

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

105

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

Held

February 10,

19 92

Boston Township Trustees present: Bergdorf, Broderick, Schneider, Jr.

Boston Township Officers present: Solicitor Pullekine, Clerk Kaczmarek.

Peninsula Council Members present: Brunswick, Chop Craig, Collins, Haramis, Padruitt, Schneider.

Peninsula Officers present: Solicitor Cole, Mayor Ruoff, Clerk Rutledge.

The joint meeting of the Boston Township Trustees and the Peninsula Village Council was convened at 8:15 p.m. on February 10, 1992, with Mayor Ruoff presiding.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL STUDY

Ruoff asked Peter Henderson, also present, of the Cuyahoga Valley Communities Council (CVCC) to present the study.

Henderson said that in October of 1990 Bergdorf made a presentation to the CVCC in which he expressed concern about the financial difficulties occurring in Boston Township because of the formation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA).

As a result of that presentation, a study team consisting of Bergdorf of Boston Township, Ruoff of Peninsula, and John Debo of CVNRA was formed to study whether or not financial hardship had been caused by the formation of the CVNRA. Peninsula was included because of the close financial relationship between Boston and Peninsula.

The study team decided to engage a qualified consultant to gather data and analyze them and offer possible solution if a financial problem was discovered. The three entities, Boston Township, Peninsula Village, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area shared equally in the cost of the study. CVCC managed the task force at no extra cost.

Henderson said that digging out the information was time-consuming and resulted in a fiscal study finding with several remedies suggested.

Henderson said that he had been pleased to have done the work and was not trying to impose anything on the entities involved. He hoped that the study sharpened the focus of the problem.

The task force had chosen the consultant by considering proposals from several firms. Pflum, Klausmeyer, and Behrman (PKB) was picked. Sandy McKew, also present, of PKB was introduced by Henderson to make the presentation.

McKew said that Ruoff, Brunswick, and Bergdorf had worked hard on this study.

The project was organized into two parts, the first to assess the fiscal effects of the creation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and the second to look at Boston Township and Peninsula as they now exist and to project the fiscal situation to 1996. Shortfalls were also addressed.

To assess the effects of the park, a benchmark, the NEFCO 1977 Impact Study, was used.

In 1977, Boston Township was projected to lose 17% of its property tax revenue. To date, 43% has been lost with 48% planned for the park completion.

At park completion, there will be 816 taxable acres left in Boston Township out of 9600 acres. Originally, Boston had been slated to lose 4300 to the park. At park completion, 7167 acres or 80% more will have been acquired by fee acquisition according to current plans.

Both communities have sustained increased per capita cost ratios. The study includes per capita cost ratios for other rurally disbursed areas for comparison.

In 1977, it was projected that 15% of Peninsula property tax income would be lost. 28% is the current park completion figure. Originally, 9000 acres were to be purchased by fee acquisition. At completion, 1466 acres will be part of the park out of 3100 total acres.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

Held

February 10,

1992

McKew said that another force came into play to make a bad situation untenable. It was Summit County's system of non-reassessment. For those parcels scheduled for purchase, before the 1990 reappraisal, the base tax did not increase. The Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes (PILOT) paid to the local communities by the federal government was less because of this decision.

In 1978, in view of the Roush Inheritance Bequest, the Budget Commission of the Summit County Council voted to not allow Boston Township to collect the 6.69 mil road and bridge levy which had been approved by the voters. This levy would have brought in approximately \$80,000 per year.

With the combination of the park acquisition, dropping of the 6.69 millage collection, and non-reassessment policy, Boston Township lost approximately \$290,000 per year. This corresponds to a \$366,000 draw-down of Roush funds. If the Roush fund had only been drawn down by \$80,000 per year, at the actual existing interest rates, the fund would stand at \$13 million instead of the current \$2.6 million. As things currently stand, the Roush fund will be depleted by 1996.

McKew said that in answer to the question, "Was the park responsible for a bad situation?", the answer is, "Yes." With the Roush funds dwindling, Boston Township has no acreage that can be drawn down upon for development or taxation. In addition, intergovernmental funds are on a per capita base. Boston Township has had 300 people moving away. The sum of perceptions is that the creation of the park was responsible for putting Boston Township in a bad financial position.

McKew said that in addressing the financial status of the communities, actual figures were used from 1987 through 1991 and that projections were made through 1995. From 1987 through 1991, revenues, excluding the Roush fund, dropped 21%. In 1991 property taxes represented 7% of revenues, intergovernmental funds - 26%, and 58% came from the Roush funds.

During the same period, expenditures decreased 23%. In 1991, 39% of the budget was spent for public safety and 40% for roads. These numbers will be going up.

Revenues for Boston Township will range from \$249,300 in 1992 to \$140,000 in 1996. Expenditures for the same period are projected to range from \$630,000 in 1992 to \$777,000 in 1996. Deficits will range from \$381,000 to \$637,000.

In 1996, under current conditions, it will be impossible for Boston Township to meet its contributions toward police and fire operations. The revenue for 1996 is projected to be \$140,000 while the police contribution from Boston Township is projected to be \$188,000.

McKew said that transportation is discussed separately. In Boston Township, 40% of the roads will have no residents at the end of current retained estate contracts. In 1992, \$236,000 was used by Boston Township to maintain roads to park facilities. This represents over 90% of all township revenues.

For Peninsula Village, revenue sources have increased 62% between 1987 and 1991. This is primarily due to the passage of a 1% income tax in 1989 and an increase in contract charges to Boston Township. During this same period intergovernmental revenues dropped 25% from \$197,000 to \$148,000. In 1991, 24% of the budget was spent for roads, 46% for safety. Peninsula, without heavy road construction, has a stable financial condition. This, however, assumes that Boston Township can pay for its share of the freight.

McKew said that PKG identified three areas where financial corrections can be made. The first looks at the actions that each entity could undertake on its own.

Although the Boston Township millage rate of 1.48 seems low, the burden for residents of the Hudson School District puts their rate at a level comparable to other jurisdictions. The amount generated for township administration is low.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

107

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

Held

February 10,

1992

The average township administration millage rate is 10 mils. If Boston Township would increase its millage rate by 5 mils, only \$155,000 would be generated in 1996 against a \$637,000 deficit.

If road maintenance responsibility would be shifted to the county or National Park Service for roads not serving township residents, \$98,000 would be saved.

By shifting maintenance of the roads to other entities and raising property by 5 mils, Boston Township would generate \$254,000 in 1996. In order to make up the projected deficit, Boston Township would have to raise property taxes by 25 mils.

McKew said that a second area where financial correction might be made is by other governmental entities. Renegotiation of the distribution of intergovernmental funds in 1987 represents a decrease of \$63,000 per year to Boston Township. If a regional view is taken of Boston Township's problems, renegotiation of the distribution could occur.

\$6,400 comes to Summit County from the National Park Service as PILOT. This amount is insignificant in view of the deficit.

One area where Boston Township and Peninsula are at a disadvantage is in competition for state and federal money for roads. All requests require engineering studies which take a hefty sum of money. It is not unreasonable in view of the regional advantage of the park to ask for engineering assistance.

The park service could authorize additional amounts to the communities for police and fire service. This action would not require an Act of Congress.

Summit County operates the Community Development Block Grant Fund which could help to put in water and sewer at the proposed Seasons Road exchange. Development in this area could yield \$150,000 per year in property taxes at a 10 mil rate.

Unfortunately, all of these adjustments described would not offset the projected \$637,000 deficit. There would be a \$200,000 shortfall.

The third area of possible financial correction would be a merger of Boston Township and Peninsula. If the village millage rate of 7.12 were extended over the township, the 1% income tax was extended throughout the township, the 4.5 mil capital improvement levy were rolled over into an operating levy, and the merger went into effect by 1994, there would still be \$1.6 million remaining of the Roush funds. The interest at 8% would be \$110,000. Revenues would be estimated at \$1 million.

In a merger, the new entity would have to take over \$153,000 in road maintenance from the county.

The projected expenditures would be \$1.3 million. This deficit includes a one time expenditure for improvements to Stine Road. The real deficit would be \$67,000. This deficit could be made up by pursuing the intergovernmental enhancements and is a possibility for a viable entity.

McKew said that she is constantly hearing about what a regional asset the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is, but the needs created by it must be met by regional resources. They are currently being met by local resources. Political discussions should begin at all levels.

Broderick asked if the park road study had target dates for maintenance of roads within the park. McKew said that no target dates were included. The study was to show what had been intended. The study recognized that localities would not have any interest in roads that didn't serve their residents. It would be in the park's interest to care about these roads.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

Held

February 10,

19 92

Haramis asked what the park had to say about the study. Ruoff said that he and Bergdorf had sat in on the meetings and seen the results. At this point, we have to take responsibility to get assistance from the county, state, and federal government. The study tells us some of the things that we can do.

Haramis said that a merger didn't do well several years ago. Ruoff said that he would like to see a joint group to make recommendations for the long term and short term. He delayed the formation of the 2001 committee so that the joint group could work on what needs to be done in the short term. We are a community, not separate entities.

Copies of this study had been sent to Senator Glenn, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, the Summit County Planning Commission, Summit County Executive, and the Summit County Engineer. CVCC is willing to help. We can call on Henderson for assistance.

Bergdorf thanked Peter Henderson and the CVCC for bringing together the task force and addressing the issue. The study puts teeth into what we have all been saying. Thanks to Sandy McKew and PKG for all of their work.

We need to bring the two communities together and look at a merger as one possibility.

Brunswick said that the study had been thoroughly undertaken and CVCC and PKG did a good job.

Ruoff said that Bergdorf and he intend to sit down together and work on directions for the formation of a working group. We should schedule another joint meeting soon.

Haramis said that he would like to be involved. Bergdorf said that the trustees have already had some discussions about the report.

McKew said that there are other options in addition to the merger which should be considered. Bergdorf said that he didn't know if the merger could be a political possibility, because the township is not a homogeneous group.

Schneider, Jr. said that the fire levy also has to be looked at.

Ruoff said that it is important to develop plans as soon as possible.

After discussion, a joint meeting was set for Tuesday, March 10, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. at the Boston Township Hall.

SUMMIT-AKRON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Ruoff introduced Jackie Mattice of the Summit-Akron Solid Waste Management District.

Mattice said that in 1988, the Ohio Legislature had passed HB #592 which required the establishment of a state plan for solid waste management. As part of this plan, the state was divided into districts of which Summit County is one.

Mattice said that Boyd Marsh is her boss at the county and that the district must develop a solid waste draft plan.

By October 1992, each community must develop programs in accordance with program criteria. In reading the information about the process, it is important for those concerned to read the executive summary and Part 6 which addresses the issues for local communities.

Communities need to designate a licensed or registered site that they will use for yard waste and start an education program by April 1, 1992.

The District puts out a publication every two months to keep communities aware of their obligations.

Final ratification of the Summit County plan is expected in about 1 year. Each community will be asked to ratify it. In the October plan, the community should encourage curbside recycling.

The Northeast Ohio Consortium did a survey in cooperation with the University of Akron and funded by the George Gund Foundation to see what the public perception of the garbage problem was.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

109

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

2000 YEAR 1000 0000 0000

Held February 10,

19 92

The results showed that people understood the garbage problem. Over half supported the idea of a fee based upon the value of the service. They felt that those recycling should be rewarded. They did not support punishment for those not recycling.

Bergdorf asked if there were projects to sort garbage after collection. Mattice said that there are companies trying it, but that for now source separation is suggested.

Schneider, Jr. said that people get discouraged when they clean their trash and then see it co-mingled. Mattice said that some companies have found it to be more cost-effective to co-mingle the bags and recyclables during collection and then to sort at the plant.

Bergdorf asked whether or not there were any recommendations about the formations of joint trash districts. Mattice said that if working together works best, it is encouraged.

Mattice said that they are just getting together the regulations for yard waste. There are some existing industries, such as Ingersoll, Fred Azar Landscaping, and Rite Landscaping, which compost.

A program which encourages home composting, the "Just Don't Bag It" campaign, and the use of composting facilities would be an acceptable plan. In using criteria for accepting a final plan, the county needs to have each community designate a composting facility. Ruoff asked what the time frame was. Mattice said that a designation of site has to be made by April 1, 1992.

CEMETERY BOARD

Pullekins said that he had been asked about how the clerk-treasurer of the Cemetery Board was chosen. The clerk-treasurer can be one of the trustees or someone else who the trustees appoint.

Ruoff asked for nominations to fill the unexpired term vacated by Doug Anderson. Broderick nominated Ray Anderson. Schnieder nominated Robert Collins.

Chop Craig asked what the credentials were for filling the position. Schneider said that the trustees hold monthly meetings, pay bills, and buy equipment. Schneider, Jr., said that it operated as any governing board.

A motion was made by Broderick to close the nominations. Ballot slips were passed out by Rutledge, collected by Maczmarecki, and tabulated by the two clerks as follows:

Anderson	4
Collins	5

Robert Collins was elected to the position.

FIRE BOARD

Haranis said that everyone should have a copy of the year-end summary. More than \$31,000 will be returned to the communities in the form of a credit on their 1992 payments. \$17,500 was the result of an insurance premium refund when carriers were changed. The change was made in 1990, but the refund did not occur until 1991.

The additional \$13,000 to be returned came from moneys not used in the 1991 budget. This will result in no payment in the first quarter and a partial payment in the second quarter.

In determining the amount of a levy, the fire budget was projected over a four or five year period. After doing that, it was determined that a 6.5 mil operating levy would be needed. In looking at the expenditures, 6.5 mills will yield too much for the first couple of years, but not enough for the fourth and fifth years. A 6.5 mil levy would yield about \$100,000. Ruoff asked what actions would be made to inform the voters.

Haranis said that the Fire Board intended to develop a strategy at their next meeting.

Ruoff said that the fire levy would be competing against the school on the May ballot.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

Held

February 10,

1992

Schneider, Jr. said that the addition of 2 mills to the current 4.5 mills was as exact as possible. Ruoff said that most voters would not want to see a surplus. Haramis said that if the levy lost in May, the Fire Board would go back to the voters for a 6 mil levy over a three year period.

Ruoff said that, in November, the village will be going to the voters for renewal of the 3 mill road levy. Bergdorf said that in the other end of Boston Township, the home owners are paying 63 mills in property taxes. Schneider, Jr. said that it is a matter of either paying an additional \$70 per year or not having a Fire District.

Haramis said that they figured that costs would be up 5% per year. The total cash needed was divided by 5 to get the levy amount.

Ruoff asked if there was any more equipment that needed to be purchased. Haramis said that the Fire Board accepted the bid of Four Guys for an engine. After that, the current levy should yield enough money to refurbish a squad and to replace the capacity of the Suburban. There will be no other major capital equipment needs during the term of the levy. Ruoff said that that fact needs to be spelled out in the literature.

Ruoff said that we all need to agree to get behind you and do what we can, but we don't want it to end up as a contest with the school. We need to show that we are providing responsible, realistic expenditures.

Padrutt asked if the village and township would not be paying money any more. Haramis said that the emergency fund would be provided by the entities. The Fire Board regards that as a necessary insurance policy. Susan Delehanty, also present, said that the levy might sell better if people thought that the amount of money needed could be reduced by the park contributing.

Bishop said that people would ask where the extra money that the Village had from a levy would go. Ruoff said that it could pay for an engineering study, police car, or road repair.

Bergdorf reported that 63% of the rescue calls that the park made were referred to Valley Fire. Haramis said that we might be able to get more money from them, but that we have to watch out for strings.

POLICE REPORT

Chop Craig reported that the money remaining in the 1991 budget was used to purchase a computer. The new police car should be in by the end of March.

Ruoff reported that the amount may be down for Workers' Comp this year. He said that he would be talking with Summit County to see if he could get the amount of the Dispatch Contract reduced.

Ruoff said that we are all fortunate to have Chief Bob Kruty. He instills a professionalism to be envied in a department this size.

There are five good full time officers and good part timers.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Ruoff said that the village understands that it would not be possible for the township to take on all of the village road maintenance at this time. The village requested that the township consider contracting with us for snow removal and salt spreading. The amount of salt is known and in many cases the trucks are travelling the same roads. Our truck is old and not very dependable. Schneider, Jr. said that he would discuss this with Anderson to see what proposal the township could come up with.

Timothy Tesmer, also present, said that the village would need a new truck anyway. Ruoff said that the village might not need the same size of truck. We only have one man and he has been working overtime trying to do everything.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

111

Minutes of

Joint Boston Township-Peninsula Village

Meeting

JOINT BOSTON TOWNSHIP-PENINSULA VILLAGE

Held

February 10,

19 92

RECREATION

Ruoff asked if the Trustees had considered the request by Dee Holody to flood the tennis courts for ice skating. Broderick reported that the tennis courts are going to cost \$8,000-\$10,000 to get into A-1 shape. The trustees would like to give them to the school. Broderick said that they can now be used for basketball and volleyball, but that the three companies he asked said that if the tennis courts were flooded, it would mean major annual repairs. The expense is too much.

Ruoff introduced Susan Delahanty who explained that the Quarry (Boston Township Community Service League) is suffering by having the same too few people to do the work. Delahanty said that the Quarry is one resource that everyone enjoys, but with the number of people of working, time is not available for volunteer work.

The Quarry Board would like to hire a third lifeguard whose main duties would be beach work and maintenance. That person would check in members and maintain order on the beach.

The Quarry is a non-profit charitable organization whose board is elected by the membership. In running the program, funds are only expended for a lifeguard, insurance, and a minimal rental of the Quarry property. The total annual budget is about \$3,000. Of that, \$900 comes from United Way. Ruoff requested that Delahanty put her request for funds in writing.

A motion was made by Bergdorf, seconded by Schneider, to adjourn the joint meeting at 9:50 p.m. All vote aye.

Polly Rutledge
Clerk-Treasurer, Village of Peninsula