

Minutes

Notes on meeting between Jackson Township and Camden Town Officials

March 27, 2008

Camden Fire Station

Present: Bill Dittman, Trustee; Cathy Dittman, Deputy Trustee; Joe Wallace and Byron Rude, Township Advisory Board; Pete Wagoner, Andy Kelly and Richard Fite, Camden Town Council; Pat Casserly, Clerk-Treasurer; Anne Briggs, Attorney. Absent: Dan Shanks, Township Advisory Committee

Bill opened the meeting and made introductions. A handout of discussion items was given out.

1. Trustee Conference: Bill and Cathy attended the Trustee Conference in Indianapolis and found it to be more of a lobbying situation than a conference. The trustee issue, property tax cap, and assessing duties were discussed. Lobbying efforts did limited good. The trustee issue is expected to be revisited during the next legislative session. Bill talked with Rich McClain who favors the assessor duties change to county level. Rich did not want to do away with trustees but it is expected to be tied to another bill that will allow it to pass. Bill requested e-mails be sent to Rich and a petition signed to show support for the trustees. Logansport does not favor the extension of SR 75 north – they want development along SR 29 Cass County. Bill was the only trustee from Carroll County at the conference.
2. Park and Fire Station Improvements: Improvements at the park include re-stoning the drive and new sound system at the main diamond. Grants are being sound with the help of Ken Smith to purchase new play equipment for the 2-5 year olds. Community service hours were used to paint equipment and repair picnic tables. Bill would like to get another drinking fountain for the park.

The Fire station is now wired for portable generators and the radio system has been improved. A repeater was added to aid in communication with the county.

Fire station improvement goal is to repair a crack in the conference room floor.

3. SR 75 Extension and HHC: Pete informed the group the HHC schedule has been pulled ahead. The Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor (from Lafayette through Logansport to the Ohio state line) has linked with a lobby group in Indianapolis. Pete is now on the committee because of the interest the county has taken in the extension of SR75. Pete reinforced his stance of supporting the extension as long as there is an industrial park at the intersection of HHC and SR75. Camden is interested in the project because of the possibility of attracting jobs offering decent wages and the benefit the new industry could bring for the county's tax base. A road passing through Camden without development will not help the community. The lobbying group has been working with Joe Donnelley's office for earmark funding for the project. Buyer and Lugar have also been contacted. INDOT is supportive of the project – it will be a county project done by the state. HHC and the County Commissioners are also supportive. The financial situation of the county is a concern because they will need to commit funding towards the project. The best opportunity for the county is economic development. The intersection of HHC and SR75 offers both space and railroad access. Frankfort is very interested in the extension to improve their economic base and is watching the situation closely.
4. School & Park Situation: Bill spoke with Superintendent Walker and he is supportive of signing the park back over to the township. The school's attorney, Barry Emerson, had problems locating necessary paperwork at the courthouse but Cathy was able to find what he needed so it is expected the school will move forward with completing the transaction. The park youth program is down in attendance because the kids are going to the Delphi program as was expected. There will be three teams this year instead of four. Games will be played against Burlington and Flora to add some variety. It is hoped tourneys will be hosted at Camden.
5. Animal Control: Andy reported the animal control will meet April 15th. More will be known after the meeting.
6. Shelter Update: Pete said a natural gas generator was installed and fired up during the snow storm. The unit is large enough to power the complete community building. The town has signed an agreement with the Red Cross for shelter use. Richard reported he wants additional restrooms installed- the current restrooms are not adequate. The town would also like to get a Red Cross trailer stationed at Camden. There will be a mock disaster in Camden on April 5th from 1:00 – 5:00 for which volunteers will be sought to play the part of victims.

7. Discussion Items: A flag will be given to the Camden Youth for the park by Congressman Joe Donnelley. It will be raised on the Youth Day Parade day.

The township's annual report will soon be finished and published,

A skate board area at the park was discussed. There were ideas brought up but monetary needs prevented further action.

As of now, no changes are planned for the 2009 fire contract with the town.

The horse pull will be July 26th and the tractor pull is August 15&16.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Richard Fite, Vice-President

Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer