton, Jeff Fryman, Donna Dettling, Kathy King, Andy Brodbeck, David Pugh, Larry Baus, Joe Short, Robert Apger

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Fryman at 7:00 pm.

Kevin Morton said that there has been time to crunch the numbers and feels it is good to continue dialogue and to continue to make progress and move forward. Bruce Lauber said as numbers were received the Trustees didn't feel the numbers were fair to the residents outside of Archbold. He said the communication has been good and needs to keep going. Kevin Morton said the formula proposed is the same formula used for the EMS levy and is also used all over the state. As the Council looked at the costs they realized the residents outside of the Village were not paying anything for fire service, just equipment.

Bruce Lauber asked why the additional \$25,000.00 in salaries was not added to the EMS wages. The response was this is not for a new position but was just an increase in salaries.

Randy Ruffer was concerned about the market values that were used because of the farm land values. He also thought it was more urgent for the fire department to fight a house fire inside the Village compared to outside of the Village because there would usually be more homes close to the one on fire and would try to stop it from spreading. Kenny Cowell said the recent fire at Chris King's residence could have taken the house if the fire department hadn't arrived as quickly as they did. Kevin Eicher said that fire was more valuable than fifteen homes in Archbold. Randy said there were other departments there but Archbold was the only one spraying the fire.

Jeff Fryman commented that the Township is not paying for fire service, only the equipment. Some of the other items are wages, workers' compensation and upkeep of buildings.

Kevin Morton said at the October 25, 2016 meeting Randy Ruffer said everyone should pay the same amount which is what the proposal states. Randy asked why the cost went from the tentatively agreed amount of \$51,000.00 to the now proposed amount of \$142,000.00. Kevin Morton said they tried to make the suggested 30 years and 20 years of service work and realized the residents outside of the Village were not paying anything for fire service.

Ed Leininger asked Bruce Lauber if there were any other figures that he had a question about. Bruce said he questioned the \$30,000.00 maintenance of equipment. Donna Dettling said this is just a budget so they needed to put something in the budget for it. Andy Brodbeck said the \$60,000.00 maintenance of buildings and grounds was because it is possible the south side station will need a new roof this year.

Larry Baus asked Randy Ruffer if he was asking the Village residents to pay more for fire service than the residents outside of the Village.

Kevin Eicher asked Bruce Lauber if he is saying the whole proposal is unacceptable.

Kenneth Leupp said he checked with the Fulton County Auditor's office and found that with this proposal German Township would be paying more than double what the highest other townships are paying.

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Kevin Morton said he understands one fire department the Trustees have contacted about providing fire service would be double what the proposal is. Jeff Fryman received a call from a fire chief who said they will not overstep any boundaries of the Archbold Fire Department to offer fire service.

Ed Leininger said he wants to be sure that Bruce Lauber's concerns about the proposal have been answered. Bruce Lauber said it is difficult to understand how the budget went from \$227,000.00 to \$412,000.00. Donna Dettling said the Trustees have in the past been looking at half of the budget and now need to look at the entire budget for the department. Andy Brodbeck said the formula was used for the operation side of the budget.

Kevin Eicher this has a lot of residents talking and they are not happy. These are facts and it is not fair to the Archbold residents to pay more. If the Trustees contact other fire departments for service the response time will not be the same. This is just common sense.

Donna Dettling shared another option with a 20 year projection but Council pushed back on it. Bruce Lauber thanked Donna Dettling for preparing another option.

Kevin Morton said he did not think it was good to ask members of the fire department for their opinions because it would put them in the middle of the discussion. He said Council expects there are people supporting both views and that there are residents outside the Village who don't want an increase.

Kevin Morton asked Donna Dettling if she could prepare another proposal and present it to the Trustees before their meeting on March 27, 2017. He also said we need to keep this progressing. Donna agreed to prepare another proposal.

Jeff Fryman said we are coming full circle on this topic. He suggested another meeting. Kevin Eicher asked Bruce Lauber how much time the Trustees need. Bruce said their next meeting is Monday, March 27, 2017.

Joe Short addressed the comment about coming full circle on this proposal and feels the circle needs to be changed. The Township cannot afford this huge increase. What is wrong with the current arrangement?

Kevin Morton asked Joe Short what he thought of the EMS proposal. Joe said he feels it is different than this.

Jeff Fryman said they will put this on the agenda for Council's meeting on April 3, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Attested