

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WILLIAMS  
CITY OF AUBURN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING 5-20-09  
APPROVED**

Chairperson, Betty Owen welcomed everyone to the Auburn Williams Intergovernmental meeting.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Betty Owen at 7:00p.m. at the Township office/hall.

Committee Members present: Tom Paige, Ron Kohn, John McNally, Bill Reder, Jim Dominowski, Paul Wasek, Rebecca King, and Betty Owen.

Others Present: Ann Machelski, Cindy Gonsler, Sandy Henning, and Thomas Fick.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States was said in unison.

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes**

**Regular Meeting April 7, 2009**

B. Reder made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. R. Kohn supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

**4. Officer Poltorak Proposal to the City**

B. Owen explained that Officer Poltorak provided the City with a proposal for one full time chief and two part time officers. The City advised him to provide this Committee with the proposal. The proposal is included in the packet. After some discussion it was agreed that this proposal is already included in our list of options. It will be the City's personnel decision, should they maintain the department as they have in the past, whether they use full time or part time officers. B. Reder made a motion to accept the proposal and P. Wasek supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Update on Request for a Consultant**

T. Paige advised the Committee that he contacted McKenna Associates, a professional consulting firm that has experience with police issues. The consultant's agreement would include reviewing the research done by the Committee, investigating any possible options not recognized by the Committee and assisting the City and Township in the presentation of information to the public. The fee for this would be, not to exceed \$3950.00. This amount would be split equally by the City and the Township. Because the decisions have a greater affect on the City at this time, the request for expenditure went to the City first. The City denied the expenditure at their May 4, 2009 meeting.

T. Paige, on behalf of the Township Board of Trustees, wrote a letter to the City suggesting a special joint meeting of the City of Auburn Commission and the Williams Township Trustees should be scheduled as an opportunity to present this Committee's findings and the options for law enforcement so the public could receive and comment on those options.

T. Paige stated that since consultant services are not available to the Committee, B. Owen put a draft final report together for the Committee to review and comment on. Once the report is finalized it will be given to the City and the Township.

B. Owen stated that this Committee was formed to identify options for law enforcement in the Auburn – Williams community, with the goal of cost savings and/or increased services for the businesses and residents. The purpose of this report is to provide the City and Township with unbiased research and options to present at a joint meeting where the public can provide their comments. To that extent, the draft report has a copy of all of this committee's Minutes and research information as well as a summary of the options we have investigated.

B. Owen explained that the back portion of the report includes copies of Minutes from each Committee meeting and a copy of the posting for that meeting. The research handouts for each meeting are also included. She advised that in front of the Committee's Minutes is a Reference Material section, which includes the Resolutions and the Minutes by the City and the Township pertaining to the formation of this Committee.

It was explained that the first page of the report provided the names of Committee members. The next page was a history of the formation of the Committee. Then the Committee reviewed the page; Determinations Made During the Process. Each paragraph was read and the Committee agreed that it was correct.

The Committee then reviewed the page; Conclusions of the Committee. Each paragraph was read and the Committee agreed that it was correct.

It was agreed that a joint meeting of the City and the Township with the Committee was very important for the purpose of public information and comment. It was stated that a good cross section of input would be received by having the City and Township invited to the meeting. Depending on the direction the City chooses to go, it could impact the Township businesses and residents so they should also be invited.

It was stated that this Committee has been very transparent to the public and in an effort to remain that way, it was suggested that B. Owen with the assistance of T. Paige and J. McNally put together a newsletter informing the residents of the joint meeting so that the same information is given to the City and Township businesses and residents. The City and Township would then mail the newsletter as they do their regular newsletters.

B. Reder made a motion to accept the REPORT OF THE AUBURN- WILLIAMS INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE as written. P. Wasek supported the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

P. Wasek made a motion to authorize B. Owen with the assistance of T. Paige and J. McNally to prepare a newsletter to notify the public of the joint meeting. B. Reder supported the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, B. Reder made a motion to hold the special joint meeting with the Auburn City Commission and the Williams Township Trustees and the Auburn-Williams Intergovernmental Advisory Committee on June 17, 2009 at the Williams Township Hall at 7:00pm local time. T. Paige supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

T. Paige advised everyone that the Williams Township Trustees were working diligently to encourage the State to build the new State Police Post in Williams Township near Salzburg and M-47. He stated that Dow Corning has offered to donate the land. As other communities negotiate to have them locate in their communities, the biggest drawback to the Salzburg location is the lack of sanitary sewer.

T. Paige then explained that the City of Auburn and the Township are part of the Bay County West Side Regional Sewage Disposal System. Recently the City of Essexville and Hampton Township have decided to buy into that system. That will provide over \$114,000 to Williams Township that can be used for expansion of the Township's sanitary sewer collection system. This could be used to extend sanitary sewer to the Salzburg location if the police complex is located there. So this will keep Williams Township as a viable location for the new post.

It was emphasized however, that if the State Police post is built in the Township, it will not increase law enforcement in our area. The State Police will still be patrolling on the state highways.

## **7. Public Comment**

Ann Machelski asked if the log report from 911 was reviewed for accuracy. It was stated that the Committee really did not have a way to audit the 911 records. She stated that it was hard to believe there were so many deer strikes in Auburn. It was stated that in some cases the wrong code might have been used either by the law enforcement agent or the secretary, and in some cases, the officer uses the zip code to determine his location if he is not familiar with the City boundaries.

Ann Machelski thanked the Committee for their time and effort in this project.

Cindy Gonsler asked how the part time positions would be filled and how many hours they would work if the City chooses to go in that direction. It was stated that those decisions are personnel decisions that the City would have to determine. The Committee is only looking at the options available to the City.

Thomas Fick stated that he does not see the Sheriff's Deputies in the Township very often other than at the Township offices. He stated that the deputies are called to other communities. It was explained that this past week the afternoon deputy is on training. It was also explained that the deputies can be called to other communities if it is a life threatening situation. An example of this was the shooting in Auburn. The deputies from Williams Township, Monitor and road patrol deputies were called in to

assist. One of the deputies in the Township is the county fire investigator, so he can be called out of the area at times as well. When they are called away, the Township can have another deputy fill in or bank the hours for another time.

J. McNally explained that the way it has been in the City is if an officer is sick or on vacation, the time is not covered. An officer could be off duty for a week or two of vacation. If the deputies are used, and there is extended leave, the sheriff would send a road officer to cover the shifts.

T. Paige stated that there is 168 hours in a week and the Township only covers 80 hours a week. That is the reason that the Committee was asked to look at combining services. If the Township and the City were able to provide law enforcement together it would provide 160 hours of coverage. Mr. Fick asked the cost of an Authority. It was stated that Chief Klann provided an estimate of \$589,793.00, which might sound high, but the Tittabawassee Township has its own force which provides 24 hour service and their budget is over 600,000.00.

Committee Member R. Kohn was excused at 8:00pm.

There was general discussion regarding the various options and the cost estimates. It was stressed by the Committee that the cost estimates were based on the numbers provided by the Township and City for last year's actual costs and the estimates provided by others were not verified. It was explained that the cost will vary from the estimates as some time has passed. The City will need to do a careful review of the current costs prior to making a final decision.

#### **8. Future Meetings**

It was stated that the Committee would continue its research on other areas the City and Township could cooperate and assist each other while saving money. It was agreed that no meeting would be scheduled at this time for July and August. A meeting is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

#### **9. Adjournment**

B. Reder made a motion to adjourn. T. Paige supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:14p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Owen