

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**German Township Board of Trustees**  
**Special Session August 03, 2022**

The German Township Trustees met in special session on August 03, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Dr., Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Clark called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Mr. Clark – present; Mr. Wolfarth - present; Mr. Kaffenbarger – present  
Fiscal Officer: Angela Griest – present

Township personnel present: Mike Stitzel, Police Chief, Tim Holman, Fire Chief, George Degenhart, Zoning, Kim Northup, secretary, and Karina Emory, Fire Department.

Visitors: Keith Baldwin, North Hampton; Heather Boyd, Champaign County, Tracey Tackett, Candidate for County Commissioner; Cory Walters, Tremont City Police, Tony Flood, Village of Tremont City; Christopher Clark, Clark County Sheriff Department; Jenny Hutchinson, Clark County Administrator; Amy Collings, Champaign County Dispatch Center; Melanie Wilt, Clark County Commissioner, and Jill Acuff, resident.

*(Note: Minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. They are a summary of the discussions during the meeting.)*

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of Silence for Office Yates**

**Purpose of this Meeting**

Mr. Clark: Reason for meeting is 911 Dispatch, and ARP Funds.

**911 Dispatch**

Michael Stitzel, German Township Police: Received short notice concerning the implementation of the 911 billing. Was not in our budget. Original costs \$21.00 per call, now \$5.50 per call. Costs was based on previous years call volume. Would like to have charges based on actual calls, billed out quarterly. Due to the high costs, looked for ways to reduce costs. The township police department now has a non-emergency number where residents can call for non-emergency issues. Residents are still encouraged to call 911 for any emergencies. We have our own radio Channel that we can communicate one another and with other area police departments. We have reached an agreement with Champaign County 911 Dispatch to be able to handle multiple types of calls for the Township. We continue to use Clark County Dispatch 911. Due to staffing issues, we do not always have an officer on duty 24/7. However, we are still dispatching with Clark County and will depend on them to handle our calls when we do not have an officer on duty.

Timothy Holman, German Township Fire: Doesn't have a problem with paying for dispatch. Has paid for dispatch for since 2014. Every year the costs go up every year. The cost went up \$10,000 this year, without notice. This puts a hardship on the Fire Department budget. When it changed from population to call volume, it increased our costs. We receive many calls on the station telephone. Most of these are non-emergency. Before, we would call the dispatch to get a run number. Now if it is not a medical issue (i.e. locked car, alarm check) we handle it internally and do not take it through dispatch. It is logged and a we add a run number. We have had 1200 calls, but only 892 ran through dispatch. This is an effort to try to lower our costs.

Melanie Flax, President, Clark County Commissioner: First, I want to let you know we can not negotiate a contract in a public meeting. Why are we doing the combined 911 center? People are conditioned to call 911. By combining the County and the City dispatch we are working together to provide a standard, streamlined, connected system to have a safe and effective response for all 911 calls. We have been working for ten plus years, and secured 5 million dollars to make this happen. The building is up and are addressing issues with a security breach in the network.

Cory Walters – Village of Tremont City Police Department: Our village is very small with little to no money. These additional costs could make or break us. Here to listen to the discussion.

Amy Collings, Champaign County 911 Center: We are here to help and to keep everyone safe.

Keith Baldwin, Village of North Hampton: Can appreciate what has already been said. – North Hampton doesn't have a million dollars like the county. Our residents pay the county taxes for the 911 center, then they are asked to pay again through the villages and townships. If a County Sheriff responds to a call, there is not a dispatch charge, but if a village officer is dispatched, there is a charge.

Melanie Flax, County Commissioner: The County cannot levy taxes for 911. A county can do sales tax. The ARPA funds are restrictive.

Michael Stitzel: We have tried to negotiate with the county concerning the contracts. We have had 3 changes in the contracts. Bottom line is we can not afford what you want us to pay.

Tony Flood- Village of Tremont: We received a written contract from the County for dispatch, no one came to me to negotiate, or talk to me concerning the contract. Everyone pays County taxes and pays taxes for 911 on their phone bills. Now we have dispatch charges. When county went to the Marcs radio system, we had to get new radios. We have to pay an annual fee for those. Costs keeps going up.

Jenny Hutchinson, Clark County Administrator: There is a cost to each 911 call. The original contracts were figured to cover the cost of the dispatched calls. Springfield City is covering all of their costs.

Chris Clark, Clark County Sheriff Department: The 911 dispatch center covers all districts. When we first sent the contract, the charges were at \$33.50 per call. Now you are being asked to pay \$5.50, just a small amount.

Conversation turned to the fact that German Township Police department is using Champaign County 911 for dispatch for certain types of calls due to the costs for our county dispatch. Champaign County 911 does an excellent job, and when we have difficulty with a busy channel in Clark County we can go to Champaign County for their help.

Timothy Holman: German Township has works well with the County. Sheriff department has used the meeting room, and the firing range. When the County Health Department was using the mall for Covid vaccinations, the German Township Fire Department helped out. We provided personnel for fire watch, and Fire extinguishers to save the county from spending funds for an alarm, or sprinkler system. We provided a medic all day, every day, to help with medical reactions concerning the vaccinations, and the use of tables and chairs. We didn't ask for compensation. We just provided the service at our expense. Then I get a bill for dispatch for \$38,000, that I can't afford.

Tony Flood: We have always worked with each other. The contracts are counterproductive due to their costs. Our budget is small.

Chris Clark responded that the fire contract increase was due to the fact they changed the cost from population, to cost based on number of calls.

Melanie Flax: The Health Department is separate and has their own funds. It was suggested that the Township expenses for the Covid clinic at the mall might be able to be reimbursed through the County with an ARPA grant. Can't guarantee it, but can look into it. Mr. Holman would need to provide a breakdown of his expenses during the vaccination clinic.

At this time conversations go back and forth between multiple people with discussion concerning the contracts, dispatching Clark County vs Champaign County, and costs.

As discussion come to an end Mrs. Griest addresses Mrs. Hutchinson: As I understand it, you will redo the contract for one year for the Police Department for 2022 based on 2021 fees for \$15,845.75. Once we have the final contract, the township is to pay the fee, then the County is offering to reimburse the Police Department the \$15, 845.75. The township must request the refund in a letter by December. The Fire contract will remain the same. Mr. Holman to provide costs spent for the Covid clinic to be turned in for consideration of an ARPA grant to the cover costs. Contracts to be renegotiated for 2023. Mrs. Hutchinson concurred.

Mr. Kaffenbarger: Thank you to everyone for coming and trying to get to the bottom of this issue. Flexibility means a lot, we need to be able to all work together. I understand the change from the population to a per call basis. But I would like to see the cost per call of \$22.00 – be lower. Maybe lock in the Fire Dispatch at \$34,000.

Mr. Robert Clark thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting. There will be a 15-minute break then the meeting will resume.

Mr. Clark, the meeting resumed at 8:40 p.m. The second half of this meeting will be to discuss the ARPA Funds.

Mrs. Griest provided a Summary Sheet for the ARPA Funds. Total Revenues received \$725,878.16. Nine projects to date at an estimated cost of \$253,540.77. Cost distributions per department are listed on the right-hand side. In April, trustees mentioned using ARPA funds for road work but did not stipulate an

amount. Discussion followed. Trustees agreed not to use ARPA funds for the county road paving projects, but rather increase the budgets in road maintenance funds to be able to cover the costs.

- A. Motion to amend the 2022 appropriation budget as follows to cover the costs of the county contracted road paving projects for 2022 rather than using the ARPA funds: Fund 2021 Gas Tax Fund +\$100,000 for contracted services; Fund 2231 Permissive Tax Fund +\$100,000 for contracted services.

Motion: Mr. Wolfarth 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Kaffenbarger

Roll Call: Mr. Kaffenbarger – yes; Mr. Wolfarth – yes; Mr. Clark – yes

Motion Carried.

Chief Holman stated that they recently had an accident requiring an extrication. It took quite a while. He was approached by someone who wishes to remain anonymous but would like to donate \$15,000 to the fire department to purchase a new electric Genesis rescue tool. The township costs would be \$30,230.00 for a total cost of the Genesis system \$45,230.00. He would like to request the use of ARPA funds to cover the remaining costs of \$30,230.00. Would purchase the tool from Howell Rescue Systems.

**B. Be It Resolved by the Board of Trustees of German Township**

**WHEREAS**, this date, August 03, 2022, Trustee Kaffenbarger moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has identified a project which, in the judgment of the Board, qualifies as a permitted use of the ARPA Funds, in direct support of governmental services, which consists of the following:

***Genesis Rescue System. Includes spreader, cutter with blades, Ram, Ram Accessory Kit, and battery less the trade in.***

***NOW THEREFORE***, it is hereby ***RESOLVED*** by the Board that:

1. *The Township elects to use the standard allowance and its presumption of revenue loss due to the public health emergency and to use the amount authorized herein to fund government services*

2. *The Project is hereby authorized and shall be paid for from the ARPA Funds in the amount of an amount not to exceed: \$30,230.00.*

3. *The Project described herein serves the objectives of the Act by providing services traditionally provided by a government, namely: (mark one)*

- Police protection*
- Fire and emergency medical services*
- Road repair, maintenance and other transportation and safety services*
- Public infrastructure support*
- General government administration and administrative facilities*
- Land use regulations and enforcement*
- Parks and recreational facilities and programs*
- Other*

***Project: Genesis Rescue System. Includes spreader, cutter with blades, Ram, Ram Accessory Kit, and battery less the trade in.***

*No obligations paid under the authority of this Resolution were incurred prior to March 3, 2021.*

*Trustee Clark seconded the Motion, and the roll call being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:*

*Roll Call: Mr. Clark - yes Mr. Wolfarth – yes, Mr. Kaffenbarger -yes.*

*The votes in favor of the Resolution were recorded and the motion passed.*

Mr. Wolfarth suggested going to a quarterly ARPA meeting to discuss suggestions for the use of the remainder of the ARPA. Instead of having something brought up at every meeting. We are slowly dwindling the funds with items that could be incorporated into our budgets. Need to used budgeted operations funds for items that are part of the normal everyday operations. Need to address the items that do not have a regular stream of funds. We do not have to spend the rest of the funds. We have time to plan. Could formulate a plan on using the remaining funds, and come up with a 10-year plan for other items we may need.

The Following items have come up as suggestions for the funds:

Fencing around the maintenance area. Maintenance building does not get internet.

Skid steer with tracks. Risk Management – laptop for tracking vehicle maintenance, roads

repairs, ditching etc., Cemeteries - Fencing, landscaping, tilting headstones. Fence around the

Firing range. Review previous project requests. Fuel tank (added by Mr. Kaffenbarger)

Mr. Clark thought this was a good plan. Mr. Kaffenbarger agreed.

A quarterly meeting to discuss the ARPA funds is set for September 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- C. Motion to adjourn: Mr. Wolfarth 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Kaffenbarger Roll Call: Ayes-All

**Approved by:**  
**Board of German Township Trustees**

Recorded in the  
Record of Proceedings  
August 03, 2022

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Angela D. Griest, Fiscal Officer

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Robert Clark, President

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William Wolfarth, Vice President

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Rodney Kaffenbarger, Member