

Minutes

Joint Meeting Between

Camden Town Council

And

Jackson Township Trustee and Advisory Board

August 20th, 2007

Camden Fire Station

7:00 pm

The properly called and advertised joint meeting of the Camden Town Council and the Jackson Township Trustee and Advisory Board was called to order by Council President Peter Wagoner. Present were Trustee Bill Dittman, Deputy Trustee Cathy Dittman, Advisory Board Dan Shanks and Joe Wallace, Council Member Andy Robison, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly and one guest, Larry Trapp. Absent were Advisory Board Member Byron Rude and Council Member Michele Everett.

Mr. Wagoner opened the meeting stating this was a follow up to a meeting called about six months ago by the trustee to discuss topics of mutual concern and interest.

FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

Attorney Anne Briggs was asked by Mr. Dittman to draw up a new contract to be entered into between the Town of Camden and Jackson Township. The contract was to address the needs of the new fire truck and adjust the fee. Mr. Wagoner stated the original contract was drawn up by Dean Sanderson and included a list of cost associated with maintaining the town's truck. Mr. Dittman said Chuck Foremen, Fire Chief, worked up a list of current cost that was used in determining the need to raise the contract and the amount needed to be charged. The truck is serviced every two years but funds are need for non-routine cost. Mr. Dittman confirmed the new fee of \$4500 would cover the cost for the town's truck and not be used on the other vehicles. The money goes into the "fire fund" and the Department of Local Government Finance looks at the funds received

through local contracts in determining the tax rate allowed by the unit. Contracts are also written for Carrollton and Washington Townships. Consideration is given in the town's contract for the town owning its own truck. Also mentioned was the town provides water for emergencies and training purposes and does not charge the fire department. Mr. Wagoner stated he was comfortable with the new contract and the 2008 fee of \$4500 would be paid in the two installments.

Also addressed was who would be the spokesperson for the fire department. The fire department is under the jurisdiction of the trustee and their needs are to be his concern. The firemen are to communicate with the town through Mr. Dittman or his representative, Byron Rude. They are not to come before the town council without Mr. Dittman knowing about it and the only one to represent the fire department is Mr. Dittman or in his absence, Mr. Rude.

The fire department provides the service of filling swimming pools without charging a fee. The pool owners are to contact the town office with the amount of water used so they can be billed. The Clerk-Treasurer expressed concern that there may be some people who are not contacting the office about their pool fill and therefore are not being billed for the water. Accountability needs to be improved and the office notified when a pool is filled. Mr. Dittman said this may not be a problem in the future because the firemen may not fill public pools in the future.

An item to be discussed in the future is rather the town needs to own a fire truck. The contract assumes the town will keep the truck so the issue will stay as is for now but is not closed to future discussions.

CAMDEN CEMETERY ENTRANCE

The Cemetery Board is moving along nicely with their plans for the new entrance. It will be a nice feature for the area and serve as a formal entrance which is currently lacking. The town took care of the issue with the trash dumpster and it is much better positioned. No other issues were brought to the table for discussion.

UPDATE ON THE EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY 75 NORTH

The County Commissions are once again working towards extending the highway north to intersect with the Hoosier Heartland Corridor (Highway 25). The topic was considered closed but there is new interest in providing better access to the road and developing an industrial site. Some Commissioners have gone to Indianapolis and discussed their thoughts with INDOT. George Mears is making a good case for providing for a better

interchange. The current plan does not allow for one but Mr. Mears has presented good information on the dollars that could potentially be saved with a few minor changes. Meetings have taken place over the past couple of weeks and there are reasons for Camden to push for the change if the county will commit to an industrial site at the interchange. It will not do the town any good to just be a pass through for heavy trucks. Camden also wants the opportunity to provide water/wastewater services to the area.

The County Economic Development Board, Lee Hoard and others have met with the HHC people and the extension will not be funded with the corridor. It will have to be sold as a separate project. INDOT is moving ahead and will not delay it to draw up new plans. The change will benefit Camden if it brings new jobs. Mr. Robison added the industrial site would need to be along 75 because the HHC is a limited access road.

Other industrial sites are being considered in the county. The opinion was expressed that Logansport may not work with the county because of their self interest in developing Highway 29 south of town. Carroll County may become a “pass-through” county with the way the HHC is now planned. The County Commissioners resisted it, argued on the route and have not worked to take advantage of the road. Now it may be too late.

In summary, the county is still working on the extension north.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXES

Mr. Dittman stated he is not aware of any reassessment. The June tax settlement was distributed and has been received by the local units of government. The only item he was aware of was the school corporation not getting its full draw.

The governor has formed a commission to look into local government reform which may result in major restructuring at the local level. More efficiency is needed at the local level. The schools are also being scrutinized and there may be more consolidation of small schools

EMERGENCY SHELTER CAPABILITIES

The fire department owns a generator large enough to power their building but lack proper wiring. An estimate will be obtained to correct the issue. The fire station lounge could take care of a limited number of people in an emergency but the truck area would not be available. The trucks would have to remain inside due to freezing in the winter. This is one reason the town is also working on getting the figures together to purchase a generator and have wiring done for the community building. The American Red Cross has been contacted to learn more about emergency shelters and their requirements. Grant funds are being actively pursued to help offset the cost.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Pat Casserly was named to the Animal Control Board to replace Ralph Rohrbaugh. The board met August 8th to discuss the future of the program. Concerns for continuing the service were expressed due to the financial situation the county is in. Funds may not be available to maintain the program into 2008. Units of government were requested to put funds into their budgets to help with the cost but that may still not be sufficient. A humane shelter is being investigated and there is the possibility the towns may have to band together and have their own animal control program. Mr. Robison asked a town employee if he would be interested in taking on animal control but there was no interest.

PARK PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

The topic of park ownership was raised by Mr. Wagoner. The school corporation needed to have a certain amount of property when a bond was issued for the building of the gymnasium. Since the park was used for ball games and track events, the land was listed as property for securing the bond. Currently, the corporation pays the township \$800 per year to maintain the park. By the laws in place when the consolidation took place in the 1960's township school property became the property of the new consolidated school. The question is did the park ownership transfer to the school corporation? School Board Members Jerry Sparks and Jim Garrison have stated they would be willing to void that portion of ownership. A meeting will be arranged with the superintendent and the legal aspects will have to be investigated. There was a notation made in 1965 that the ownership transferred but there is no deed of record.

In other school issues, it was noted the school corporation did not get the desired grants for funding pre-school activities. There are now five kindergarten classes in the school but no preschool or head start program. Outside groups are considering the building in the event the corporation pulls the kindergarten students to Delphi Community Elementary School. If they do close the building, the first option for ownership should be back to the township with the stipulation it can not be used as a township school. It will then be up to the trustee to determine the best course of action.

MISC. BUSINESS

Mr. Robison has spoke with Jerry at Signs by Jerry about new signs for the town. Jerry will honor his pledge to Ralph Rohrbaugh and donate them. Mr. Robison will be in contact with him about the size.

Due to the success of these joint meeting, the parties agreed to meet again in about six months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Andrew Robison, Member

Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer