

**The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, met in Work Session on February 19, 2013, at 5:30 p.m., at 2090 Ferry Road, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305.**

1. Mr. Pittman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Mr. Tiffany called the roll with Board Members Nadine Daugherty, Mike Pittman and Scott Bryant present. Others present were Chris Zappanti, Assistant Chief Zimmerman, Cara Tilford, Sgt. Williams, Chief Flick, Jim Martin and Donna Hellman.
3. **Lots at Jeremy Woods** – Mr. Tiffany said he got a call today regarding the lots at Jeremy Woods. Mr. Pittman asked if they lived in the neighborhood. Mr. Tiffany said they did. Mr. Pittman asked if we already had an offer. Mr. Tiffany said we did and we countered. He said we have not had a response so he would check into it. Mrs. Daugherty asked if the offer was for both lots. Mr. Tiffany responded that it was.

**MARCS and DISPATCH CENTER** - Mr. Tiffany said he attended the County Dispatch meeting today. He said there was not much accomplished and talks are continuing. Mr. Bryant said he also attended the meeting and the Chief Deputy of Montgomery County talked mostly about what they did right and what they did wrong with their system. He said at the end of the day they all decided to meet again to continue discussions. Mr. Bryant said he threw our hat into the ring as being a possible Dispatch Center. Mr. Pittman asked if he was encouraged by the meeting. Mr. Bryant said he was encouraged by the fact that they agreed to talk some more. Mr. Tiffany said the first key to this is to find funding. He said the second is who will manage. . Mr. Tiffany said, by law, Gene Fisher has the right to manage it but the County Commissioners say the Sheriff's Department gave up that right when the County decided they were going to Central Dispatch before. Mr. Bryant said it was going to happen but was a matter of when, how and where. He said it will get down to two or three centers for Greene County.

Mr. Pittman asked Mr. Tiffany what Xenia's thoughts were for hosting with us. Mr. Tiffany said there were challenges to make this happen. He said the issues were funding, moving of personnel, wages, employee transition and timing. He said Bellbrook has the same concerns. Mr. Tiffany said if it is going to happen August or September is ideal because MARCS will start in January. Mr. Tiffany said Xenia is moving their dispatch to another room so they can continue to operate while building the current Center for MARCS. Mrs. Daugherty asked how big of an issue control is. Mr. Tiffany said that was one of the first things that came up today. Mr. Pittman said we've talked about the control issue but I don't know how much of a concern that should be. Mr. Tiffany said it was a concern for Montgomery County. He said there is control and there is assurance. Assurance that you are going to have a voice at the table, how things are going to operate and the service to continue at the same level. He said there were complaints about Montgomery County raising rates on participating communities but shame on them for signing an agreement that allowed them to do that.

Mr. Tiffany said if we stay in MARCS we need to buy new MARCS consoles. He said we should know next week about the loan we filed for from the Local Government Initiative Fund. Mr. Tiffany said we should get it but its still a loan. Mr. Tiffany said we have a conflict on how many hand held radios can be converted. WS Electronics said five and Chief Pavlak said twenty two. Mr. Tiffany said it's difficult to figure out because there are three versions of Harris radios. He said we have to get it figured out because it's a huge difference in cost. Mr. Tiffany said Greene County will be on 800 Mhz and counties around us will be on 700 Mhz so for the time being we will need 700 and 800 Mhz dual band radios. He said it adds cost to the radios, consoles and other things. Mr. Bryant said he is frustrated. He said we've been talking about this for a year and still don't even know how many radios we need. He said there appears to be some easy things here that seem not to be done. He said it appears we will have to rely on the experts. Mr. Tiffany said that's the problem. The experts keep changing their story every time we talk to them. Warren County signed on the MARCS program thinking it would cost them three million and now their cost is at nine million. It's crazy. Mr. Tiffany discussed some of the pricing unknowns and changes we have already encountered. Mr. Bryant said if he had a vendor jerking him around like this he would go find another vendor. Mr. Pittman said he agreed. He said if we don't know what the cost will be, how are we to make a sound decision on whether we stand on our own, get people to come to us or go somewhere else. He said we can't.

Mr. Tiffany said if we buy a Catalyst console, Bellbrook buys a Motorola console and Xenia buys a Johnson console, we end up with five different consoles for five entities and we're going to consolidate? Think of the training issues. Its crazy. We're pushing for all to get one console but nobody agrees on which one. Mr. Tiffany said Chief Pavlak has busted his butt on this thing trying to get it all together. He said on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 the current system we're on is shut off and MARCS is turned on. Mr. Tiffany said we are either on MARCS or on our own. Mr. Tiffany said the cost to be on our own is too high. He said being on our own could create safety issues. Mrs. Daugherty asked if August was the deadline. Mr. Tiffany said if we are going to join others, August to September is the preferred timing. Mr. Tiffany discussed some of the current issues being worked out with Xenia.

Mr. Bryant said we decided last year to get together the first of this year to talk this out. He said we need to do this. He said we need to decide where and which way we are going. Mr. Bryant said if we are going to a regional dispatch we need to socialize that with our residents. We may need a Public meeting to let people know our goals and intentions. He said we need to stop talking about this and make some decisions. Mr. Bryant said if pricing is a key factor and Motorola is not going to cooperate we need to take that into consideration as we make our decision. He said it may make our decision to move to a regional dispatch center easier. Mr. Pittman said, in his opinion, we should look at consolidation and get out of dispatch. Mr. Bryant said he is the opposite. He said he wanted to consolidate but to be a regional dispatch center. Mr. Pittman said that was okay if we can do that and cut costs. Mr. Bryant said we're capable of taking this on. We're in a good location and can do this. Mr. Pittman said our liabilities and personnel will go up tremendously. Mr. Bryant said I have a lot of confidence with our people and that we can do this. Mr. Pittman said he wasn't willing to do this if its not economically worthwhile. Mr. Bryant said he agreed. Mr. Pittman said he could see some economic advantages if we joined others. He said we had earlier estimated a savings of five hundred thousand dollars the first year. Mr. Bryant said, conversely, if we bring in Bellbrook, Yellow Springs and Spring Valley we can bring in one hundred thousand dollars a year additional. He said we have to understand the infrastructure costs, the peoples need etc. and we have to do it soon. Mr. Bryant said if we're going to get rid of dispatch we need to plan for it six months out. Mr. Pittman said he's just saying if we can save more by merging with Greene central versus being a center, he's for it. He said he wouldn't be in favor of the extra liability and personnel to save, for example, ten thousand dollars.

Mr. Tiffany said we have to overcome Montgomery County experiences. He said he thought they did a terrible thing in trying to do everything in two years. He said he thought it would take longer. He said we also need to look at Warren County to see how they are funded. Mr. Tiffany said I think we have to go through this process to figure out what's best. Mr. Pittman said he agreed with Mr. Bryant that we are no further along than we were 5 to 6 months ago. Mr. Pittman said he didn't know where to go. He said if it saved money he would be ready to be a regional center but he said he was also not afraid to join someone else. Mr. Bryant said we will need to make this a priority for the next thirty days. Mr. Tiffany said he thinks by 2018 there will be three centers funded and that would be Fairborn, Beavercreek and Xenia simply because they have more people and take more calls. Mr. Bryant said it comes down to how much we can tolerate before then. Mr. Tiffany said 'exactly'.

**Police** – Mr. Pittman asked Chief Flick if he had anything to report. Chief Flick said he planned to take the new Chief around and introduce him to everybody and to brief him on the status of the Department and all operations.

**Zoning** – Mr. Pittman asked Cara if she had anything to discuss. Cara said Joan Gallagher's term on the BZC will be up in March and that she has decided to be reappointed. Mr. Pittman asked if she attended most of the meetings. Cara responded that she did.

Mr. Tiffany said he had two personnel items to be discussed with the Board.

Cara said she is having discussions with the owners of our Farmer's Market site. They have someone interested in the site and thinks we may be looking at limited availability. She said we have been looking at the parking area at Cub Foods and since they have been vacated there have been discussions with the Lafinos. Cara said the prospects look very good. Cara said the Prosecutor's Office has approved the Compensatory Storage language and we need to decide how the Board would like to move forward. She said it's an

amendment to the Greene County flood plain regulation and said we need to decide if we want Public Meetings at the Township level or to let Greene County handle it since its a County regulation. The reason for meetings at the Township level is from discussions with the Soil and Water Conversation District and the Farm Bureau.

Donna Hellman asked about the property at Five Seasons. Cara said there were two parcels for sale. Mr. Pittman said one was eight acres and one was four acres.

**Board Discussion items** - Mr. Bryant asked where we were with the Conceptual Land Use Plan for Clyo Road. Mr. Tiffany said he got the first draft today, which included two renditions. He didn't see much difference from one to the other but thought they were pretty good. Mr. Bryant said it might be helpful if we look at it before it goes back. Mrs. Daugherty said she would like to see it also.

Mr. Bryant said we needed to develop a Continuity of Operations plan. He said he received the one prepared by Chief Pavlak but it was only for the Public Safety building. Mr. Bryant said we needed a plan for Continuity of Operations for the Administration Building. He asked, "What do we do if we don't have this building to conduct our business?"

Mr. Bryant said the last time they met he had put together some priorities and goals for the Township. He said if there were no objections or suggestions he would like to put them out on the website. Mrs. Daugherty said the three of us should have a meeting. Mr. Bryant said that's what he was looking for. He said we could do it next week if you want.

Mrs. Daugherty said she has been meeting once a month with the Departments on the Employee Manual. She said she would like to set up the second work session in March to go over changes. She said she would have copies of changes for the first three sections.

Mrs. Daugherty moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel in accordance to O.R.C. 21 201 Mr. Bryant seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Pittman – Yes  
Mr. Bryant – Yes  
Mrs. Daugherty – Yes

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 6:40 pm.

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Theodore L. Hodson, Fiscal Officer