

Held

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The Board of Trustees met in the Etna Township Community Center on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for the purpose of conducting a special meeting. The meeting was recorded for the township records. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by President Knapp with Trustees John Carlisle and Dick Knapp present. Trustee Jeff Johnson and Fiscal-Officer Tina Taylor were absent. Dick Knapp led the prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance.

John Carlisle moved to adopt the agenda. Dick Knapp seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

City of Pataskala Deputy Police Chief Bruce Brooks, Police Chief Chris Forshey, Mayor Steve Butcher; West Licking Joint Fire District Chief David Fulmer; Etna Township Trustee Elect Randy Foor; Licking County Sheriff, Randy Thorpe; Harrison Township Fiscal Officer Carolyn Elder; Harrison Township Trustees Larry Kretzmann, Eric Smith, and Ray Foor; Harrison Township Trustee Elect Mark VanBuren; and Jersey Township Trustee Jim Endsley were in attendance.

Randy Thorpe discussed how the Licking County Sheriff's Department will handle coverage for the City of Pataskala and Western Licking County if the City of Pataskala Policy Levy does not pass. Their office will have to provide enforcement for the City of Pataskala if they dissolve the police department. They would patrol Pataskala just like they patrol Etna Township. They would not provide dedicated officers to the city limits. These officers could be dispatched to other areas. Randy Thorpe would look into reassigning staff. The citizens of Pataskala need to decide what type of service they want and how do they want to pay for the services.

John Carlisle asked how they will determine reassigning. Randy Thorpe stated he would review and reassign man power from different areas. He would look at the volume of calls. Public safety is most important.

Ray Foor, Harrison Township inquired how many sheriff deputies are currently in Harrison Township. Randy Thorpe stated they have 8 hour and 12 hour shifts that overlap during the peak hours in the afternoon and evening/mid-night hours. The deputies are assigned to districts which are from the east and west and then north to south. There are 4 to 5 or 8 to 10 personnel on duty at any given time. There could be 4 to 5 deputies in western districts.

Dick Knapp asked the City of Pataskala regarding the City of Pataskala's plans. Mayor Butcher explained that he anticipates the issue being placed on the May ballot for 2010. There are two ways to immediately impact the sheriff department; officers leaving or sickness. This would possible cease the operation of the night shift. Mayor Butcher stated if the levy does not pass in May then the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift would cease in June of 2010 with the goal of caring as many dollars into 2011 as they can to place an issue on the ballot in February before closing the police department in March or April of 2011. Mayor Butcher also discussed the cost of prosecuting cases in Newark versus using their Mayor Court. The City of Pataskala currently has a mutual aid agreement with the Licking County Sheriff's Department.

Randy Thorpe stated they have a good working relationship with the City of Pataskala.

Larry Kretzmann asked what the funding source for the Sheriff's Department is and would they enter into a contractual agreement with Pataskala. Randy Thorpe stated any city or township can enter into a contract with them. At this time they do not have any contracts. Randy Thorpe does not have any other funding options at this time. If this happens he will provide the services.

Eric Smith stated this is going to be based on the county budget. Randy Thorpe is currently making cuts to the budget now for 2010 to keep the boots out on the street.

Larry Kretzmann discussed Satellite Substations. Randy Thorpe stated a satellite substation has to be staffed with deputies and administration staff. Jim Endsley discussed the deputies having laptops in their cars to do the paperwork. Randy Thorpe explained they would operate out of the satellite station for interviews and so forth.

Randy Foor inquired how they allocate their resources for patrol. Randy Thorpe stated it is based on a number of issues, density of population and frequency of calls for service.

Larry Kretzmann directed Chief Fullmer regarding the calls to the fire department needing Police service. Chief Fullmer stated they do provide staging area for domestic incidents until the law arrives.

Etna Township Trustees Special Meeting  
**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of

Meeting

December 8<sup>th</sup>,

2009

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held

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Forest Yocum, Southwest Licking Schools Superintendent, discussed the officers in the high school. Randy Thorpe stated the plan is not to pull the SRO's from the school. In 2010 the SRO's should be back to full staff in the schools. They were pulled from the schools to fill some vacancies.

Ray Foor asked if the cruisers have GPS to monitor their locations. Randy Thorpe stated they do.

Dick Knapp inquired about the response times if the City of Pataskala closes the police department and whether the Etna residents should be concerned. Randy Thorpe stated it could delay response times and he can not predict how many calls they will get but they will prioritize the calls. They will take the serious calls first and then the less serious calls next. They are here to help and will work together with the City of Pataskala to provide for the safety and security of the community.

Steve Butcher has confidence in the Sheriff's Department. The city believes they should have their own police department. Not having a police department would impact service times.

Larry Kretzmann asked if the Sheriff's office has a hiring policy to hire the Pataskala Police Officers. Randy Thorpe stated he would have to find the funding to hire the officers. Steve Butcher stated they would not have the funding to contract with the Sheriff's Department.

Eric Smith stated Harrison Township could explore contracting with the Sheriff's office. Randy Thorpe stated any township or city can contract with the sheriff's department.

John Carlisle discussed the block watch program in Orchard Glen and asked what we could do to help the Sheriff's office. Randy Thorpe suggested keeping your eyes and ears open. The neighborhood watch program is a good way to help. Re-enforce with the County Commissioners how important public safety is to us. He does feel they already know how important public safety is.

Mark VanBuren discussed budget numbers and what Randy Thorpe will have to cut. Randy Thorpe stated they went thru the budget by line item and they will not be purchasing new cruisers for 2010. Some of the cuts are short term fixes. Some of the administrative positions have been eliminated by retirement and re-assigning employees. Mark suggested calling the Licking County Commissioners. Randy Thorpe recognized Gary LoveDay, Budget Director with the Licking County Sheriff's Department.

Mike Kerner 8623 Watkins Road discussed auxiliary/volunteer reserve units. Chief Forshey stated they bring a specialized function, the union has restrictions regarding using these units. Randy Thorpe stated there are training requirements and it becomes difficult to maintain certification. They do help out at fair and other areas but not on a day to day use.

Dick Knapp discussed block watch programs. Randy Thorpe stated these programs are a help to the department and makes people aware. The department helps to get them started and provide training but it is the responsibility of the group to keep it going. They do not have the resources to attend every meeting.

Jim Endsley discussed the township wide block watch program in Jersey Township and providing information to the block watch captains.

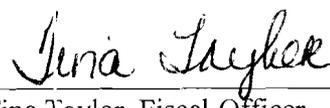
Harold Rowland 11438 Palmer Road discussed the State Highway Patrol and Fairfield County in regards to Mutual Aid Agreements. Randy Thorpe stated they have Mutual Aid Agreements with both agencies. The Sheriff's Department has been going to Fairfield County more due to their cuts.

Dick Knapp thanked all of the entities for attending. He stated contact the County Commissioners and promote public safety along with encouraging the block watch program.

Jim Endsley stated having block watch programs and knowing your neighbors is helpful.

John Carlisle moved to adjourn at 2:07 p.m. Dick Knapp seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

 Vice President  
Dick Knapp, President

  
Tina Taylor, Fiscal-Officer