

January 18, 2010
Joint Public Hearing

Wilmington Township Representatives
Heather Jones, Township Trustee
David Capp, Board of Trustees
Howard Troyer, Board of Trustees
Lester Nelson, Board of Trustees

City of Butler Representatives
Ron Walter, Mayor
Eric Johnson, Common Council
Tammy Davis, Common Council
Kenneth Olin, Common Council
Gerald Eldridge, Common Council
DeNeal Coburn, Common Council
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Gerald McNerney, City Attorney

Mayor Walter convened the joint Meeting of the Wilmington Township Board of Trustees and the Common Council of the City of Butler at 6:34 pm at 120 West Main Street, Butler Indiana. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a Joint Public Hearing of both bodies concerning the creation of a Fire Territory and to consider any other business that may come before them. Mayor Walter then declared the public hearing open and turned the conduct of the hearing over to Mr. Gerald McNerney, the city attorney.

Mr. McNerney began by introducing the township and city officials present and introduced Mr. Tom Guevera from Crowe Horwath, who was attending to answer any financial questions. Mr. McNerney then handed out the proposed ordinance, resolution, assessed values and budget history to the audience.

Mr. McNerney stated that the purpose of forming a fire territory is to have a uniform tax rate for fire protection. The proposed territory would create one taxing unit rather than having separate City and Township taxing units for the purpose of funding fire protection. He then explained the other handouts that showed the respective contributions of the various townships to the WFST fire budgets and the respective assessed valuations of the townships.

Sandy Harrison of Franklin Township asked why the other townships of WFST were not invited to form the territory. Mr. McNerney stated that Wilmington Township and the City were concerned about the voting power of the townships when the assessed values are so different. He also stated that the other townships would have the opportunity to join the territory if they so wished or could continue as they are and contract for fire protection.

Cecil Whitman of Troy Township asked how the share of the budget for the fire department will change for the townships that are not part of the fire protection territory. He also asked who owns the current equipment. Mr. McNerney stated that the budget will still be negotiated the way it is currently and that he does not see ownership of the equipment changing.

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An individual from the audience asked if WFST was being dissolved. Mr. McNerney stated that it was not, it would become FST. Nothing would change except that Wilmington is part of the fire territory and would have an actual fire protection tax.

There was then some discussion on what the new tax rate would be. Mr. Guevara of Crowe Horwath stated that the fire cum fund would be limited to 3 1/3 cents to \$100 of assessed value. There really isn't any way to figure what the tax for the fire protection territory would be until a budget is formed.

Sandy Harrison expressed some concerns about ownership of the current equipment and if the other townships will need to pay anything. Mr. McNerney and Mr. Guevera both stated that ownership of the current equipment would remain the same.

Mayor Walter asked for additional comments or questions. Hearing none, he declared the public hearing closed at 7:13 pm.

After the hearing, the Wilmington Township Board of Trustees conducted the following business:


Mr. Capp called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. He announced that they would keep the same officers as 2009 for the purpose of this meeting.

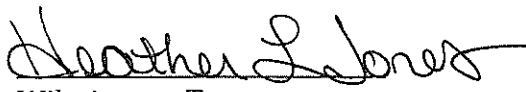
Mr. Nelson made a motion to adopt Resolution 1-2010 along with the agreement with the City of Butler. Mr. Capp asked for any discussion. There was none. Mr. Troyer seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

The City of Butler was having a Common Council meeting later that evening and would wait until then to conduct any further business.

The Joint Meeting was, upon a motion duly made and seconded, adjourned.


Clerk-Treasurer


Wilmington Trustee