

New Carlisle Town Council
204 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle
Public Hearing, January 28, 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.

Fire Chief Josh Schweizer opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and briefly talking about the fire department and changes in volunteerism over the years that he feels have brought about the need for a fire territory.

Town Council President Carter read a letter of support for forming a fire territory from Asst. Chief Bob Middlebrook, who was unable to attend tonight. Chief Middlebrook explained in his letter the changes he has seen throughout his forty-five years of serving our community as a volunteer on the department.

Olive Township Trustee Will Miller read a statement in support of a fire territory.

Paige Sansone of Umbaugh, who joined the meeting via teleconference, was introduced. Paige explained the basics of a fire territory including what it is and why you would establish one. She also explained the make-up of the proposed territory and the services that would be provided. Paige then presented the Financial Impact Analysis she had prepared. Copies of the financial analysis were available for all in attendance.

Following the power point presentation by Paige Sansone, the floor was opened to those in attendance for questions and comments.

Public Questions:

- Can taxes increase if property values go up?

Paige: Yes they can.

- How is the levy established, through the budget?

Paige: Correct

- So reducing the budget would reduce the levy?

Paige: Yes

- Would a reduction in the proposed budget reduce the tax levy?

Paige: Yes

- Could you explain the effect on the school and library with the additional funds that would be taken away?

New Carlisle Town Council
Public Hearing, January 28, 2019

Page 2

Paige: The territory effects the revenue for the school and library, mostly through the circuit breaker credits with a minor decrease in excise tax they would receive as well. The school corporation would see circuit breaker credits of 177K without a territory and 423K with a territory. As for the library, it would be 73K without the territory and 176K with the territory.

- I live in Hudson Lake and the New Carlisle & Olive Twp. Fire Department has always covered us, but for some reason Hudson Twp. has not decided to go with the fire territory. How can we get in the territory?

Paige: While it is too late to join the territory at this time, it is possible to do so in the future. The territory can be dissolved and then reestablished to include Hudson Township should they choose to join. Chief Schweizer explained that if Hudson Twp. does opt in it would lessen the circuit breaker impact. Paige stated that it would make the impact slightly less.

- We at Hudson Township would like to know if we can get fire protection?

Josh: The short answer is yes. There is currently an agreement in place through 2019 with New Carlisle and Olive and it is done annually. So, in 2020 it would be through an agreement with the fire territory. There is no reason for that to change and would be no reason for Hudson Township to look elsewhere for fire protection.

Jim Holifield, Director of Finance for NPUSC, stated that he was asked to attend the meeting tonight to gather information. He explained that they have been working for some time to prepare for the debt exemption going away in 2020 at the school corporation and have plans in place. However, from the school's standpoint, when talking an additional 250-350K loss for the corporation due to the territory, you are talking about effecting personnel, programs, etc. The school corporation will be holding a meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed territory before making any statement.

- How do you make up the difference in what you are taking in and what you are predicting to spend?

Josh: The Chief and the provider unit will have to hash out an exact staffing model.

- How does industry out in the township fall into paying what the homeowners are paying.

Josh: The territory is designed for current needs and a small amount of growth. If there is more growth out there it would need to be looked at.

Paige: The fire territory would not see revenue from the TIF area at this time.

- No one knows how industry will grow at this time, but could the fire station move if we see a large amount of growth?

Josh: If we were to add a fire station, it would not eliminate the current station.

New Carlisle Town Council
Public Hearing, January 28, 2019

- Could the current budget still be changed?

Josh: The numbers you see are the levy and that is what you will vote on. The Chief will have to sit down and work through the budget.

The budget seems inflated. Can it be lowered?

Josh: We will sit down around August or so to do the budget and say this is what we want and if the provider unit says lower it, then we do.

Will Miller: Once carried forward, the fire territory board is formed and then comes up with the actual budget through a budget process.

Why was Hudson Township not included?

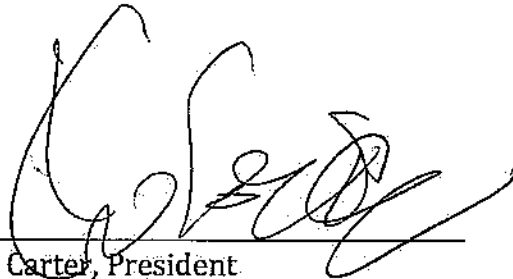
Josh: They actually were until the election when there was not a level of comfort that they would continue with the process. Because of deadlines it was necessary to move forward without them. Hudson Township is covered by contract through the end of 2019.

There was some additional discussion with the Hudson Twp. Trustee and several in attendance.

- Will you bring your proposed budget to the next meeting so that taxpayers can see what you will be spending their tax dollars on like I had asked you to do for this meeting?

Josh: I can do that.

There were no further questions or comments and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.



Ken Carter, President

Attest:



Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer