

Village of Climax

December 2, 2010
Joint Fire Board Meeting
Climax Township and Climax Village

Call to order 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Bill Lewis; President Pro-Temp, Dave Hopkins, Tom Jones, Norm Lyons, Terry Strong, Deb Wyant; Clerk Pro-Temp. Absent-Scott Torrance, Kyle Smith.

Agenda: M (M. Lewis/T. Strong) Approved as presented.

Opening Statement: Bill Lewis with a proposal to look at a long term agreement and not to focus on the short term but spread evenly throughout the township, not as a service agreement as currently exists. May 10th dwindling revenues topic discussed with Fire Dept. The Village is now back to 2003 levels.

L4029, Village down 12 mills. This results in a shrinking budget. We propose considering changing our current contract, and to propose a millage to support the Fire Department.

M. Strong: Continue a millage; individual homeowners bear the cost for fire protection when needed. 1 mill would generate \$60,000.-\$62,000. Of tax revenue, leaving \$20,000.- \$30,000. Split the difference between the two entities.

T. Strong: Village residents are paying .14 per day and the township residents pay .03 per day per household.

B. Lewis: Townships use of Village water system is pulled from other townships as a result of the mutual aid agreement, at no cost. We suggest a bill to reimburse the Village for non-fire use, to offset various townships consumption.

R. Thierjung: Agreed on loss of census numbers. Although the census has not been officially certified, he'd like to see an evenly shared service rate and a 5 year term.

P. Simmons: In 2009 50% of fire runs were in the Village.

B. Lewis: Amortized expenses across the board. Establish a long term plan for the 1979 ambulance replacement.

P. Simmons: In the past the Township has requested a millage to replace equipment. Never has a millage request turned down when it was specifically for equipment.

D. Schultz proposed extra community events for funds to replace lost revenues.

The next election is in May. Option 2 – Retire existing millage, option 3 ask for renewal of existing millage.

D. Hopkins: Dedicated millage for fire protection is easier to swallow than mixing with General Fund.

M. Lewis: Let the boards review 1 mil and what the stop gap would be.

T. Jones: Want to pay directly to the township to provide fire department funding.

D. Schultz: Wants to know where the tax money comes from. Special assessment is an option the township has.

B. Lewis: Isn't it fairer to put a millage on the board to spread between the township and village equitable and palatable.

D. Shultz: You'd have extra on the revenue sharing to use.

P. Simmons: Take back to board to discuss a 1 mil. Look at legality.

B. Lewis: A millage gives a basis for your budget.

T. Jones: It's a planned funding source.

B. Lewis: Extra money from a millage gives you options.

T. Strong: Founders day planning on a float or something with the joint boards. Look as billing for water usage not for fire like a chemical spill, passed through the boards.

M (N. Lyons/D. Hopkins) Adjourned 8:36 p.m.