

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Safety Board of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Safety Board of the Town of Hope, Indiana held called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:15 p.m. on May 18, 2015.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following safety board members: Paula Pollitt (President), Jonathan Titus (Vice-President), Clyde Compton and Greg Sims. Diane Burton was also present. Absent: Jerry Bragg

Paula Pollitt called to order the Safety Board Meeting. Paula stated the first agenda item is the termination of Donald R. (Randy) Bailey as the Marshal of the Town of Hope, Indiana. On April 28, 2015, Mr. Bailey was personally served with a copy of a Notice of Dismissal. Further, someone at his residence signed for a certified mailing of the same notice on April 29, 2015. Mr. Bailey had five days to request a hearing concerning his employment and no request was received. I will open the floor for a motion concerning Mr. Bailey's status as Marshal and as an employee of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Jonathan stated I move that Donald R. Bailey be terminated as the Marshal and as an employee of the Town of Hope, Indiana effective immediately. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

Paula opened the floor for a motion concerning the replacement of the Town Marshal of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Jonathan stated I move that Matthew Tallent be appointed as the Town Marshal of the Town of Hope, Indiana effective immediately. Clyde seconded. Greg stated for the record I made a comment before I personally feel we need to advertise for this position. Matt, nothing against you and nothing against what you have done for the last two years. You've done an awesome job but I just feel that the position should be advertised in the paper and we go through an interview process if there was somebody that would apply for the position. **Motion carries 3/1.**

Paula presented Matt Tallent with a badge. Applause.

Safety Meeting was adjourned at 5:19.

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on May 18, 2015.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Paula Pollitt (President), Jonathan Titus (Vice-President), Clyde Compton and Greg Sims. Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present. Absent: Jerry Bragg

PUBLIC HEARING

CDBG WASTEWATER/DRINKING WATER PROGRAM FOR THE HOPE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Trena Carter passed around a sign in sheet. Trena stated the first order of business tonight for the Town Council on the agenda is a public hearing for the application through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the State Community Development Block Grant Fund. The program we are applying for is for the wastewater drinking water program for the Hope water system improvements project. Tonight what we have is the opportunity for citizenry of Hope to provide input, comment on what your feelings are regarding the project. If you have questions regarding the project, we have the project engineer, we have the town attorney, I'm here as well. This is your opportunity to speak as to what your concerns are regarding the project or if you are in support of the project. This is the opportunity also to address that. One of the things I will be requesting will be letters, not necessary letters of support but letters of the water issues that you've faced possibly due to a boil alert or things like that. Something that has possible inconvenienced you as a citizen of Hope. What I would like to do now is to let you know that what we are applying for is either \$450,000 or \$500,000 through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. It will depend upon the income survey results. The state has a matrix we have to follow. Based on the income survey results which you may have already responded to, they will determine the amount based on that percentage. I would like to open it up to everyone. What I ask is you raise your hand so we don't have mass chaos. I ask that you state your name because I will have that as part of the public record. Trena opened the floor for comments or questions. Paula Pollitt, Cross Street, stated during a lot of meetings we've noticed that the town is losing a lot of water and we need to take care of that. Part of this project will be to look for those leaks and to fix them so that we're not paying for water that's never used. Pam May, Harrison Street, asked how many surveys have been returned. Trena answered since it is a random sample, I'm not sure how many surveys the Key Research has requested. I know the town sent out some. The survey is based on a list of randomly selected addresses. It's all done by a random sample situation. It's not a census survey. Paula added some of them were phone calls and some got a survey in the mail. Trena confirmed. Nellie Meek, Scott Street, asked how much area are we going cover with this money. Is this going take care of our problem or how much more will we need for this to be done. I'm not quite sure what we are talking about as far as how much we're getting done. Ryan Makos, Strand Associates, basically the Town of Hope had about approximately 39,000 feet of water main put in back in the mid-1930s. Since then some has been replaced. Not that much. We're looking at now replacing about 14 or 15,000 feet of that. That was identified based on the town experiences as far as where they have identified water losses and had to make repairs. This project is probably addressing 80, 90% of those locations where a large number of leaks were occurring. We're addressing anywhere we know for sure there were leaks and also trying to add some redundancy issues. Make sure they're no problems where adding a second connection with Eastern Bartholomew as well as adding some looping within town to help strengthen the system in other areas as well. Trena stated that will help with your fire safety and things like that. David Clouse added the second connection, we all remember the flood of 08. We didn't have any water for four days. The second connection will be at Miller's Merry Manor where we can pull from Hartsville town to Hope so we will be fed two ways in the event of a catastrophe. Trena stated I will go ahead and close the public hearing. If you do have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the town. They will give you my number if you want to contact me or Strand Associates number to contact one of the engineers on the project. I just want to make sure everybody is aware of what's going on with this project. It's an important project for the town. We're looking at 15,000 lineal feet needing replacement and

approximately 1500 to 2000 of new line. Mark Weber, 152 Mill Street, when are we looking at getting an answer. Trena answered what will happen is the application goes in the 29th of May. After that we will find out whether this grant will be awarded on July 17th. Meanwhile we just learned today that the State Revolving Fund, their drinking water program that the town's preliminary engineering report for that which is the local match for this project, has been approved. That's one step in getting closer to getting everything resolved.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:43 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by Paula Pollitt and a prayer by Jonathan Titus.

Paula reminded everyone to turn their cell phones off or put them on silence. She asked that only one person speak at a time and if you do speak, give your name so we'll know who you are.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 2/23

Paula stated we are going to table the approval of the February minutes. Jonathan and Greg were not here. We won't have a quorum to approve them. They will be tabled until next month.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Jonathan made a motion for the approval of the claims as submitted. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

OLD BUSINESS

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR THE WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Trena Carter stated what we have tonight is the Authorizing Resolution which allows Paula to be the signatory for the town and submit the application as well as commits the local funds for the project. I have two different resolutions based on the fact that the final amount that we can apply for will be dependent on the results of the survey which we hope we'll get by the end of this week or first part of next week. Diane contacted the State Board of Accounts to make sure that it is OK that they both have the same number because only one of these will actually be valid by the application time. The resolution number is 2015-04. One has the requisite local match in the amount of \$2,453,000 which will come from cash or debt from the Indiana Finance Authority's State Revolving Drinking Fund commitment or \$2,503,000, which is \$50,000 difference, based on the grant being \$450,000 or \$500,000. I'm completing the application but there is blanks highlighting based on that commitment. What I would ask is that the town authorize Paula to be the signatory and then I will update you at that next council meeting which one it is. I will send that out immediately once I found out whether it will be \$2,503,000 or \$2,453,000. I ask for an action be taken on this resolution.

Jonathan made a motion that we approve Paula as our signer for these authorizing resolutions 2015-04. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

Trena stated to update you we do have a letter which means the environmental as far as they're concerned is complete. We did do a publication. Once we receive funding from OCRA, we'll do another

publication to meet their requirements as well. Cindy today forwarded the easements and waivers to the attorneys for Flat Rock Haw Creek and Miller's Merry Manor. The easements will have to have in place prior to the 29th.

UTILITY RATE STUDY

Trena stated the utility rate study, in conversations with O.W. Krohn, he did recommend an intermediate rate increase to stop bleeding so to speak. I think we will look at that in June because it would not benefit at this point in time the application process. It benefit's the town's bottom line as far as water utility but not the application so I don't want to rush that.

DRINKING WATER PLANNING STUDY

Trena stated we are ready to close out the drinking water system planning study. I have several documents for Paula to sign. We can sign those after the meeting. I have documents to give you as well, Diane, for the file. That will wrap up the study and we will be done with that.

PARK PROJECT

Trena stated there is still some gap funding. I know I spoke to Diane regarding the amount showing from Edit and the Riverboat Fund. The recommendation is an additional \$10,000 from Riverboat for a total of \$35,000 and the remaining amount come from EDIT. After proceeds from bricks come in, that can be reversed. Greg agreed. Trena stated that will allow us to move forward with the project and not hold it up any further which that has become a concern. Greg stated we need to get it done before September. Diane stated we need a motion for the total amount from Riverboat to be \$35,000 and the total from EDIT not to exceed \$44,000. Clyde asked Randy when it would get started. Randy answered I was talking to Brian Daily this afternoon. As soon as Paul signs it, they'll get started on the project immediately. Trena asked would they want to update the contract document. There were a couple of things that in our discussions, roundtable meeting that we had, that the town is going to do the demo on the 8th. There was a multiplication error. We were not going to do the lights. We were going to wire for the lights but not put lights in currently so there were some things that were going to possibly change. Do they want to address those or would that be a mark out possibly and initial. Randy stated let me talk to Paul and kind of clear it up. Trena stated what I request then is if you make this motion and second it and when it's approved that you allow Paula to sign pending approval of the contract by legal counsel. Then we would schedule a meeting with all the committee and Nading. Paula stated we also talked about temporary drops for when Smoke on the Square comes. Randy stated I think he can do enough work that it won't be affected. Power won't be an issue. Trena stated but some of those things that's what we want to do in this meeting is to be sure all those issues are addressed. Clyde asked if it's going to start tearing the square up shortly, there's a request to use the square on the 4th of July. Is that going to interfere. Randy stated they should have a lot of the work done by then. Trena answered when we talked previously to Brian, he stated they will not leave anything open that will be any danger to anyone. David stated because of their insurance requirements, they can't leave any holes. Trena stated there are two of three events that have been planned that they are aware of that they know they have to work around. Diane stated at the Edit Committee Meeting they also talked about when trying to work around it, we could block off some streets and do it on the streets. **Clyde made a motion to use EDIT & Riverboat to make up the funding and allow Paula to sign. Greg seconded.** John Clark asked for the

total project cost. Trena answered the electrical backbone, Duke Energy, contouring the terraced bandstand which is not included in this portion, we're looking at \$172,286. **Motion carries 4/0.**

HOPE HOUSING REHAB PROJECT

Trena stated we're still scheduled to be completed with the other remaining houses by June 30th.

SRF, PROJECT SCHEDULING AND DESIGN/EASEMENTS GEOTECHNICAL/SOIL BORINGS/EASTERN BARTHOLOMEW AGREEMENT

Tony Akles stated I'm going to continue on with water project. Trena went through the OCRA stuff. She did mention the local match is coming from the Indiana Finance Authority State Revolving Fund Loan. About a week and a half, two weeks ago based upon Buzz's preliminary rate study that he did at the last meeting we had a teleconference with Bill Harkins from the State Revolving Fund Loan and had some potential good news. SRF has what is called a principal forgiveness program where if rates are high enough they will forgive some of the principal to bring the rates back down. In our teleconference with Bill Harkins he mentioned Hope stands a good chance of getting some of that money. They won't know how much they have until July 1st. That's their fiscal year. He couldn't obviously commit to it but this is in addition to the grant that we are going after with OCRA. It may buy rates down to \$45. That's the goal. Doesn't mean we'll get there but if they have it, he stated Hope stands a good chance of qualifying for that money. With that being said, the money the project has to be ready to go this year. What we need to ask from the Town Council tonight is that you give us a notice to proceed to start on the design in order for us to get everything designed to get it ready for permitting and bidding. We need to get started on it as soon as possible. We originally hoped to get started on it in April. We are a month after that which is not a big deal. We can compress our schedule. You've already approved our agreement but we said we wouldn't move forward with design until you guys give us the notice to proceed for design. The first thing we will do is the actual survey. Trena asked how do you then get compensated for that because I know we won't know until later about the funding. Tony answered we will continue to do what we do and send monthly invoices to the town. The town can pay us out of the drinking water side. I know they don't have a lot of money. We'll have to talk to our accounts payable group and see what we can do to work with the town on whether or not we hold that. Once the SRF loan is approved and closed, you guys can submit those right away. That can come right off the top as soon as it's closed. That's why we are going to do the easements and stop. I will talk to Shawn, our financial guy, and make sure he is aware of everything. Hopefully with the quick turnaround. We'll still submit invoices so you know where we are at on the project. Once the loan closes you can submit that and get paid back.

Jonathan made a motion to give notice to proceed to strand with the design engineering. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0. Tony stated I know the easements went out today for review. Do we need to have somebody at the school board meeting tomorrow night. Steve Robertson said he would go. Trena stated it would probably be beneficial. Tony stated I'm a little bit worried because I know they have some criteria. Trena stated it may be good to take the originals for signature in case they say this looks good. Let's go with it. Tony stated the Geotechnical soil borings. I still not sure if I'm comfortable with all that language. Cindy, I know you're not. Cindy confirmed. Tony stated what this is Patriot Geotechnical Engineers to come in and do some soil boring to determine where the ground water level is at. See if there is any rock and stuff. We sent it out for quote. We got four quotes back. The top three were within a \$200 of each other. Patriot was the lowest at \$3,550 however they had a bunch of identification language and all sorts of stuff to go with it. I know Cindy is not comfortable with it. There

is a lot. I called in. We got some responses. I'm not sure they actually addressed any of our concerns. The second low quote is Alt & Witzig for \$3650.00 so \$100 more. They didn't tie all the identification language and everything to it. Cindy agreed. Tony stated I would like to ask for the town to recommend that Alt Witzig be the Geotechnical Engineer for \$3,650 and that we authorize Paula to sign the quote.

Clyde made the motion to select Alt Witzig and to authorize Paula to sign the quote. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

Tony stated there was a little bit of talk at the last meeting on the wells that the town still maintains. There was some emails that went back and forth. I just want to make sure the council is aware. David you said the wells have been classified as under the influence of surface water. That would really conclude coming back and doing any sort of treatments. I talked to Treat Surface Water. It is very expensive and very manpower intensive.

Tony stated the Eastern Bartholomew Water Agreement, this doesn't have to be done real quick but I want to make sure it is on everyone's minds. Eventually that second connection will have to be added in. There are five years remaining on the agreement right now. I know Cindy has a copy of it. We need to look at it but not anytime soon. The SRF says and I'm sure OCRA needs to be in place prior to closing, October or November. Cindy and Tony will discuss. We'll need an extension and add the second connection in. Dave will be involved as well.

ELM STREET PROPERTY UPDATE

Cindy Boll stated we've been kind of busy doing a lot of other stuff. I think the last time I spoke with you all about the Elm Street status was to summarize for you the steps we need to take in order to sell the properties in town. The first step in the process was to get a couple of appraisals. I'm happy to report we got those. The folks who did them for us, I'm also happy to report that they like the town of Hope and they are not going to charge the town of Hope. I will send a thank you note to each of them. What I need to do next under the statute is to publish a notice setting forth a time for folks to submit bids on the property. I will work with Mel, Paula and Diane on that if that's the consensus on the way to go on this still and hopefully we'll get some buyers. Paula stated I would like for Diane to tell about how she got the rate down for the property taxes. You did good. Diane stated I talked to the treasurer and the auditor. They were willing to take off penalties. We can actually waive the weed liens. It went from almost \$4,000 to \$1700 as well as our exemption for fall and spring. Cindy stated that is awesome. It will be nice to have a clear piece of property. To sell it. To take care of that and hopefully something good will happen. Paula thanked Diane.

REEDY FINANCIAL GROUP PROPOSAL AGREEMENT

Mel Fox stated last week I went to the ARA Annual Meeting. Their record for their success is unbelievable. Of course a lot of mayors were there and some other town managers. I know your success rate for securing grants last was over 88%. I can't remember the total of millions of dollars you got. They're just a stellar group. We know that just working with Trena. I was very impressed. Hopefully I will get you a copy of their annual report. They are in a lot of places doing a lot of good. Trena, we appreciate that. I don't know if a lot of you know this but there are only about 27 Certified Economic

Development Certifications in the state of Indiana and Trena is one of them. We are so blessed to have her.

Mel stated at the last meeting I suggested that we engage services of Reedy Financial Group. A lot of municipalities use them. When it comes to the department of finance and local government as Diane well knows there are so many little steps to the process. What I like about Reedy is there is not retainer. You pay as you go. Cindy read the contract and verified that. I would like to recommend we engage the services of Reedy Financial Group. Paula stated I heard their presentation and they were really, really good. A lot of good ideas for the town of Hope.

Jonathan made a motion that we act on Mel's recommendation and enter an agreement with Reedy Financial Group. Clyde second. Motion carries 4/0.

NEW BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION OF SAFETY BOARD

Paula stated earlier this evening the town council acted as the safety board of the town of Hope and adopted a motion effective immediately for the termination of Donald R. Bailey as the marshal and as an employee of the town of Hope. We need a motion of acknowledgement and approval of this action.

Jonathan made a motion that the council approve and acknowledge the prior action of the safety board. Clyde seconded. Greg stated I just want to make it noted as I did in the prior meeting that I feel the position needs to be advertised. Paula asked do you want it on this one or the next one. Greg answered on both. Clyde asked if this will automatically remove him from the insurance. Diane confirmed. **Motion carries 3/1.**

The safety board also adopted a motion effective immediately to appoint Matthew Tallent as the marshal for the town of Hope, Indiana.

Jonathan made the motion that the council approve and acknowledge the prior action of the safety board in appointing Matthew Tallent as marshal for the town of Hope. Clyde seconded. Greg said done stated. **Motion carries 3/1.**

Paula stated there will be a formal ceremony of swearing in next month.

AMEND SALARY ORDINANCE FOR CELL PHONE STIPEND

Paula stated as you recall the personnel committee got together and we talked about cell phones and that some of the employees of the town of Hope are required to carry phones so we put in the ordinance to give them a stipend. The way the ordinance was amended was that the town manager, the utility superintendent, the utility employees, the utility office clerk, the marshal, deputy marshal, anyone that is required to carry a cell phone will get a stipend in the amount of 1% of their salary to be paid biweekly and the animal control officer will receive a cell phone stipend biweekly in the amount of \$10.00. This will be the first reading. The second reading will be in June. Greg asked at one time we had town cell phones. Are those gone. Diane confirmed. We haven't for probably one and a half years maybe.

REQUEST TO USE SQUARE FOR OLD FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY

Barb Johnson stated I am here for the Yellow Trail Museum to ask permission to hold the Old Fashioned Independence Day celebration in the square on July 3rd which is Friday evening from about 5:00 p.m. until after the fireworks which will be about 11:00 p.m. By the time cleanup is done it may be slightly later than that. We would also need availability to use the square earlier in the day to get things set up ahead of time. The last few years it's been midmorning. We are also kind of requesting a flexible portion of street blocking. Last year and the year before we asked to have the parking areas closest to the square on the north and the east side of the square blocked so that we can set up activities out in the square. We had some military equipment and pony rides, that sort of thing that were set up actually in the parking area around the square. We really want to believe what Randy is telling us that we are going to be able to use of the square but just on the slightest possibility would it also be possible to approve a little flexibility for us to extend out onto the street on the north and east sides maybe even as far as the center parking areas on each side if need be. Hopefully we won't need it because I feel that puts kids too close to traffic areas if it is necessary. Because by the time we find out if it is necessary, it will be too late to get your approval. Paula asked Matt and David is that was ok. Matt stated I don't have a problem with it. We can set up any kind of road block that you need. David requested not a 5:00 on Friday. Barb stated we also need to ask if it would be possible for us to ask to talk to Matt about getting some restitution workers that evening. Last year I think we only had help early in the day when we were setting up. They weren't really there during the event itself but it sure would be great to have some people to haul off trash and help with the cleanup. Matt agreed to make a call and see if they have any available. Barb requested they would be able to use table and chairs and so forth that evening. We are going to need a microphone. I already talked with Chuck Caldwell from HOH and he has agreed to help make sure that we have some kind of sound system for that evening. Things are kind of iffy at this point. At this point we do not have a definite contract for fireworks. Because of that, we have not applied for the Homeland Security permit. The fireworks people need to know we are going to have money to pay them so we are waiting for your next step. They don't want to sign a contract until they know they are getting the money so that's why we are on hold for the moment. I spoke with Bruce Neal about the fact the Hope fire department will need to be on sight at the fireworks scene. We do not have an official agreement. Usually it's a word of mouth agreement anyway. Of course we'll need some help from Hope police department that night. We will be making the contact to the County Commissioners for road closures and fireworks people will be using the same side that they have before, just west of the bridge on Jackson Street. At this point we have lots of activities we still need to get organized. We have some that are firm, things that we've had in the past. We have a couple of real problems going on here because when we were discussing renovation in the square, the Banister Family who does the entertainment for the evening, made it very clear that if they couldn't use the bandstand, they will not be here. That leaves us in the lurch again. We're hoping they will agree to come and we're hoping the bandstand is ready for them so they can use it and everything works fine. Should it not happen, that will definitely change the effect of the evening because they are a big draw. We are still looking for advertising money. About the only advertisement money we can get is for advertisement out of county. We've made some contacts for some possible corporate sponsorship for this. At this point we are striking out because the town of Hope is asking for a lot of corporate sponsors. I'm not sure where that income is going to come from but we've got six weeks. Anyway we are requesting the use of the square and whatever is over there for us to use at this point. The council agreed.

EDIT REQUEST

Vickie Tedder stated Jerry is not able to be here tonight. I'm on the Edit Committee. We had two people that requested funds. Jenny Kramer, Abby Calendar, Teresa Satterfield and Nancy Banta wanted \$2500 for the author who was a holocaust survivor to speak at the school. They are also going to speak at the Common's as well. Their request was \$2500. As a committee we are recommending \$1,250 instead of the whole amount that they wanted just because it is scheduled at 1:00 at our school. That doesn't leave very many people who aren't working because it is a Monday. We had a little concern about Hope people being able to do that so we're hoping they can get some extra money somewhere else. **Motion carries 4/0.**

Vickie stated for the Yellow Trail who have requested money for their 4th of July project for the fireworks and stuff, they are wanting \$4500. We will graciously recommend the full amount of the \$4,500.00 to get the stuff that they need for that event. As a committee we feel the 4th of July is very important to our square, to our community and to keep things going. **Motion carries 4/0.**

Jonathan thanked Vickie for coming in making the recommendation. Mel said when Jerry called this afternoon and said he couldn't be here, I ran down to Vickie's and ask her if she could come tonight. She didn't miss a beat. I went back down and gave her some forms and here she is. Rapid response. She did a great job.

EQUIPMENT FROM EMA VIA FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

Matt Tallent stated I have a couple of other things to bring up. This just got dropped off to me today or I would have had it to you earlier. The Tribute Ride, we've done this for them the last two years, they are asking us to lead the ride again. I gave you a printout of the map, the route they are taking this year. I just need approval to allow us to lead the Tribute Ride again this year. Greg asked this is an annual ride. Matt confirmed. Matt stated this is the third year they have done it. It all coincides with the Relay for Life. They start it that morning and do it and then they come back and do the walk. It is on June 6th.

Jonathan made a motion to authorize the police department to assist in however means necessary with the Relay for Life Tribute Ride. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

Matt stated we got drawer breaching kits from Bartholomew County Emergency Management. They received a FEMA grant so they ended up buying breaching kits for all the departments. They gave us two of these. Matt showed the items given. They were \$500.00 apiece.

Matt stated my last thing is we now have an open position. Can I go ahead and fill that open position from the hiring list I created earlier this year in February. The council agreed.

REQUEST TO WAIVE PLUMBING FEE

Mel Fox stated across the street where the Visitor's Center is we also have the Art Guild, HSJ Online, the Chamber and hopefully our Main Street is going to be over there. It's really going to become a center of nonprofits. They have to put a restroom on the first floor. She (Diane Jekel) is requesting we waive the plumbing fee of \$25.00. The council agreed.

NO HFVD AMBULANCE SERVICE AFTER JUNE 1ST

Randy Woods read a letter from the fire department concerning the ambulance service for the town. It reads as follows: To all Hope residence and Haw Creek Township we, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department, with deep regret wish to inform you that as of June 1, 2015 we'll no longer be providing ambulance service to the town of Hope or Haw Creek Township. Although we will not be providing an ambulance, we'll still be responding with a certified, basic life support non-transport unit which will be an engine. We'll have fire fighters on that engine and we'll have EMS personnel when available. That's the problem we're running into and financial problems. We'll continue to provide quality basic life support to the good people of the township and the town of Hope. We have provided ambulance service for the Haw Creek Township area as well as the town and Shelby County and Decatur County. Our ambulance service, we used to be the primary provider for Flat Rock. We used to go all the way to Flat Rock to the iron bridge and we've been a back service for Columbus City. We've been called to provide services for Columbus on occasions when they've had all their people out. They've called us to do back up for them. We've done backup for Decatur County. We've provided ambulance service when two other departments, Columbus township and Taylorsville, they both started an ambulance service. They came to us. We told them the financial burden and the training requirements and everything. They lasted a total of probably five years. They said we can't do this. We lasted close to fifty years. I've been doing this for thirty-five years. The longest most EMT paramedics last is anywhere from twenty to twenty-five years and then they have burn out status. They have nightmares. A lot of runs I've been on that I do not want to see again. It takes between \$600 to \$1000 for an EMT class which we provided the money up front. They have to sign a note with us. If they didn't finish the class, they paid us back. If they did, it takes four to six months of training. You're not going to get very many people out here to do it on a volunteer status. A lot EMTs we've had over here, they've started over here on a volunteer status and they've moved up. We've had a lot of good EMTs out there, we've found a lot of good EMTs but most of them have moved on to Columbus Regional and other places. We're basically like the police department. We're a stepping stone for them. We, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department, do not want this for the community but we have no other choice. Due to rising cost of maintaining the unit and lack of certified personnel. Right now we have four EMTs. That's it. I'm a career fire fighter. I work 24/48s. We've got another one who works ten hours a day, five days a week. We've got another who works for an ambulance service. He's probably a 24/48. The other one works long hours in a factory. We just have a hard time providing the service. We don't have the manpower right now to provide EMS. The ambulance cannot roll without an EMT on board. A first responder cannot take the ambulance out. I think what we are going to do is look into money or something where we can provide first responder classes for our people and have it to where all of our people are at least first responder certified. We will provide basic life support to the best of our ability. We will have to wait for ambulance to come from Columbus which is what we do if we don't have backup. We want to thank all who supported our ambulance service. We look forward to continue to provide quality medical care and fire protection to the Haw Creek Township and the whole community. It's with deep regrets from the members of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department. Jonathan asked for clarification on EMS and first responder. Are those synonyms. Randy answered EMT is Emergency Medical Technician. That is the one that takes six months to complete. They can pretty much do about everything except start an IV on somebody. Eventually they are going to start that. We used to have an advanced unit here but all our advanced people like I said, this was just a stepping stone. We had to go back to a basic unit. We have to carry a million dollar

malpractice insurance on that thing. It's costly. All the equipment we use on that ambulance, we pay for. We can't get it from the hospital or if an ambulance comes by to assist us, we try to get our supplies from them. If we don't, we have to provide the equipment ourselves. That's the just of the ambulance service. Like I said I've been doing it for thirty-five years. We've been around in service for probably fifty years. We're the oldest volunteer ambulance service in the state. Pretty much in the country. We regret to do it but we just don't have the manpower. Paula stated thank you for doing that. When I first heard it was going to stop June 1st it was kind of a shock because I hadn't heard that before. I put my feelers out. I got some pretty promising options to take care of our situation. I can't go into it right now but I will keep everybody informed as we go along. Hopefully we can solve some of this problem. We have other options and we're going to look into those. Randy stated we appreciate everything you've done for us and the support you've given us for the ambulance service. We'll see if we can work through it. Greg asked Matt if they still have the defibrillators. Matt confirmed. Matt stated we still have the defibrillators and full medic bags in each car. Randy stated we'll still be providing that kind of service too. I can take an engine out and we'll have everything that an EMT can use. Greg clarified that Columbus Regional is contacted first. Randy confirmed. Greg clarified they respond to every call. Randy confirmed. Greg asked you guys in the past have been kind of a backup. Randy stated no. In the past we have been the primary. Matt Tallent stated they dispatch both ambulances at the same time. Squad 15 if they get there, can disregard a medical unit that's coming. Greg asked if there is no one here to respond, that's why we are seeing Columbus Regional in the town. Randy confirmed. A lot of times if we have something serious, they will come anyway. If it's something minor like someone ill, we transport ourselves.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

*A Police, Animal Control, Utilities and Town Manager's report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

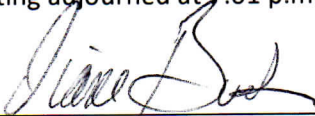
PUBLIC COMMENT

Nellie Meek stated I want to take this opportunity to thank the guys. We have had so many really great guys on here. I've been here 42 years in Hope. We've had some great guys and they have cared about the people in Hope and taking care of them. We do appreciate all that you guys have done. Paula stated I really don't think that is going to end. They are going to still be good guys and take care of us. Edward Stone with Town Board of Clifford stated I've been in this community, Flat Rock Township and Haw Creek Township for most of my life. The fire service has changed greatly over many years. For the simple fact that used to even when I worked at Cummins, I could leave and go do what I needed to do for the fire service. People don't have that option now days. They have to go further to work and take care of their family and their work before they can do that. That's why you are having so much more problem finding somebody to make runs. The biggest part of them have to work day shift. I think they ought to be applauded for what they do. Just like German Township by Taylorsville. We make many runs to go over and help them. That's what we are there for is to help each other out. I think the way the system has changed. The town used to be full with businesses around the square and everything. The people who ran the businesses used to leave and help fire services and the community and all that. They just don't have the option anymore. I think the town should get behind the fire department. I know probably twenty some years ago they did provide a little bit of money to help the fire department rebuild an engine that's probably twenty-five years old by now. In the small town of Clifford we applied for a grant

and got it. We should be getting a truck within two or three weeks. That's because we wanted to help the community out to replace a forty year old fire truck that we got. I would love to see the town step up and help these guys that are surviving trying to get things accomplished. If you go to talk to redevelopment people and ones wanting to come into town and everything, they are going to look at what kind of fire department you have here. Honestly I think you need a lot of room for improvement to try to help those guys. You can make this a whole lot better system. Paula thanked Edward. Bob Mayes asked does the town of Hope finance the fire department. Paula answered we have not signed a contract this year because we are still negotiating with the fire department. Bob asked why have we not signed the contract. Paula answered because we are still negotiating with the fire department. Bob asked have they made any runs. Paula answered yes they have. The township pays for the ambulance service at the present time. Bob stated I'm not talking about the ambulance. Paula continued the fire runs I'm not sure how many fires we've had. Randy answered we have. Bob stated they pay all their own expenses, their own equipment. Paula stated we understand all that. We are working with the fire department to get a budget. We're still at a standstill right now. Bob stated I don't know how they keep it insured and so on and so forth if they have no income. Paula answered I understand. Bob stated that's not a problem for the town I guess but it's a problem for the fire department. Paula stated no it's a definite issue. There is more to it than just that. Mel Fox stated it goes back to what we've repeatedly said. They have a major law suit against them of \$189,000. Last week they had mediation and nothing was settled. We're worried with the \$600,000 bank note and an \$189,000 law suit against them in a lien and then the building is not finished. Right now we are kind of waiting to see how they mediate this with Tim Ross, the builder. If we give them the money and they go bankrupt and we can't go out and engage like Clifford, Hartsville or other fire service. If we have to start our own, we have to see what's happening with this law suit. Edward asked how much money has the town assisted with the fire department on trying to build them a new station. Did the town help assist in building this new station with any funds. Paula answered we gave them information on how to go about getting a grant and they didn't ask for any funds from the town. Edwin stated I know the town has previously been asked for grants to get new trucks and that and the town has never applied for a grant to help the fire department. Paula answered we don't apply for the grant. They have to apply for it. Mel stated but they offered ARa repeatedly. It's right here in the minutes of January 2014. Since I've been here in the last ten months, we have offered ARa's services. Edward stated they started that fire station before then. Mel answered but they were offered in January. These are the minutes of January 2014 and then it was talked about that they would offer ARa for any grant writing. That was never pursued. Edward stated that fire department has been built up there, in the process for over two years. Mel asked am I wrong that you offered ARa in the past before I came. Greg confirmed more than once. The council agreed. Paula stated we offered our grant writers to the fire department to use. We don't write the grant. We have a grant writer. We told them they could contact them and they agreed. Edward stated they have to go through the town to get the grant. Mel stated no. They could have got a USDA Rural Development grant just like Westport did. Tim Ross built it. My husband ran that agency for eight years in the Bush administration. He was shocked that the fire department did not apply for one of those grants. Randy Woods stated we applied for several grants. I talked about his earlier. We've applied through FEMA and everybody. They told us that the Federal grants and since we get money from the town, they look back and say the town is getting four or five federal grants a year. We're not going to give you one. Have the town help you. Paula stated that's the first I've heard about that. Randy stated we've tried three or four different times. We've had a grant writer out there help us and she's never been turned down for a

FEMA grant but it came back to us that since you get town funding and the town applies for federal grants, we can't give you one. Paula stated you've given us information that we didn't have. Mel asked where are you with the mediation with the new building. Have you come close to settling. Randy answered he did not have a clue. The only thing I have is right now we are very, very, very limited on our finances. Can we do a from January until now contract to get money so we can continue to run our fire department until we figure out what is going on. Then do a month by month contract or something after that until we figure out something. We're very, very limited on funds right now. Greg asked if we ever got the documentation we've been asking for for six months. Mel clarified you mean the independent financial audit. You gave us a budget that was passed on and part of the note. We never got an independent financial audit of what the actual whole state of affairs is. Paula added the audit that we got was from Kenny Chandler. He said he is not an independent auditor. Mel stated that was just a budget. Greg asked we've been asking for that for how long. Paula answered over a year. Randy stated I heard that Kenny Chandler had done an audit for the town. Mel stated you gave us a budget not really an audit, right Diane. Diane answered I think you were wanting an independent audit. Paula stated he is on the fire department so he is not considered an independent auditor. He has ties to the fire department. Randy stated what I'm asking is can we do something here to get from January to now money to keep us going. Would anybody in here work for free. We are working for the town for free right now. If something happens in this town, would we be liable for it. Mel asked if the township has given them any money yet. Randy answered not yet. They give it to us in June and December. Mel stated we cut you a check in February for December's disbursement. Randy stated that went for bills. We had to have a ladder test this year. We had to have a pump test done. That eats up \$17,000 really quick. Greg recommended a working session. Mel said that would be great in June. Greg stated I don't think that the council wants to withhold any money from the fire department but I think there has to be both parties working together with this. Paula agreed. Greg stated Randy I know this has been the first meeting you've been to in a while but we asked for a lot of different things. Randy asked would you work for free. Greg stated I think we need to have a working session. Randy stated I think right now if something happens in the town, that we couldn't be held liable because we don't have a contract with the town. It would come back on the town. Greg answered at the last meeting and the meeting before we asked Bruce are we covered. His reply was yes. The town has fire protection. Randy stated we have talked to Ron Hatton about that for the township. Ron said the money he gives us is not, because the Town of Hope is incorporated, he does not provide fire protection for the town of Hope. His money is for the township. The town of Hope provides town funding. We need something guys. I'm sorry. Mel said this would be a situation for Reedy to help us with. Jonathan suggested a Working Session on June 1st. Paula stated we will have a working session on June 1st at 5:30. Mel asked Randy if he knows what his financial situation is. Do you know what the bottom line is right now. What your expenses have been so far. Randy answered no I don't. All I know is that \$17,000 we got last year. Ed can tell you the same thing \$17,000 on a pump test and ladder test. That eats up \$17,000 real quick. Mel asked didn't you have \$78,000 in the general fund. Randy stated I don't know about that. Paula stated we're going to have a working session to discuss this further.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Attest

Angela
Cyril Combs
Bob
Chris
John