

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Council

Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Held

October 19, 2021

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 P.M. by President Warner.

Roll Call: Council Members Samantha Cahill, Mike Conway, Linda Hall, Jeff Patterson, Howard Wade, and Jennifer Warner.

Absent Member(s):

Quorum Declare: 6 present, 1 absent.

Richard Kim

Also attending were Mayor, Ray Martin; Director of Public Service, John Mitchell; Assistant to the Mayor, Jill Sorenson; Recreation and Special Events Manager, Shelton Stanley; Building and Zoning Clerk, Kristie West.

Prayer: Ms. Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Patterson.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Mr. Warner and seconded by Mr. Conway.

Roll Call: All yeas.

Motion Carries 6-0.

New Business: Discussion of Jefferson Fire Department.

Discussion: President Warner opened up the floor for discussion (A lot of the following was unclear due to poor acoustics and not using the microphone).

- Joshua Beasley, Assistant Law Director for the Village of West Jefferson, said:
 - First, he was asked to look into the legality of the Fire Chief's request to enter into revenue sharing with the Village of West Jefferson (VWJ).
 - Second, for those of you who are unaware, the Fire Department is a subsidiary of the Jefferson Township (JT) and not the VWJ. JT is legally required by statute to provide fire services to the VWJ and its residents. The VWJ residents are levied upon to pay for those fire services.
 - Third, the Fire Chief has asked the VWJ to provide a sum of money from income taxes that is collected on abated properties to help off-set the property tax abatement.
 - Fourth, I have been in touch with the representatives at the State Auditor's Office and because the VWJ is levied, to pay for fire services, if the same adopted the Fire Chief's plan, then the VWJ would be paying for fire services twice.
 - Fifth, the State Auditor's Office said that would be an unauthorized payment from the VWJ
 - So, from a legal perspective, the VWJ cannot adopt the Fire Chief's plan and neither is JT Fire Chief authorized to enter into an agreement with the VWJ. The VWJ must enter into discussions with only the Trustees of JT. In fact, it is recommended that the Council not discuss any such plans with the Fire Chief.
 - On the other hand, there are other methods where the VWJ could enter into an agreement to purchase equipment, and so on.
 - But if the VWJ shared revenue as such, then it would be audited and placed in a fiscal emergency. That is the legality aspect of this request and recommends non-adoption.
- President Warner gave some background information:
 - First, in April of 2021 she met with the Chief of Fire and said the information shared will be taken back to Council. Then the Council made a Public Information Request and did not hear anything afterwards.

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- Second, this Council has talked before and has stated it wants to help the Fire Department. We are willing to work with the Fire Department.
- Third, when this information was presented in September of 2021, Council asked for the same information again. Council did get the requested information on October 1, 2021, and the Fire Chief wanted an answer on October 5 [sic. 4], 2021. That is not enough time for us to meet, we have full-time jobs, and have to make the legal notification to the public. Council also had a Public Hearing for a rezoning on October 4 and that was our business that night.
- Fifth, Council has done its due diligence and part of that is the following presentation.
- John Mitchell, Public Service Director presented the following (Power Point slides numbers 1-41, from left to right):

Slide 1: Village of West Jefferson

Jefferson Township Fire Department has asked the Village for 40% of the forgone based on an annual basis for the form of negotiated settlements.

The suggested amount for 2021 is \$572,485.88

This presentation is to show you the factors the Village Council looked at when considering this request.

Slide 2: Major Considerations

1. Past, Present and Future Revenue
2. Impact of Industrial Park
3. Legacy

All figures for Fire Department are bid, revenue and expenses have come from documents given to the Village on October 1, 2021 other a letter of request was sent by the Village Council to the Board of Directors for Jefferson Township on September 14, 2021.

Additional information has come from a slide show presentation found on the Jefferson Township Fire Department Facebook page.

Other financial information has come from Village of West Jefferson records, and the Madison County Auditor's Website.

The letter sent by Council was in response to Chief Chris Engler presenting a revenue sharing proposal calling for 40% of the forgone property taxes from CVAP adjustments as part of the industrial park agreements with the Village of West Jefferson.

The Fire Department primarily receives its funding from on 11 mill levy, this money comes from property taxes in the unincorporated Jefferson Township, as the Fire Department is part of Jefferson Township.

For the year 2020, the Fire Department received \$2,001,412.00 from property taxes, and an additional \$148,500.00 from other revenue sources. EMS received \$308,337 from service charges for a total of \$2,658,437.00

The Fire Department has stated that they project that the 2021 revenue tax collection will be \$2,415,300 from FD Slide #5)

Additionally, they project their expenses for operations to be \$2,630,918.00 for 2021. (FD Slide #3)

Category	Amount
EMS	\$308,337
FD	\$2,322,081
Total	\$2,630,418

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FD	\$2,322,081
Total	\$2,630,418

Because of good fiscal responsibility, the Jefferson Township Fire Department (FD) has a budgetary surplus of the start of 2021 of \$4,701,482.31.

The Fire Department Revenue for 2020 was \$1,848,114.00
Fire Department EMS Expenses for 2020 was \$318,875.00
For a carry-over for 2021 of \$562,239.00

In summary, at the end of 2020, the Fire Department EMS Funds are as follows:

- \$4,147,432.00 (Cash Balance)
- \$525,000.00 (Capital Funds)
- \$100,000 (FD Reserve)

For 2021, the Village is looking for:

- EMS Revenue: \$308,337
- FD Revenue: \$2,322,081
- Total: \$2,630,418**

2020 The Village had a total revenue of \$1,549,900.00
2020 The Village had total expenses of \$1,113,418.00
2020 The Village had a carry-over of \$436,482.00

The loss of the ability to fund disparity comes from the development of the Industrial Park area. Prior to development, the land was undeveloped farmland, and was taxed such. Initially, the Township received property tax, the Village received income tax from.

To attract investment, the Village offered tax abatement to attract CA's and this revenue reduction was made available for primarily for a portion of the industrial park for a portion of the industrial park for a portion of the industrial park.

To date, there are 21 different entities in the Industrial Park. Of these, 11 are currently on a CRA abatement, which accounts for the majority of abatement dollars, and 14 have a 10% abatement.

Beginning in 2017, the Village Council on a Mayor's agenda to allow 10% of loss to the Fire Department from these related expenses. This was in the form of Fire From Revenue Fees and Fire & EMS fees.

Since 2017, the Village has given \$132,046.60 to the Fire Department, and another check for \$84,150.00 was made for this year, for a total of \$216,196.60.

In 2020, the Fire Department/EMS received \$395,016.72 from the Industrial Park in property taxes.

The Fire Department from 100% was \$1,848,114.00
The Village of West Jefferson from 20% was \$369,622.80
The Industrial Park (20% was 10.7%)
Industrial Farming (20% was 4.2%)
Industrial Park (10% was 1.0%)

8 The Industrial Park used 1.2% of the revenue of the Fire Department. They should be reimbursed for 10% of the funding.
\$395,016.72 is 12% of the Fire Department's 2020 expenses

As part of the request, it is a 10% per year amount. Cash for 2021, \$395,016.72 was added to the amount of \$216,196.60.
Total is revenue for 2021 of \$611,213.32
Cash for 2021 is \$216,196.60
Total is revenue for 2021 of \$827,409.92

As proposed, a 10% of the amount of \$395,016.72 was added to the amount of \$216,196.60.
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Cash for 2021 is \$216,196.60
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Cash for 2021 is \$216,196.60
Total is revenue for 2021 of \$827,409.92

The Jefferson Township Fire Department serves all of Jefferson Township, including the Village of West Jefferson. Additionally, they have a contract to serve Fairford Township.

On a 10% per year amount, a Village territory with a Township level of pay prepared by the profession and the Village, entitled as a part of the Township, to the profession. (Township Records)

Therefore any additional charge to the village for the profession would be unaffordable. (Township Records)

The extra \$395,016.72 the Village has paid to the Fire Department is not a charge by the Fire Department, but was done in recognition of the reality of the cost of abatement to the Township.

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Summary

The Fire Department wants to build a new building. Their recent public presentations have demonstrated their desire for additional equipment, personnel and facilities.

Summary

The Fire Department has a levy on the ballot for an increase of 5.5 mil to the current 11 mil. Currently, all 11 mil. levy have a 1.5 mil levy from any other fire department in central Ohio.

Summary

Presently, the Fire Department/EMS has a budgetary surplus of \$4.7 million dollars.

Summary

By 2025, the Fire Department/EMS will have received an additional \$4 million dollars as more Industrial Park properties come off abatement.

Discussion

After attending a public hearing and reviewing the financial state of the Jefferson Township Fire Department/EMS, the Village of West Jefferson respectfully declines the proposal for additional revenue from the Village to the Fire Department.

- Guest 1 said thank you for the great presentation. Also, he asked if Fairfield Township provides an additional levy of 1.5 mil to the Fire Department in addition to the numbers provided?
- John Mitchell said no and Chief Snyder should be asked about additional revenue from other sources.
- Guest 2 asked what the proposed 5.5 mil levy is needed for.
- President Warner said the Council is not proposing the 5.5 mil levy; that is the Fire Departments and JT.
- Guest 2 asked is this for the new fire house, fire truck, or new land? What is the 5.5 mil levy for?
- Chief Snyder said we have given several presentations on this already but there are two (2) parts. First, the 5.5 mil levy is for the new fire house and, second, for operational costs. The building cost will be 2.2 mil and over the next ten (10) years the operational costs will be 3.5 mil.
- Guest 2 said that illustrates my confusion after this presentation concerning the availability of funds and the continuing availability of funds is much more generous and available than in my budget. I am not going to get a cost-of-living raise. I am on a pension and this is a hard knock for me. I am paying almost the same percentage in taxes as the Target is to the JT. I saw this on the Madison County Auditor's online pie chart. Today, according to the Madison County Auditor, I am paying almost 17% to JT. We are at a place in our society where we have a pandemic, higher living expenses, higher gas prices ... I can't afford to vote yes on the Fire Levy. It seems there is adequate money already to supply the need right now.
- Guest 3 said any of the figures do not matter. Two weeks ago, I started throwing-up and passing out. My husband called 911. All the Fire Department equipment was there. When you have an emergency, you don't need to worry about all that cash. I would not have mattered to me what kind of tax we are being charged ... I needed to go to the hospital and they were there. Yeah, we need to worry about our dollars but our community could not survive without the Fire Department. We appreciated them. I want to thank the Fire Department. We will pay somehow.
- Guest 4 is the solicitor still here? I want to address you and Council. Am I to understand that the Attorney General said you cannot help fund the Fire Department but you can help fund the school district? Is that correct?
- Joshua Beasley said no that is not correct. There is a law that the Ohio Legislature put in place that requires the Village to include the school district in any decision making on the abatements. It specifically authorizes a revenue share agreement between the school district and the Village. The Ohio Legislature basically says we have to do this, it is required. What the Auditor's office has said is that such an agreement with a fire department has no expressed authorization in legislation or statutes.
- Guest 4 said thank you. That is very clear. My comment to the people is that you know the answer now. Its our elected representatives that have short changed the fire department. I am a retired fire fighter and they have done this repeatedly over the years. I am not talking about the people behind me (Council and Mayor) but State Representatives. They have set it up this way and made it difficult.

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- *Guest 5 said this question is for Josh. You just answered pastor Larry's question about how the fire department is not authorized to make this proposal. Chief Snyder, did the fire department make that proposal or is it from the Township?*
- *Chief Snyder said it's a Township proposal.*
- *Guest 5 said it's a Township proposal. Are they (Council) authorized to work with the Township?*
- *Joshua Beasley said yes.*
- *Guest 5 there is your answer. The Council and the Township can work together. I am looking forward to the time when they can work together. But what is unfair is that the Council made it clear Village funds come from income taxes. Township funding comes from property taxes. The Council has voted to let people come in here and build and forego the one thing that supports the Township, property taxes. Is that correct? Now let's flip the table and pretend that the Township abated the income taxes. Would that effect your ability to operate? That's the whole point. Now, Josh, you also said that the Township has to legally provide fire protection. You did not include EMS in your statement ... why is that?*
- *Joshua Beasley said he did not look at EMS.*
- *Guest 5 said that is probable because the Township chooses to provide EMS. Is that correct Chief Snyder? Out of the tens of thousands of people that go to work out there, it is not the building that needs EMS, it's the people. You're abating their income to pay for these increased demands for EMS runs. I want everybody to understand that there is about an 80% EMS responsibility on the Township not just fire.*
- *Joshua Beasley said he talked to one of the Township Trustees recently. I recommended that the Trustee to talk to their legal counsel because there is some statutory authority out there for township to charge fees. But that is a township responsibility not a village responsibility.*
- *Mayor Martin said if you look the past and you look at today, myself and the Council are the only ones sitting here now and gotten us to this place right now. The three hundred thousand dollars was not there before until myself and the Council made it available. We have been willing to work together. We will work this out.*
- *President Warner said this Council has tried to meet with the Township and willing to do something. There is need and we want to work with the Trustees. But you can't come up with a presentation in September, want answer in October, and tell Council we don't deserve any of the financial figures when there is an election in November. These things take time.*
- *Samantha Cahill said I wish we could have gotten together sooner, come up with ways to legally to meet the need, and help the fire department.*
- *Guest 6 said she would like to know more about the abatement process. How do you come up with the years that you are negotiating for? Is an average or percentage?*
- *Mayor Martin explained that there is an enterprise zone. The County negotiates the enterprise zone. The CRA zone was also developed. This allows for a fifteen (15) year abatement of 100%. That does not mean everything is foregone. For example, on a piece of farm land, the owner pays a certain amount in property taxes each year. But when the same land is developed, the property taxes go up and it is still paid. The increase of the value of the building – say a 170-million-dollar building – that was abated. After those fifteen (15) years, then a TIF, Tax Increment Financing, can be done for the infrastructure they build and turn back over to VWJ.*
- *Mayor Martin and John Mitchell responded but the sound was poor quality.*
- *Guest 6 said do we have building that currently do not have occupants?*
- *Mayor Martin said just one (1).*

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- Guest 6 asked if the abatement is for the developer or the company tenant?
- John Mitchell said the developer.
- Mayor Martin said they also have to agree to a certain number of employees in a certain number of years.
- Guest 6 asked what happens if they don't get employees.
- John Mitchell said there would be no income tax but there would be property taxes. If they do not get a certain number of employees over a certain amount of time, then the abatement will go away.
- Mayor Martin said every year we have a meeting with the County Auditor. If these abated properties are not in compliance, then we will take the abatement away.
- Chief Snyder read prepared comments:
 - First, I would like to recognize the previous speaker and acknowledge how the fire levy would affect different people. The fact of the matter is we are funded through one mechanism – property taxes.
 - Second, the current lack of funding complicates the situation of the Jefferson Fire Department. We are under staffed, aged vehicles, and run-down facilities. While the Fire Fund has been carrying about a 4-million-dollar balance, this is the result of good stewardship by the Township. The Township originally want to wait on this proposal until they could secure revenue from the abated warehouses properties.
 - Third, but as the demand began to grow and our attempts to negotiate with the Village went around in circles, it became apparent that we could not wait any longer. At this point, the Fire Department budget calculations include additional new personal, a new ladder truck, additional vehicles, and over the next few years additional equipment upgrades with a new fire station. Even without a new fire station the current budget balance would quickly disappear once we made these necessary investments.
 - Fourth, given the fact that we can no longer defer the cost of upgrading the Fire Department without putting the community at risk, the Township has decided to address the need for increased revenue with a two-pronged approach. The first prong is asking the voters to support us in our efforts to bring the Fire Department up to speed. However, we recognize that this is hard seeing that large warehouse developments are not paying their fair share. So, we added a second prong in a way that is open to the tax paying public to share some of the income tax revenue that it collects from the large warehouses properties that it has abated. The second prong is meant to off-set some of the burden on the tax payers in our communities.
 - Fifth, in order to accomplish this second prong, the Township took the initiative to approach the Village Council on September 7, last month. This was a proposal to the Council to provide its fair share of revenue it collects from the abated warehouse properties. This proposal addressed the long history of the Village abating properties without taking any consideration of the additional stress it places on the Fire Department and the tax paying residents. Specifically, the proposal addressed the 40% of revenue lose to the Fire Department as a result of the Village approved abatement. The Township believes this is a modest request seeing that it has lost revenue over decades.
 - Sixth, in making our proposal, we asked for a 'yes' or 'no' answer since past negotiations have gone around in circles. If and when the Village response to this proposal, we will be open for future conversations, assuming there is a commitment to reach resolution.
 - Seventh, we have been made aware that the Village has many last-minute concerns that have been publicly present tonight. The Board of Trustees is not aware of the contents of this presentation

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tonight nor has it had a change to discuss last night's Council meeting. Therefore, the Township cannot respond to comments concerning this presentation or dissemination to these materials.

- Eight, along with that, when we talk about circles, we present a clear-cut proposal. But we have been met here tonight with presentation that take us around the circle again. I came here in October of 2019 and began right away to talk about revenue sharing with the Mayor and various members of Council. Then COVID hit. Then I met with Jen at my office and she said she would go back to Council. Immediately I received a request for run volumes. We have been down this road before like tonight and receive a slide presentation that wants to micro manage our operations and funding streams.
- Samantha Cahill said we have to take into consideration our people, our Wards, people who are paying these taxes. We have to know what they are paying for. So, this is not a circle but a situation of needing to know in order to make a decision. We asked for those run and did not get them. That was just a simple request. We have to look at everything.
- Chief Snyder said we had three (3) public meetings regarding this proposal. We notified you a week before hand about what was going to be presented on September 7, 2021. I am seeing this presentation tonight for the very first time and can tell you at first glance that there are things I agree with but the slide presentation fails to show the whole picture. It does show us with a large balance but does not show the hiring of additional fire fighters, the purchase of new fire trucks, or expenses. When we put our projection out – and I challenge ... I don't know where Council stands or not – with my strong prudence, I don't want to know what it takes to get us through one (1) year. My budget projection goes through 2032. This is what has told us we need a new levy. The problem is that I already knew that we could build but we would not have the money to operate it.
- Mayor Martin asked why we didn't renew the 11-mil levy.
- Chief Snyder said that levy continues to decline on a regular basis. This 5.5 mil levy, if growth occurs, that collection rate is going to drop. This 5.5 mil is not pulled out of thin air. This is for budget projections.
- Mayor Martin said so is that going to decline as well.
- Chief Snyder said absolutely. But this is not the year to put two (2) levies on the ballot. We need the 5.5 mil levy knowing that in two (2) years we need to staff the new fire house.
- Samantha Cahill asked when you looked at the 5.5 mil levy, did you also consider those building coming off abatement?
- Chief Snyder said absolutely. For example, the building coming off abatement in 2022, we will not get collection until 2024. That is according to the Auditor's Office. I factored all these building into the revenue stream all the way into 2032. We are not here to debate the presentation tonight. The proposal put before Council was very simple. It was looking at a fair share of abated properties – this year 1.4 million dollars. What mechanism do we use to decided the costs? Cost per run? They differ in cost and time. So, for us to calculate the future ... In closing there are two stories to this picture – yours and ours. You have taken a different approach and we have taken a different approach. We have done our due diligent for the future need of the Village. The need is there and real. Come November 2, we hope the levy passes. We have pledged to go through the Budget Committee and for every Village dollar via revenue sharing to reduce the levy collection rate.
- Mike Conway said, first, the Trustees, Chief Snyder, were not blindsided. They were invited to our October 18, 2021, meeting. But the Sunshine Laws were cited as the reason thy all could not attend.

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- Second, were instructed that there need to be legislation designating you as the spoke person. Until there is legislation, we can't legally meet with you.
- Chief Snyder said our attorney disagrees with the advice you have been given.
 - Mike Conway said he is not our attorney. It is important to note that Council has been talking about this for a while. Just so everybody knows, this Council and Mayor are sick and tired of 100% abatements. We want to know when enough is enough?
 - President Warner asked when you retire and the next Fire Chief comes in, can he stop reducing the collection of the levy?
 - Chief Snyder said he is not the one to make that decision. There could be legislation put on the books to go ahead reduce on an annual basis that dollar amount back to the voters.
 - President Warner asked when all the abatements go away will the 5.5 mil levy also go away.
 - Chief Snyder said oh no. It goes to full collection.
 - President Warner asked if they would have all the tax money and the 5.5 mil levy. When everybody is paying property taxes and you reduce the 5.5 mil levy (as you pledged above), then what happens to that levy?
 - Chief Snyder said once the abatement is gone, the agreement would only pertain to the abated buildings; the property taxes that are currently under abatement. For example, under abatement, Target paid approximately \$1,500 but now that the abatement has expired Target is paying about \$163,000.00. Now if we get to the point that the abatements coming off exceed our budget need, the County will review every budget. If it proves that we are operating with more money than plan, then have the ability to come in and reduce our budget. This is not the first time. In Madison County we had a 911 levy. The County came in and reduced that levy until it was reduced down. We can't sit there and hoard money without proving how that money is being used.
 - Samantha Cahill asked how long will the 5.5 mil levy be there, to 2032?
 - Chief Snyder said longer than that due to the bond repayment plan for the building. I live and breath these numbers every day. You guys, on the other hand, have only a brief snap shot of those numbers. So, what we are seeing tonight in this presentation is how is this true and correct?
 - Guest 7 said then why haven't you shared your budget with Council?
 - Chief Snyder said I have had three presentations so far and I can tell you it is difficult to get people out of their houses. We have publicly posted these presentations.
 - Guest 7 asked have you presented your budget?
 - Chief Snyder said no but the presentation on the proposal.
 - Guest 7 said we would like to see your projected budget, equipment vs. a building, why you would build without a plan, how you are going to maintain all this – what is your plan? (inaudible)
 - Chief Snyder and Guest 7 exchanged back-and-forth off microphone and difficult to hear.
 - Guest 7 said the biggest thing missing here is your budget plan. You keep on talking about money but have not shown us. All the Facebook postings I have not seen anything about (inaudible) ...
 - Chief Snyder asked the Council if the Village has its own spending plan, capital budget ... to ... (inaudible)
 - Rebeca Shipley-Arnott said the Village is 13 million in debt.
 - Chief Snyder said last time I checked the Fire Department has 3 million on hand.
 - Guest 7 asked if the Fire Department has any current debt.
 - Chief Snyder and Guest 7 exchanged back-and-forth off microphone and difficult to hear.

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- Chief Snyder said he has been monitoring Facebook. Facebook to me has become very discouraging in a lot of different ways because there is a lot of misinformation going out there that is not complete, false ...
- Guest 8 said your fire fighters are on there saying not one single dime is getting paid to the Fire Department. That's false. You guys are receiving a lot of money.
- Chief Snyder said I have been monitoring Facebook and my fire fighters ... just the other day they got accused of making a statement as not being backed up. I can tell you all the Facebook posts and I have been monitoring Facebook there are some folk ...
- Joshua Beasley asked if that is a good use of time being Fire Chief?
- Guest 8 asked about a presentation frame concerning Township Fire receiving more money than any other fire department in central Ohio. My concern is they are asking for too much money, there are too many holes here, and too much discretion between the Fire Department and the Village. The people who are paying for this are the Village people.
- (inaudible)
- President Warner said the things we can pay for, like a new fire house, we have talked about. For example, out of the 2 million the Village receives, the school gets 1 million. That leaves the Village with 50% income and the Fire Department wants 40% ... what does that leave the Village to operate on to maintain the roads, to maintain the parks, the police – that leaves us with 10% to maintain these things. We have not increased our income tax in West Jefferson and we don't want to. These projects allow us to not increase our income taxes to burden our tax payers. To leave us with 10% while everything we have built was to help the Village is not giving back to the people in the Village. We have done our due diligence, every one of us. When we first got this proposal, I called David Kell. He said I called everywhere in Ohio asking what they do for their fire department. Do you know what their answers were? Nothing. They do nothing. We are not saying we are stopping here. We want to meet with the Trustees.
- Guest 9 asked for clarification. Couldn't the Chief just ask for 40% of what was taken away from him not just 40% of income tax collections?
- Samantha Cahill said nothing has every been taken away.
- Guest 5 said they are asking for 40% of foregone property taxes which you have abated as Council members, just like your income tax would not be there is the people weren't there.
- Mayor Martin said the property taxes would still be there.
- Guest 5 said on farmland. Farmland doesn't collect nearly as much as developments.
- Guest 10 said he pays about \$500 a year in property taxes to the Township, while Amazon, with over 3,000 employees pays ... its not right. You guys created that problem and expect the Township to live off that. It ain't right.
- Guest 5 said bring the slides back up. That statement about receiving more than any other fire department in central Ohio is just a statement leading or misleading to a lot of these voters. Do you have a list? I worked over at Prairie Township and its mil is over 18. So, in reality we are one of the lowest. Did you mean to say the County? This is misleading.
- Guest 11 said the power point presentation does not reflect wanting to work with the fire department at all. It is a biased opinion. That is from the Council only. I still hear a lot of descension. I don't know why the Trustees don't speak here tonight. Why can't they get together with Council? Can they do this over coffee? But it seems that in a small Village and Township like ours we could talk things out.

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- Mike Conway said he was going to reach out to the Prosecutor ask how can we meet with the Trustees. We are missing one very important issue said at the beginning of this meeting.
- Joshua Beasley restated the point, saying, the Township is not legally authorized to collect income tax and neither can the Village act as a passthrough to allow the Township to collect income tax. The people of the Village already pay for fire services. This would allow the Township, first, to collect taxes they are not authorized to collect, and, second, it would be double taxation to the people of the Village. To pay twice, the State Auditor has said we cannot entire into such an agreement. This should be a dead issue. We can enter into other memorandums and purchases of equipment. There are other mechanism and one of those the Village has already taken advantage of like charging impact fees. My counsel to Council is clear and the State Auditor is clear that they cannot enter into any such agreement as it would result in a financial emergency placed upon our Village.
- Chief Snyder said the people would not be double taxed.
- Joshua Beasley said where does the money come from? Income tax. You want part of our income tax.
- (inaudible)
- Guest 11 said I have been here since about 1954. I am also retired law enforcement. I use to teach the Sunshine Laws. If ever, for example, a majority number of Council members had breakfast together, then it would be illegal. It has to be posted. The problem with the Township is when two (2) of the three (3) get together, it's a public meeting. They can't even watch football together. But this passed year, everything has changed due to COVID. How do we come up with a plan instead of doing what's in front of us? It seems logical that people need to study these issues. The basic concept is the safety of the people. How do we get there? The State Legislature needs to change things. But they don't solve any important problems. So, we need to solve this ourselves. For example, who cares who owns the fire truck. All that matters is that the fire truck and medic show up (several audible 'amen.'). People will not come to our community without a good fire department. In stead of prejudices, we need to sit down and talk. Is it possible to get people together to think this through?
- President Warner responded Council is committed to that goal.
- Guest 11 said I understand Council is committed to that but this discussion is not a 'Council Meeting' type of thing. This should be done by committee and then published publicly.
- (inaudible)
- Guest 8 (inaudible) questions about serving other townships and response times.
- Chief Snyder (inaudible) comments about current contracts.
- Guest 11 said the discussion I just heard is what I'm talking about ... divisive. We should be looking at helping a person in need. I have been on calls when the responder asked which municipality, they are from in order to respond to the person in need.
- Chief Snyder (inaudible) talking about response times.
- Guest 12 I never really thought of coming to a meeting before. But I work as a behavioralist and am coming at this issue from that stand point. During the July 4th Parade, my boys were asked to come to the fire house to pass out candy. But I was very embarrassed. The fire house is very old. The toilet handle didn't work, the hinges are broken, and I was embarrassed. This is what we ask our heroes to work with. There was one bathroom upstairs. There were two down stairs. The dining room table was small. I had these grand visions of meals being cooked but the kitchen was small. While we were there a fire call came over the sound system but it could not be heard. From a behaviorist that is unacceptable. It was underwhelming. I thought they would have more privacy and more comfort for a long shift.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of _____

Council

Meeting _____

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Held _____

October 19, 2021

- *Guest 13 my argument comes from communities in need. There are a lot of people at different ages that are in need. A lot of the community is at an older age. They need EMT's and so on. These are my concerns.*
- *Guest 14 I just want to say thank you to the fire department for what they have done.*
- *(inaudible)*
- *John Mitchell said some of the disconnect is that over the last several years there has been three (3) fire chiefs. Each one starts over from square one.*
- *Guest 5 said Josh you have already driven home your point that at the profit-sharing level, this cannot be done. Let me ask this question: does the Village of West Jefferson have to provide law enforcement? So, you guys choose to provide law enforcement. Are we getting to the point of building a joint public service facility?*
- *Mayor Martin said we have a lot of meetings.*
- *Guest 5 said let's focus on finding a way.*
- *President Warner thanked everybody for coming. We are doing our due diligence. We know there is a need and are willing to work together. I like the idea of a committee and we have the Village at heart.*

Motion to Adjourn at 8:28 P.M. by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Ms. Hall.

Passed by acclamation of Council.

Jimmy John Hall

 Jimmy John Hall
 Clerk of Council

Jennifer Warner

 Jennifer Warner
 President of Council