

**New Carlisle Town Council**  
**204 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle**  
**Public Hearing, February 19, 2019, 7:00 PM**

Present were President Carter, Vice President Vermillion, Council Member Budreau, Council Member Kauffman, Council Member Rush and Clerk-Treasurer Susan Moffitt.

Also in attendance were approximately 70 members of the public, firefighters and EMS personnel.

Town Council President Carter called the meeting to order at 7 PM and turned the meeting over to Fire Chief Josh Schweizer.

Chief Schweizer reviewed the power point presentation prepared by Umbaugh. He reported that there was an increase in fire calls to 711 last year.

The meeting was turned over to Paige Sansone of Umbaugh who presented a new power point that contained revised budget and circuit breaker impact amounts.

There were numerous citizen comments and questions:

Paul White, Superintendent of NPUSC: The additional Circuit Breaker credits due to the proposed Fire Territory would be losses to the Operating Fund of the School Corporation. He reported that the State does now allow transfers from the Education Fund to the Operating Fund, so it is possible that the Education Fund could be effected by these additional losses.

Steve Hora stated that he has been a firefighter for 35 years and Bob Middlebrook for 45 years. Volunteerism has changed significantly in those years with most people no longer working in Town. This significantly reduces the number of volunteers available during daytime hours. The training requirements for volunteers have also increased.

Resident: Why was the Assistant Program cut? Chief Schweizer responded it was because they didn't show up for calls and their gear is \$2,000 a year, plus radio. The resident stated that if there was a bad incident the Assistants would be there. Chief Schweizer stated that all Assistants were offered to become full members. There were some additional questions regarding the department by-laws in regards to the Assistant Program.

Stephanie Murphy, Director of NCPL: The Library has re-evaluated staffing this past year with positions that became open not filled in anticipation of the Circuit Breaker impact. The numbers presented tonight are better than previously stated and the library has planned for the Circuit Breaker in 2020.

Resident: What is the comparison of fire calls in the Industrial Park to the town and townships. Chief Schweizer reported that only 10-15% of calls are to the Industrial Park and more calls are actually to the highway for accidents. The resident asked what the County's roll in protection in the industrial area is and Chief Schweizer responded that it is our responsibility no matter what.

Resident: Stated that the proposed budget is over \$2,000,000 and will result in even great circuit breaker credits that will reduce the Town's budget for all of the services they provide to the residents.

Resident: Is it a state law that the fire department must respond to medical calls? Chief Schweizer responded no but it is the standard throughout the county and the state.

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Resident: Roughly 80% of the fire department calls are medical so why not put more money into the ambulance service? Chief Schweizer asked where the money would come from.

Resident: What is the plan if the territory doesn't go through. Chief Schweizer responded that this would become a public safety issue. Bob Middlebrook and Steve Hora are currently answering approximately 80% of the calls.

Bob Middlebrook spoke of his 45 years on the department and the changes in requirements for volunteers and how volunteerism has decreased over the years. He spoke of the importance of having a good chief to be in charge of the scene at fires as he is responsible for everyone at the scene including firefighters from other departments.

Resident: You have to take into consideration that the fire department volunteers are friends, like a family, and many of them go places together, which at times takes many of them out at the same time and reduces the number available to respond to calls for periods of time.

Salary ranges of comparable departments was discussed. Chief Schweizer responded that Gateway is a great tool but you don't always know what is included in the total salary shown on there.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

  
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Ken Carter, President

Attest:

  
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Susan L. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer