

# THE PERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION

held on January 26, 2021

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Meeting was called to order by Trustee Wynne at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll called:** Trustee Wynne, Trustee Hartshorn, Trustee Mears

Trustee Hartshorn addressed **Beckett & Varanese** to share information by Zoom.

Travis Beckett stated Beckett & Varanese help local townships gain additional revenue that is due to you through their preliminary analysis that they find the township is not receiving. Main questions from trustees and fiscal officer is how much the service cost. Beckett & Varanese will identify where the township can receive additional revenue and only when the township receives the additional revenue due to Beckett & Varanese efforts confirmed by the fiscal officer is the point Beckett & Varanese will be paid per their contract.

Barbara Varanese stated her time as fiscal officer she realized there was aspects of the finances that needed a more thorough investigation. Ms. Varanese received documents from the Department of Taxation and State Auditor's office regarding revenue of these services. Tax rates in certain taxing districts due to annexation in the past. Correcting this would help to receive additional revenue. Local Government Fund is another aspect of revenue where Mr. Varanese gained additional revenue due to a county or state part allocating the funds. Motor Vehicle Licenses Fund is another area in which the license on an application to distribute money to the subdivision with cities or villages within the boundaries could receive the revenue. If the township moves forward with their services, all research and information developed during their work is delivered to the township. They do not do anything or speak to anyone without township permission.

FO Behnken questioned if Beckett & Varanese has worked with any other entity within Montgomery County. Mrs. Varanese stated years ago, she worked with all the townships in Montgomery County through the township association and the president took care of it. The townships contracted with Beckett & Varanese to do an analysis of their taxes and according to the assessed value was how the townships percentage of payment was made.

Trustee Hartshorn and Trustee Wynne spoke with Beckett & Varanese during the 2020 OTA Conference and was impressed by the details they mentioned in conversation.

FO Behnken reviewed the possible cost saving areas, Motor Vehicle License, Annexation and Department of Taxation.

Mrs. Varanese stated hopefully the Motor Vehicle License Fund the township would receive additional revenue, LGF would be an enhancement for the township and the tax revenue from the auditor's office that Mrs. Varanese see's already in the work she has done. There is others but these three areas are what the township funds relies on.

FO Behnken questioned the tax revenue form the auditor's office if this was in-side millage/out-side millage. Mrs. Varanese stated she is talking about both mileages as well a reduction factor and local government fund has been challenged at other entities.

FO questioned the inside millage.

Mrs. Varanese stated with annexation the inside millage could be at risk.

FO stated there is some areas that has been annexed into the City of Brookville and questioned if this is discussion if further annexation the township would be able to retain more of the inside millage.

Mrs. Varanese stated she has not analyzed all the information and would suspect the township is not receiving what we could as well as the reduction factor.

Mrs. Varanese stated once they are notified they will be their information.

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Trustee Hartshorn stated it is a 25% over a 4-year period. Discussion on percentage of revenue on annual revenue or potential decrease revenue.

Trustee Mears questioned if Beckett & Varanese ever had to go to court.

Mrs. Varanese stated the company first goes to the County Budget Commission Board and County Auditor. If this does not work, then you file an appeal with the Board of Tax Appeals. Discussion regarding legal cost if township went to court to collect revenue.

Trustee Mears asked how long that process takes. Mrs. Varanese stated it can take a year. Trustee Mears asked about if township is responsible for representation or if Beckett and Varanese. If Mr. Varanese is needed to represent the township in receiving due funds, it is covered by the percentage the township pays.

Trustee Wynne stated the contract does not state if the township needs to go to court who pays the court cost. Trustee Wynne stated her goal is to protect the township and the township is on a financial thin line and cannot afford to do anything that would cost us any money.

Travis Beckett stated Beckett & Varanese can amend and send the township a new contract to review.

Discussion who will be the primary source contact and amended contract to be emailed to all elected officials. FO Behnken will coordinate all responses to Beckett & Varanese.

## **MVRPC Membership**

Trustee Hartshorn spoke with two former trustees Ms. Stanifer and Mr. Peters. Mr. Peters understands where the township is and if it just comes down to the membership fee then that is what you need to look at. Therefore, if we can afford the membership fee from the MVRCP then the board can move forward and assign our points of contact. Trustee Hartshorn was not able to find any luck finding anything beneficial to Perry Township from the MVRCP and can forgo our membership for a year and keep the \$1,500.00 in the General Fund.

Trustee Hartshorn stated if the funds are needed by the township, he has no problem forgoing a membership to MVRPC this year.

Trustee Wynne stated her thoughts the township is good without it and could not figure what Perry Township got out of it stating we do not have buses, bridges or major highway. Trustee Wynne feels the board holds onto the money for this year.

Trustee Hrtshorn stated Perry Township does not have any active developments or subdivisions coming in. Unless something major happens with a farming property and a developer was to buy it, the board would still have time to work through possible JEDD opportunities.

Trustee Wynne stated we have an opportunity to cut cost stated FO Behnken had concerns with the trash district, and if that was connected with MVRCP but Trustee Wynne thought they were separate.

FO Behnken stated she talked with Mr. Peters and the landfill or super fund cleanup would be through solid waste not MVRPC.

Trustee Mears question what Mr. Peters stated if Perry Township had the money to go ahead with the membership fee but questioned what the benefit was.

Trustee Hartshorn stated talked with Mr. Peters if we have the money and want to cover our basis and spend the money and if the money is a contentious issue then there is low risk going without for a year or more and revisit annually.

Trustee Hartshorn stated the key issue is the financial status of the township. The \$1,500 is a lot to pay with the added condition that when trustees attend, they also charge that time to the general fund. The township is getting hit twice, once for the membership fee and then again by the participation time of trustees.

Trustee Hartshorn questioned earmarking those funds as part of the annual appropriations what activity the board needs to do at the board of trustees meeting to unallocated the funds.

FO stated the money is in other expenses and not in travel or meeting.

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Trustee Hartshorn stated that the trustees will talk about the membership at the February Board of Trustees Meeting.

**OTA Conference 2021**

Trustee Hartshorn was disappointed with the parallel discussions and focused on a singular track of meetings and not as much variety of information.

Trustee Wynne entered a Round Table question regarding communication between the board members.

Ms. Kayler, Zoning Administrator questioned the office hours. Trustee Wynne stated this needs to be decided between Karen and Rhonda if they want to jump up and take someone's trash bill.

Trustee Hartshorn stated in the past the office has been closed.

Ms. Kayler stated trash bills are due that week and only see one zoning class.

Trustee Hartshorn stated Ms. Kayler's predecessor attended several different meetings and briefing.

Trustee Wynne cleared the week and can try to be at the township to help. Trustee Wynne also stated on Friday there is a class on "How to Resolve Problem Properties" that might be a zoning class.

Trustee Mears stated she does not feel the office needs to be closed.

With no other business, at 8:00 p.m.

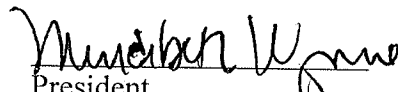
**MOTION** by Trustee Mears "**To Adjourn**"

**Second** by Trustee Hartshorn

Roll was called: Ayes- Wynne, Hartshorn, Mears

**Motion so moved**

  
Rhonda Behnken

  
President,

