



Jerusalem Township Board of Trustees Meeting
Held on March 23, 2021

The Board of Trustees of Jerusalem Township met in virtual session meeting on the above date at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom Meeting Online.

Dave Bench opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance with the members as listed during roll call:

Beau Miller, present
Dave Bench, present
Mark Sattler, present

Approval of Previous Minutes:

After review by the board, Mark Sattler made a motion to accept the March 9, 2021 Regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Beau Miller with roll call as follows:

Dave Bench, Yes
Beau Miller, Yes
Mark Sattler, Yes

Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer:

The Fiscal Officer reported a fund status of \$598,034.99 in pooled investments and \$74,650.70 in our checking account. We made payments with warrants 19553-19591 and electronic payments 37-2021 and 42-2021 through totaling \$28,167.92. Deposits since last meeting made totaling \$5,390.25. Mark Sattler made a motion to accept the payment and fund status report, seconded by Dave Bench with roll call as follows:

Dave Bench, Yes
Beau Miller, Yes
Mark Sattler, Yes

Motion carried.

Special - Lucas County Sheriff: Mike Navarre

After introduction from Mark Sattler and Dave Bench. Sheriff Navarre introduced himself and explained to the members of the board and citizens regarding the changes he will be making. Chief Navarre noted the issue comes down to fairness and states that 90% of County residents pay for policing. He reports that there are eight townships, seven in Western Lucas County with Jerusalem Township being the only township in Eastern Lucas County. Sheriff Navarre reports that he spends 4 million dollars a year to provide road patrol but only has a statutory obligation to operate a jail. He brings in only 16 million dollars in property taxes but spends 24 million a year to operate the jail.

Sheriff Navarre explained that the overhead of facilities is not what is costing so much in road patrol but the labor costs. He reported that he has one main station at the airport, one satellite station in Monclova Township and another satellite station in Jerusalem Township. He stated that it is much easier to provide police protection on the Western side of the County because the Townships are next to each other whereas Jerusalem Township is isolated. Chief Navarre reports it takes 5 officers to provide around the clock staffing seven days a week. He stated that beginning January 2023, he will end road patrols in Jerusalem Township unless Jerusalem Township pays \$500,000 per year.

Lonny - asked how many calls the Sheriff responds in the Township on a monthly basis. Chief Navarre reports there are hundreds of calls each month in the Township. Springfield Township has the most calls with 60%, Monclova has 20%, with the other 6 remaining with Jerusalem being 5% or less of the calls.

Anna - asked the Sheriff if the road patrol operations would be a benefit to the mission of prevention of crime and the support of mental health. Sheriff Navarre stated he supports the policing in the Township and road patrols absolutely will benefit reduction of crime and improvement of mental health along with the mission of the improvement of the correctional facilities.

Halbur - asked about what is the current staffing. Sheriff Navarre indicated we have at least one deputy on 24 hours a day but also the Township and the Sheriff utilizes adjacent jurisdictions such as Ohio Department of Natural Resources, City of Oregon, and State Highway patrol. She asked what level of coverage and for what period of time would the proposed \$500,000.00 cover? Chief Navarre reported that 5 full-time equivalents (FTEs) is an industry standard to ensure one deputy is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week per year.

Beau - asked the Sheriff about the ORC language regarding maintaining order and what this interpretation means to him. Sheriff Navarre stated he would either send a deputy to respond or contact another agency to respond if no road patrol is available for a call to service. Regarding minor calls for service such as noise complaints no officer would be dispatched.

Walter - does the Sheriff patrol non-participating communities in Lucas County? Sheriff Navarre reported that his responsibility is only for the eight townships that do not have their own police force.

Ann - question to the Trustees regarding what the other communities would charge if Jerusalem were to subcontract with them? Mark Sattler reported quotes are being collected from the City of Oregon police and the Ottawa County Sheriff. Beau Miller reported that Ottawa County is more than willing to patrol the Township but will not share the cost until something comes back from the City of

Oregon.

Brenda - asked Sheriff Navarre if he was the first line of law enforcement in Lucas County. Sheriff Navarre reported that nowhere is it written in the Ohio Revised Code that the Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in Lucas County. Sheriff Navarre also reported that his enforcement is limited to just Lucas County. Sheriff Navarre reported that the Ohio Supreme Court already ruled on the issue of road patrols

Brooke - asked what if another jurisdiction is doing patrolling, how would a citizen get ahold of someone. Chief Navarre reported that dispatch would contact the specific agency providing police protection. There might be a small delay but it is not a major issue and would not pose a significant problem.

Charles - what happened to the money collected from sales tax over the years for public safety and the fact the sheriff collected 60% with only 40 % going to the EMS system. Why is the EMS system in the County getting less funding? Sheriff Navarre mentioned the levy and its upcoming renewal and that he would need to get more information from the County Commissioners.

Brenda - asked the sheriff regarding the levy we are already paying for 911? Chief Navarre reported that the property tax levy up for renewal pays for the 911 infrastructure system. He also reported your cell phone bill pays also for a portion of 911 infrastructure cost, not the personnel costs.

Lonny - asked if the Sheriff is opposed to reducing the patrol to one officer at 40 hours a week, he suggests that the Township look to other options but again reinforced the need to have someone out here because the Township is isolated compared to the other seven counties.

Anna - asked the Sheriff what other counties should we look to for information about the changes he is suggesting. Chief Navarre reported that Summit, Hamilton, Lorain, Butler and Montgomery are good examples. Chief Navarre reported that there are counties that only have Sheriff service and no other police agencies.

Brooke - if the patrols stop, where would the officer come from when they respond to a 911 emergency call? Sheriff Navarre reported that it depends on how the other Townships would respond to the cost of road patrol. Not sure if they are coming from the airport, the jail or elsewhere. Because seven of the eight counties are on the western side, they have easier access to a deputy.

Brenda - asked what is the size of the patrol staff of the Sheriff's office compared to what information is being shared on the website? The Sheriff reported that the website information is inaccurate and he is not sure how they are measuring but reported he has 161 square miles of area that they currently patrol.

Brenda - asked if citizens would be deputized by his office. Sheriff Navarre responded no, only those individuals who are trained can be considered law enforcement officers.

Halbur - what is the annual budget for the Sheriffs Department? Sheriff Navarre spends 24.3 million to operate the jail but his annual budget is 60 million annually.

Joel - does the Sheriff know of any other townships who plan to pay for their portion of the road patrol? Sheriff Navarre reported that Monclova Township has a levy for police services and Springfield is considering options. He is not aware of the plans of any other Townships.

Melissa - what is the township budget? Joel reported that is is under \$2 million dollars with less than \$100,000.00 for general fund use (currently the only funds we could use for police services). All other funds are restricted funds for dedicated uses such as fire department, cemetery, roads and recreation.

Michael - representative Sheehy's contact thanked everyone for attending and apologized that representative Sheehy could not participate tonight.

Halbur - are there any additional taxes or levies we are not paying that other communities are paying that support the Sheriff budget? Sheriff Navarre explained the difference between cities and villages and how they have income taxes. Townships cannot have income taxes and must pass special levies to raise funds. Sheriff Navarre does not know of any other sources of funding. He did reconfirm that 90% of the County residents pay for police protection (via local income taxes) in some form because of where they reside.

Chuck - does the sheriff have the information for the calls to service for Jerusalem Township. Sheriff Navarre stated that information is with the Trustees. Chuck asked if we could just have a deputy for the busy times, we need a deputy versus all the time. Sheriff Navarre reported the Township's best option might be the City of Oregon because his deputies are mostly in Western Lucas County.

James - with the money the Sheriff's Department would save by not providing road patrols, will the other operations also see staffing reductions? Sheriff Navarre reported he could not see any staffing reductions because there will always be enough individuals leaving the department through attrition to address any reduction in monies for salaries.

Robbie - to the trustees regarding if we would get a quote from ODNR and Metroparks. Beau Miller reported that the State of Ohio would not be able to provide any coverage and the ODNR is not at the park on a set schedule.

Fire Department: Tony Parasiliti

No report, not in attendance.

Recreation: Mike Skitowski

No report, not in attendance.

Zoning: Linda Rossler

No report.

Maintenance: Kevin Chapman

Working on the manual pump over in the Wallace Road edition, water pumped down earlier this

week. We have pumps ready for use.

Cemetery: Kevin Chapman

Driveway widened today over at expansion. Two funerals this week and a cremation burial as well. There is also a full burial on Saturday which will more than likely go past 12 noon.

Trustee Reports:

Cemetery – no additional report.

Hall Rental – the board all agrees to continue to hold off any hall rentals for the month of April.

Roads – no report.

Old Business:

Tabled until next month.

New Business:

Tabled until next month.

Public Participation:


None

Adjournment:

With no further business before the Board Mark Sattler made a motion to adjourn today's meeting. Seconded by Dave Bench with roll call as follows:

Beau Miller, Yes
Dave Bench, Yes
Mark Sattler, Yes

Motion carried at 8:35 p.m.



Attested



Approved