

Minutes

April 23, 2024

1. **Opening of Meeting**

Ms Ulrich called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

All trustees and the fiscal officer were present.

2. **Executive Session 6PM**

Mr Weckbach recommended the board of trustees go into executive session in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(3) to discuss pending or imminent litigation and also in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss employment and discipline of employees and also in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(8) to consider confidential information related to specific business strategy and to discuss negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Executive session convened at 6:01pm.

Ms Ulrich called the meeting back to order at 7:00pm

All trustees and the fiscal officer were present.

Mr Weckbach had nothing to report from executive session.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance 7PM**

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Meditation (Moment of Silence)**

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Baker recommended a motion for the approval of the minutes from the board of trustees meeting on April 9, 2024.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

All voted Yes. Minutes approved.

6. **Presentations**

a. **Proclamation Recognizing T & C Alterations**

Motion to amend the agenda to add the proclamation for Beverly Hater

Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger

All voted Yes. Agenda amended

Ms Ulrich read the proclamation for Beverly Hater into the record.

Motion to approve proclamation Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger

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All voted Yes
Proclamation approved

T & C Alterations has been a valued small business that has served many aspects of the Colerain Township community for 40 years and very worthy of special recognition.
Ms Ulrich read the proclamation into the record
Motion to approve proclamation Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich
All voted Yes. Proclamation approved.

b. Recognition of Class 4 of the Township Academy

This was the fourth year of the Township Academy. Participants spent time with each Department, learning about the daily activities and tasks required to keep the Township operating. Participants from this class include:

- Barbara Colvin
- Michael Hardert
- Laura Meyer
- Mike Meyer
- Jeri Reddert
- Eric Reifenberger
- Diane Salvato
- Joseph Salvato
- Brandon Upchurch
- Don Wright

We want to thank our participants for spending their past several Thursday evenings with us!

c. Presentation on NWLSD by Amy Wells

Amy Wells, Treasurer for the Northwest Local School District, provided an update on activities of the District to the Trustees.

7. Public Hearings

a. Public Hearing - Case CZC-24-1 - Zoning Text Amendment to Article 7.4.13:
Group Homes for Children

This public hearing was first held on April 9th, 2024 and then continued to today's meeting. This public hearing is required before the Trustees can take action on the proposed text amendments. A resolution to either approve or deny the text amendments is contemplated for later on in this agenda.

Motion to resume the public hearing from 4-9-24 Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert
All voted Yes. Public hearing resumed.

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Mr Byrnes swore in all those who wished to speak.

Andrew Booker - He mentioned he had his whole team with him. Mr Booker is the founder of a group home. He said we're here to help. He thanked Colerain for being a front-runner for the program. He mentioned the three levels of group homes. He said it's a voluntary program at his home and they cannot hold them. He said it's a stereotype to label them as a half-way house.

AW - He talked about how the group home helped him. He said the therapy and medication helped him. He saw change for the first time. He said the group home put him in a trade school and he's seen a great change. He said they treat him as family.

Alonda Malone - She shared her story with Legacy. She said she has been taking care of kids since she was 22. She said the kids need love in order to change. She talked about the incident on Hawkhurst. Environment plays a role in the success of the group home residents. She questioned why they weren't in the loop on the complaints. She said Legacy has a 90% success rate. Specific comments made below.

01:16:40 "only one incident in a whole year"

01:18:00 "we just found out about the complaints"

01:20:40 "an isolated incident"

01:21:00 "just being made aware of this" .

April Dunmore - She is the Compliance Manager for Legacy. She talked about the compliance models for the group home. She talked about seeking community issues. She addressed the proposal to "provide contracts of youth in care". She said all case records are confidential. She said she doesn't think putting them in one zone will resolve the issues.

Carrie Davis - She says she's curious if it's factual that the police have been there the number of times they say they have. She said the residents have been terrorized. She mentioned these kids are disadvantaged. She said I feel you're taking the necessary action with this amendment.

Motion to close the public hearing Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert
All voted Yes. Public hearing closed.

b. Public Hearing for 2021-2023 CBDG Funding Request Change

There are approximately \$55,000 remaining in the Township's 2021-2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding cycle. These dollars were allocated for a facade improvement program. Given the lack of eligible locations for this program, staff is recommending that these dollars be reallocated to the Sovereign Road speed cushions. This public hearing is required in order to change any funding in the Township's existing CDBG allocation.

Motion to open the public hearing Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert
All voted Yes. Public hearing opened.

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Mr Byrnes swore in all those who wished to speak.

Carrie Davis - She said everybody in the world supports speed cushions on Sovereign. She will report you's to the Feds. She said Northbrook isn't getting ditty squat. You won't even give them a gazebo.

Lori McMullin - She talked about the fight for sidewalks and they don't want a gazebo instead of sidewalks. She said Sovereign deserves to have a safe street and this Northbrook resident supports that.

Motion to close the public hearing Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger
All voted Yes. Public hearing closed.

8. **Citizens Address**

Lori McMullin - Thank you for recognizing Bev Hater and the contributions she made to Colerain. She spoke about the discussion about Colerain becoming a city. She said we need money. She said, realistically we need to become a city. She talked about investing in the flock camera system. May 4th is Northbrook Clean up Day.

Eric Reifenberger - He talked about having a city instead of a township. He worries about the changes involved.

Bruce Peirano - He said he's lost trust in Colerain Township. He agrees with the changes to the group homes. He talked again about the package regarding the change in becoming a city. He is not in favor of becoming a city. He wants less government and less taxes. He said there's a lot of downsides.

Melissa Pizza - She came to talk about the home she inherited from her mother. She said she currently lives in Florida. She talked about the legislation about the property being considered as rental property. She said it's only a \$50 fee but she feels targeted. Code enforcement should be the same for every property.

Carrie Davis - She talked about the audit report. She mentioned abatements. She talked about Mike Dewine's press conference about weed dispensaries. She said we need JEDD's and we need to look at other areas to generate revenue.

9. **Administrative Reports**

Mr Weckbach - The township doesn't charge impact fees. Impact fees go with water or sewer lines. The governance memo speaks to all continuums.

Ms Mays - There will be two ribbon-cutting ceremonies. They are grand openings for our two new playgrounds. Skyline Park will be May 14th at 5:00pm.
Colerain Park will be May 28th at 5:00pm.



10.

Trustees' Report

Ms Ulrich - For people who aren't on our Facebook, watch out for the closure between Jonrose and Shadycrest. She mentioned the changes to police responses due to minor issues stemming from the failed levy.

Mr Wahlert - Regarding marijuana dispensaries, the state has already taken that away so we're not missing out on any revenue. He talked about the multiple meetings with Legacy Properties.

Mr Unger - Just because someone comes up here and speaks at the podium, doesn't mean what they're saying has any facts or truth to it. It saddens me that people leave before the trustees can respond to their allegations, but that's typical. I have also visited the group homes. I want the best thing for these kids.

11.

New Business

Public Safety

- a. Motion Authorizing Pay Increase and Adoption of a Wage Scale for Department of Fire and EMS Seasonal Fire Hydrant Personnel

Chief Walls recommended ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: I respectfully request the Board of Trustees consider a pay increase and two-year wage scale for Department of Fire and EMS Seasonal Fire Hydrant Personnel. The current pay rate for Seasonal Fire Hydrant Personnel is \$16.00 per hour. The proposal includes the following increases and steps:

Classification	2024	2025
Seasonal Hydrant Tech 1	\$16.47	\$17.00
Seasonal Hydrant Tech 2	\$16.90	\$17.43

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No discussion.

All voted Yes. Motion approved.

- b. Resolution Declaring Nuisance and Ordering Abatement

Chief Cordie recommended ADOPTION of Resolution #39-24.

Rationale: This resolution allows for the removal of uncontrolled vegetation and/or refuse at the following properties:

7681 Livingston Rd 510-0211-0016-00

7150 Colerain Ave 510-0074-0456-00

All properties that are abated by the Township will have their property taxes assessed in order to reimburse the Township for the abatement services. This resolution and the Township's abatement process comport with the Ohio Revised Code for nuisance violations.

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Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich

No discussion.

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Resolution passed.

c. Resolution Declaring a Junk Motor Vehicle - 3645 Stone Creek Blvd. - 1 of 4

Chief Cordie recommended ADOPTION of Resolution #40-24.

Rationale: Recommend Adoption of the Motion to Declare and Order Abatement of the Junk Motor Vehicle at the Following Property: 3645 Stone Creek Blvd. Cincinnati, OH 45251 1. (OH) JHH7614, 2016, WHITE, GMC, TERRAIN 2. (OH) HVB1112, 2005, BLUE, CHRYSLER, 300 3. (NO PLATE) 1997, TAN, TOYOTA, CAMRY 4. (OH) EDP2515, 2004, WHITE, SATURN, ION.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich

No discussion.

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Resolution passed.

d. Resolution Declaring a Junk Motor Vehicle - 3663 Stone Creek Blvd. - 2 of 4

Chief Cordie recommended ADOPTION of Resolution #41-24.

Rationale: Recommend Adoption of the Motion to Declare and Order Abatement of the Junk Motor Vehicle at the Following Property: 3663 Stone Creek Blvd. Cincinnati, OH 45251 1. (OH) JJA6014, 2005, GREY, ACURA, RL 2. (OH) HZK8957, 2018, GREY, HYUNDAI, ELANTRA.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No discussion

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes.

Resolution passed.

e. Resolution Declaring a Junk Motor Vehicle - 6948 Kellway Ct. - 3 of 4

Chief Cordie recommended ADOPTION of Resolution #42-24.

Rationale: Recommend Adoption of the Motion to Declare and Order Abatement of the Junk Motor Vehicle at the Following Property: 6948 Kellway Ct. Cincinnati, OH 45239 1. (OH) JOA8232, 2008, BLUE/BLACK, FORD, FOCUS.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No discussion.

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes.

Resolution passed.

f. Resolution Declaring a Junk Motor Vehicle - 11467 Pippin Rd. - 4 of 4

Chief Cordie recommended ADOPTION of Resolution #43-24.

Rationale: Recommend Adoption of the Motion to Declare and Order Abatement of the Junk Motor Vehicle at the Following Property: 11467 Pippin Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45231 1. (OH) EHS8148, 2003, GREY, DODGE, RAM 1500.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger



No discussion.

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes.

Resolution passed.

Development

- a. Resolution to Approve/Deny CZC-24-1 Zoning Text Amendment for Group Homes for Children

Mr Miller recommended ADOPTION of Resolution #44-24.

Rationale: Beginning in November of 2023, a large influx of applications was being received by Colerain Township Planning & Zoning Staff for Group Homes for Children. Due to the encumbering nature of such applications and the process required to review them, including the uses of all neighboring residences within 600' of the proposed Group Home for Children, compounded by numerous complaints from neighbors regarding existing Group Homes for Children, and scheduled inspections by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Staff determined that formulating a text amendment could help address these issues. In summary, this text amendment will: - Change the definition of a "Group Home for Children" to have it more broadly apply to all group homes - Restrict group homes to R-7 zoning districts - Provide the Township with the ability to obtain copies of any custodial contracts - Provide the Township with the ability to revoke a zoning certificate if any group home is deemed a "nuisance property" per resolution 109-22 (and its successors).

Motion to approve Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich No discussion:

Vote - Ms Ulrich - Yes, Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes Resolution passed.

Receipt of Zoning Commission recommendation and Motion for Board of

- b. Trustees to set a Public Hearing for May 14, 2024 for case CZC-24-2, Zoning Map Amendment requiring a Preliminary Development Plan at 9328 Pippin Road.

Mr Miller recommended ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: The Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on April 8, 2024 on case CZC-24-2, a Zoning Map Amendment requiring a Preliminary Development Plan and recommended Approval of the case to the Board of Trustees. A Public Hearing on case CZC-24-2 is required by the Board of Trustees as part of the Map Amendment process.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich

Discussion:

Ms Ulrich - This is a \$58 Million dollar project?

Mr Miller - It's about \$49 - \$50 Million.

Mr Unger - Does that project have sidewalks with it?

Mr Weckbach - I believe most of our projects would require sidewalks if they don't already exist.

All voted Yes. Motion approved.



Administration

- a. Motion Authorizing Township Administrator to Execute an Amendment to the Colerain Historical Society Memorandum of Understanding

Ms Mays recommended ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: On January 23, 2024, the Township entered into an agreement with the Colerain Historical Society. The agreement states that the operation of the museum hours are limited due to the renovation of the basement into the training center. During that time, office and meeting space was limited and the space that the Historical Society utilized was shared with staff. Once the basement remodel was completed, there were more options for staff to meet and therefore, the Historical Society could occupy their designated area without limitations. The amendment identifies this issue with language to reflect the new operating hours and a full-term contract.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No discussion.

All voted Yes. Motion approved.

- b. Motion to Amend 2021-2023 CDBG Allocation for Purchase of Speed Cushions for Sovereign Drive

Mr Weckbach recommended ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: This motion would amend the existing 2021-2023 CDBG funding to allow for the purchase of speed cushions on Sovereign Drive. Previously, these dollars were set aside for a Facade Improvement program that was unable to find eligible properties.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Ms Ulrich

Discussion:

Mr Unger - There was a comments during citizen comment about the value of the homes there. These are all going on the old established part of Sovereign, not the new section.

Ms Mays - Correct.

Mr Weckbach - The county utilizes maps that are created at the national level that aggregate data based off census tracts.

All voted Yes. Motion approved.

- c. Motion to Authorize Township Administrator to Apply for Community Development Block Grant for 2024 - 2026

Mr Weckbach recommended ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: Staff has held two separate public hearings to solicit feedback on potential projects for completion in the 2024- 2026 funding cycle through CDBG with Hamilton County. Ultimately, Hamilton County will determine which projects are funded. Below are the proposed projects:

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40,000.00 Sidewalks – Breezy Way
100,000.00 Groesbeck Park Study and Improvements
100,000.00 Home Rehab Project
100,000.00 Sidewalks on Springdale Road from Colerain to Loralinda

The Township has removed the Blanchetta Basketball court project as it was deemed ineligible by CDBG staff.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No discussion:

All voted Yes. Motion approved.

d. Discussion - Governance Review

Motion to amend agenda to move this item from 11. Administration item D to item D of Presentations Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich

All voted Yes. Agenda amended and item moved.

Staff authored the attached memorandum that takes a deep dive and holistic look at the various governance models by which the Township can be organized. The goal of this review was to explore alternatives that could allow for a different method by which the Township could be funded or operated. The areas reviewed are listed below for summary purposes:

- Non-Home Rule Township, with limited service provision
- Limited Home Rule Township (Colerain's current operating model)
- Incorporation as a Village
- Incorporation as a City
- Incorporation via Merger
- Property tax levies on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis

Discussion:

Ms Ulrich - If we were to incorporate the areas we voted on, if you were working at GE and lived in Colerain, you would not be subjected to paying the rate from Evendale?

Mr Weckbach - It depends on the rates and the recipricle agreements between those municipalities.

Ms Ulrich - So someone working in Fairfield, they're paying the city of Fairfield.

Mr Weckbach - Yes. And also, if that resident lived in Fairfield and worked in Colerain, they're also paying the city of Fairfield.

Mr Wahlert - So I pay Cincinnati, I don't know if everyone has a recipricle agreement, which is important too. So if we carved out my precinct (O) and they have a vote on this, the rest of the township doesn't get a say on whether precinct O becomes a city?

Mr Weckbach - That is my understanding.

Ms Ulrich - We've had discussions with some of the neighborhoods about starting a



grassroots campaign for this?

Mr Weckbach - A couple of neighborhoods have indicated that they have an interest in exploring these options.

Mr Unger - Mr Unger read a formal statement that will be included in the back of the finalized minutes.

Mr Weckbach - We are facing a serious financial challenge. TIF's are not going to be the end all be all.

12. Old Business

a. Discussion and Potential Action - 2864 Houston

This project was set to be completed on March 10th, per the original agreement and the extension previously granted by the Trustees. At the March 26th, 2024 meeting the Board of Trustees requested this item be moved to the April 23rd meeting for an update and continued conversation. Interior and exterior photos, as provided by the owner, are attached to this agenda item.

Motion to continue until June 11, 2024 Mr Wahlert, Seconded Ms Ulrich

All voted Yes. Discussion continued to 6-11-24.

13. Consent Items

a. Contract - KZF - Zoning Resolution Amendment - \$0

The attached is an amendment to the original contract with KZF for the adoption of a comprehensive update to the zoning resolution that would reflect the tenets of the recently approved comprehensive plan for the Township. This agreement is for zero cost and aligns the original scope of work with modified outcomes that were mutually agreeable to all parties.

b. Contract - Pepper Construction - Change Order No. 3 - \$117.36

Pepper Construction had a change in project managers, due to staff turnover. There were a number of smaller items that needed to be addressed to fully close out the work being completed under the former project manager before transitioning to the new project manager. These changes are reflected in the \$117.36 change order.

Contingency Accounting:

Current:

Change Order 1: No change

Change Order 2: \$33,845.22

Change Order 3: \$117.36

New Contingency Total: \$266,037.42

c. Promotion - Full-time Firefighter/EMT - Department of Fire and EMS - Chris

Billups - \$22.43 per Hour

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The position of Firefighter/Paramedic was posted, applications were received, and interviews were conducted. A conditional offer of employment has been extended to the following individual:

- Chris Billups

The wage for this job is \$22.43 per hour for 52 hours per week. Contingent upon Board approval, he would be eligible to begin work on April 29, 2024.

- d. Promotion - Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic - Department of Fire and EMS - Jachyn (Jake) Laney - \$25.40 per Hour

The position of Firefighter/Paramedic was posted, applications were received, and interviews were conducted. A conditional offer of employment has been extended to the following individual:

- Jachyn (Jake) Laney

The wage for this job is \$25.40 per hour for 52 hours per week. Contingent upon Board approval, he would be eligible to begin work on May 14, 2024.

New Hire - PT Seasonal Maintenance - Public Services Department

- e. 1. Matthew Moore - \$15/hour
2. Benjamin Broughton - \$14/hour
3. Jennifer Ashleman - \$14/hour

The position of Seasonal Maintenance Worker was posted, applications were received and interviews conducted. A conditional offer of employment was extended to the following individuals:

- 1. Matthew Moore - \$15/hour
2. Benjamin Broughton - \$14/hour
3. Jennifer Ashleman - \$14/hour

Contingent upon Board approval, these employees would be eligible to begin work on April 24, 2024.

New Hire - Summer Camp Counselor - Public Services

- f. 1. Morgan Memory - \$12.50/hour
2. Sophia Ward - \$12.00/hour
3. Shezaiyah McKinney - \$12.00/hour
4. Madelyn Skoumbros - \$12.00/hour

The position of Summer Camp Counselor was posted, applications were received and interviews conducted. A conditional offer of employment was extended to the following individuals:

- 1. Morgan Memory - \$12.50/hour
2. Sophia Ward - \$12.00/hour
3. Shezaiyah McKinney - \$12.00/hour
4. Madelyn Skoumbros - \$12.00/hour

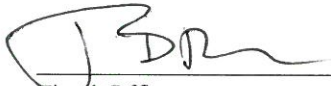
Contingent upon Board approval, these employees would be eligible to begin work on April 24, 2024.

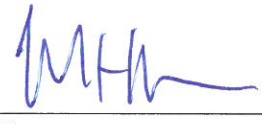
Motion to approve all consent items Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger
All voted Yes. All Consent items approved.

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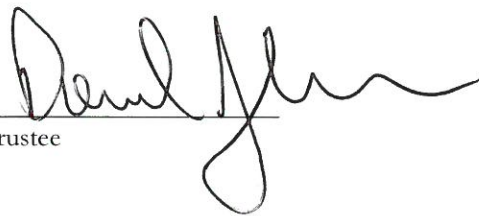
TOWNSHIP - OHIO

14. **Fiscal Office Report**
No report.
15. **Executive Session** – if needed
Not needed.
16. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger
All voted Yes.
Meeting adjourned at 9:34pm



Fiscal Officer

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Object is to “Chart a Pathway to Long-Term Financial Stability”

As I mention at our public meetings, as trustees, we do not get to talk to each other outside of meetings, so I was quite surprised to see this memo and the idea of becoming a city when I saw the draft agenda last week.

This memo notes that levy attempts failed in November and March and “given the uncertainty of township voters to pay for or support an increase in taxes” (and subsequent increased spending), that the township should explore alternative governance models.

It is obvious that you have spent quite a bit of time spent working on these suggestions, even going so far as to carve up the township into 4 separate areas noted as “Potential Ways to Incorporate Colerain “

One of the options suggested in your memo what is referred to as the “Truest form of a Non-home rule township” which would limit us to road and cemetery maintenance and Fire Protection (which I guess would mean a few fire trucks and No EMS and No Colerain Police) I think that support for this would be very limited and perhaps only to property owners in the more remote areas of the township and would not be workable for anyone else here.

Another option explored is to become a Village, which as it turns out would be very geographically and legally challenging as none of the districts you mention would meet the State of Ohio qualifications for a Village.

It seems extreme that because of the failure to pass a police levy in the past 4 months, in a very economically challenging time, that we would change away from the long term successes of our township form of government that we have had for the past 225 + years. Our steady economic and population growth over the past 80 years (since the population of the City of Cincinnati started a long decline in the late 1940’s of people migrating to suburban township life) has been because of our township form of government, which is a more economically attractive and much smaller government, with property tax rates always lower than any surrounding incorporated area and also, without a regressive income tax.

I think that as we are discussing this memo and the future, it is equally important that we look back over the past few years to see where we have been

It seems that it was about 10 – 11 years ago that the “then” trustees attempted to create a Joint Economic Development District, which would have ultimately resulted in an Income Tax for those contiguous businesses and other parcels, stretching along Colerain Avenue starting near Struble and continuing south almost to Galbraith. The income tax collected was to solve the demands of that time and to put the township back in good fiscal health. I recall that the JEDD issue was very divisive and the

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proposal failed hard at the ballot box. None of the trustees at that time nor the township administrator survived.

Even though the JEDD issue failed and salaries somewhat stagnated and some hard times followed, police were able to get a 3% increase by the end of 2017. The new 2018 incoming board of trustees charted a different path. Voters approved a small 3.0 mil Fire levy in 2020 and by the end of 2021, we made it to a much improved financial situation, making the very last payment on our outstanding bonds, making Colerain Township free of General Obligation debt.

Around that same time, when discussing the future funding needs of the township, we began to create more Tax Increment Financing Districts, much as other townships such as Green and Anderson Twp have used for many years to create a stable and more predictable revenue stream. These TIFS do not reduce the total tax paid by an individual or business, but they do direct the taxes paid back to the township to be used only within the township. One of the other trustees talked about a "bridge" to the TIFS and while it takes a while for the TIFS we created to start producing maximum revenue, I believe that those are a progressive funding stream to build for a solid future rather than a punitive income tax which might discourage the next generation of income earning residents from living in Colerain.

Coincidentally, in the local news this week, there have been several stories about something called the "Cincinnati Futures Report" (which might be a larger version of tonight's memo) which was put together by an appointed (non-organic) committee and suggests a lot of ideas about the future of Cincinnati, including that an income tax rate increase would help to solve their issues. It seems it was just last fall that the Mayor said that if voters would approve the sale of the city owned Southern Railroad, that money would solve their financial issues. (which apparently it does not solve their financial issues)

With regard to your memo suggesting that the trustees might consider contributing "somewhere around" \$50,000 to support this political initiative, if there is any business or citizen group that wants to put an issue on a future ballot, I believe in their freedom to do so. In my duty to look out for the best interests of the township; it doesn't seem like spending township money to dissolve the township form of government is a good idea. We certainly have other areas that could use \$50,000, including our police department.

Some of the advantages suggested in your memo include additional rules and regulations for the township residents and businesses; a Mayor's Court to enforce those rules and the ability to collect an earnings tax locally, as long as there is reciprocity with other cities so that our residents who work outside of Colerain do not pay income taxes in multiple jurisdictions. One of the comments in the aforementioned "Cincinnati Futures Report" was the level of difficulty to start a new business in Cincinnati due to the bureaucracy of dealing with City government. I believe that the current size of our township administration is enough to manage the core functions that we are to provide as a township. Becoming a city would necessarily cause a notable increase in employment, including payroll and benefit costs, including the addition of a fully staffed tax department

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to handle tax returns, investigations, appeals and collections, along with additional legal costs when individual cases are challenged.

There is also a comment in the memo about Colerain hosting its' own Storm Water District, (rather than using Hamilton County Stormwater) reducing the property tax bill line item that goes to the county stormwater district. Does this mean that the new City of Colerain would assume the cost of stormwater engineering and projects that are within the township? There are currently a backlog of unknown millions of dollars of stormwater corrections and other needs within the township. There are EPA mandates that would bankrupt us. We do not have the engineering staff or other qualified persons to operate the department and would need to hire several more people or an outside engineering firm to do the work for us. It would certainly cost multiples of the \$500,000 mentioned in the memo. Because of the nature of waterflow across the county ultimately crossing numerous jurisdictions on its way to the Ohio River, the cost of legal challenges from others upstream and downstream could dwarf any savings. It is better that Hamilton County (not Colerain) continues to assume the risks and costs associated.

There is another comment in your memo about becoming a city concerning an ability to regulate discharging of fire arms on private property within a city. I believe that Cincinnati does not allow discharge of firearms within the city limits...Cincinnati has "shot spotter" and other equipment to determine a direction that shots might be coming from..... turn on the news when you get home, tonight or 6 months from tonight. Cincinnati has not been able to stop discharge of firearms, it seems to be unenforceable..... We have thousands of responsible firearm owners here in Colerain and regulating firearms being in this memo would probably not be popular among responsible residents. We are also the host community for SODGA (Southern Ohio Dog and Game Protective Association) which has been on East Miami River Rd since the 1940's. It is my understanding that there are 1,000 members and a waiting list to become a member. There are firearm safety classes and training and range shooting among the membership.

With regards to the whole concept of changing our township form of government, or subdividing into smaller districts as you suggest, there are some major issues that are unique to the Township of Colerain.

After years of dispute and legal costs, the township and the local landfill operator reached a consent agreement (2015) that has provided a very steady and dependable revenue stream which provides funding for our road program and many other basic services. Would changing the size of Colerain or subdividing into smaller districts cause a disruption to the agreement? What would happen if there was a legal discussion and challenge to reduce the annual payments, that might result in those funds being escrowed for a few years while the disagreement was resolved? Could we survive without major cuts?

How would becoming a city affect our energy aggregation contracts if we subdivide or become a different form of government?

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What about the loss of license plate fees and fuel tax revenues if those amounts get divided between smaller entities?

What if we are required to give away our parks or fire houses to the new smaller entities because of their physical location? With respect to the fire houses under construction, will the township be repaid the costs if they happen to be in a new smaller district? Will those smaller districts even be able to borrow money to build their own buildings? What would happen to this building that we are sitting in right now? Would some future City of Colerain take us to court to try and take our building?

What about the assets of Northwest Local School District? Prior to March 1960, there was the Colerain Consolidated School District and the Monfort Heights School District. As a City, I think we would need to be a City School District. I don't think NW would turn over their properties located in Colerain and I don't recall getting the funds from the sale of the Bevis Elementary property, (which is located in Colerain Township) . A quick look at ORC 3311 tells us that, as a city, we cannot be a Local School District, we might need to become a City School District. The legal hurdles and costs would be high.

And.... What would happen to you, as the township administrator, and other positions unique to the township form of government?

Other comments and questions

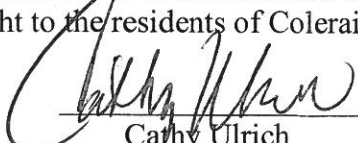
**PROCLAMATION FOR
T&C ALTERATIONS
FOR 40 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE
AS A SMALL BUSINESS
IN COLERAIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO**

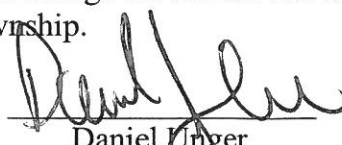
COLERAIN
TOWNSHIP - OHIO

- Whereas** T&C Alterations was started 40 years ago by Teresa & Clarence Holland in 1983 and has since been an exemplary small business in Colerain Township; and
- Whereas** Nancy Pratt took over ownership of T&C Alterations in 2013 and loves to provide a multitude of custom alteration and creative services to her customers from wedding gowns to prom dresses for local high schools to everyday wear; and
- Whereas** Nancy Pratt loves to serve her community in many other ways such as holding clothing drives, donating to teachers and police, as well as feeding and donating to schools; and
- Whereas** Nancy Pratt is respected and loved by many in the community and has a commitment to giving back and making connections with those she serves.

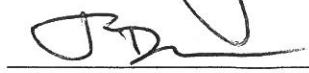
Be it Proclaimed that the Colerain Township Board of Trustees recognizes T&C Alterations for their long dedication and service to the Township.

Be it Resolved that in recognition of T&C Alterations for their 40 years of service in Colerain Township, the Board of Trustees hereby proclaim Tuesday April 23, 2024 as a special day of recognition for T&C Alterations to acknowledge the service and dedication this small business has brought to the residents of Colerain Township.


Cathy Ulrich
Trustee


Daniel Unger
Trustee


Matt Wahlert
Trustee


Jeffrey D. Baker
Fiscal Officer

Date: April 23, 2024

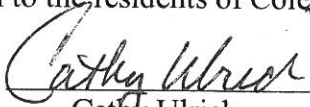
**PROCLAMATION FOR
BEVERLY HATER
FOR MANY YEARS OF EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE
IN COLERAIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO**

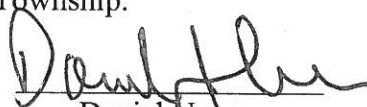


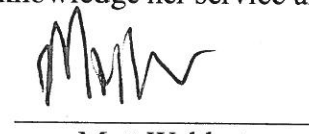
- Whereas** Beverly Hater was a long-time resident of Colerain Township; and
- Whereas** Beverly Hater was an alumni member of both the Colerain Citizens Police Academy Class #41 and the Colerain Citizens Fire Academy Class #31. Also, since 2022, Beverly was the President of the Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association; and
- Whereas** Beverly Hater dedicated thousands of hours volunteering at numerous events and for various organizations; and
- Whereas** Beverly Hater was respected and loved by many in the community and was committed to giving back and making connections with those she served.

Be it Proclaimed that the Colerain Township Board of Trustees celebrates Beverly Hater's life-long dedication and service to the Township.

Be it Resolved that in recognition of Beverly Hater, the Board of Trustees hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 23, 2024 as a special day of recognition for Beverly Hater to acknowledge her service and dedication to the residents of Colerain Township.


Cathy Ulrich
Trustee


Daniel Unger
Trustee


Matt Wahlert
Trustee


Jeffrey D. Baker
Fiscal Officer

Date: April 23, 2024