

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

June 20, 2018 Council of the Whole

Genoa Council President John Lewis called the Council of the Whole meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Council members present: John Lewis, Darryl Bittner, Issac St. Marie, Brent Huston, and Matthew Koppinger.

Absent: Jake Diebert.

Also invited and present, Clay Township Trustees: Gaylord Sheldon, Tom Bergman, Chris Sheldon, Chad Gargas, and Clay Township Police Chief Terry Mitchell.

Mr. Lewis stated the agenda for the meeting was to have an open discussion on how Clay Township and the Village of Genoa could exchange services and/or help each other.

Mr. Sheldon asked, what would be the immediate needs of the Village.

Mr. Lewis stated he did not feel there was a need for anything.

Mr. Gladden mentioned he believed the idea of talking about shared services stems from Mr. Bergman seeing it as a new way of doing things.

Mr. Gladden also commented he felt the Village and the Township already share services by helping each other when needed. Mr. Gladden mentioned there were no issues between them in doing so.

Mr. Gladden suggested the Village and the Township may want to put together a Mutual Aid Agreement for liability as far as Administration services are concerned.

Mr. Gladden stated shared services in the past happened in leasing or sharing equipment but it didn't work well due to needing the same equipment at the same time.

Mr. Sheldon stated, the only needs Clay Township has at this time is in the area of seasonal help and how hard it was to find.

Mr. Koppinger remarked, it made sense and sounded like a smart idea to have a mutual aid agreement for liability when sharing assets.

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Mr. Bergman commented with the present Annexation Agreement we were adversaries when it came to development, when one team wins the other loses. He would like to see a better agreement in place for future growth in Genoa and Clay Township. The idea would be to have them working together on a long term development plan.

Mr. Bergman's concern is St. Rt. 51 will grow economically leaving the Genoa downtown dead, he feels the land use (Economic Development) and Police conversation are areas that can be shared, saving money and benefiting both.

Mr. Bergman feels now is the time to consider a change in an economic development agreement with Davis Besse closing.

Mr. Koppinger stated he didn't see a concern for future growth on St. Rt. 51 as we have empty buildings there now. He mentioned if Davis Besse closed which was still undecided, it would affect future growth for Genoa, property values could drop, which in turn will cause the population to drop. Mr. Koppinger felt there would be an opposite effect to Economic Development in Genoa if Davis Besse closes.

Mr. Bergman did not necessarily agree with Mr. Koppinger's opinion of the effect Davis Besse closing would have on Economic Development. He felt the present policy is what lead to the problem of empty buildings.

Mr. Mitchell stated weather Davis Besse closes or not, it doesn't mean we shouldn't prepare for it.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. replied preparing for Davis Besse closing is something that should have happened already, we knew it would close eventually. Genoa is in Clay Township and we all need to work together.

Mr. Bergman felt we need a Joint Economic Development District straight down St. Rt. 51, he mentioned it's all about getting a utility agreements, where both entities win.

Mr. Huston wanted to clarify, If we prepare a Joint Economic Development agreement, Clay Township would get the property tax, Genoa would get the income tax as well as provide water and sewer.

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After much discussion It was decided Clay Township and the Village of Genoa should have a Shared Services Committee, consisting of Township and Village members scheduled to meet on a regular basis.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that rumor were going around about the Village taking over Clay Township and the Clay Township Police Department.

Mr. Bergman stated he didn't think anyone from Clay Township was looking to have an Allen/Clay joint Police District. He felt it was not to Genoa advantage, or Clay Township's advantage.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. stated, if asked we need to stop the rumors by letting the public know we are not taking over Clay Township or the Clay Township Police Department, we are meeting to discuss working together with the Township on future progress.

Mr. Huston asked Mr. Mitchell if he knew what the Township's budget was for their Police Department. Mr. Mitchell answered for the past 20 years roughly about \$370,000, and they just passed a levy for about another \$120,000.

Mr. Bergman stated if the district covered the area at the rate Clay Township covers theirs, Genoa would pocket about \$171,000.

Mr. Huston inquired, if the dispatch cost happens once Davis Besse closes, is the thought each Police Department will have to pay a fee of about \$50,000?

Mr. Mitchell added, yes along with radio maintenance and preventive maintenance costs would all come back on the departments since they were provided by Davis Besse.

There was varied discussion on the cost, as well as the Pros and Cons to both Clay Township and the Village of Genoa, if they were to have a combined Police District.

Mr. Bergman mentioned if the Village decided they wanted to look at anything further, Clay Township would be willing to talk / re-evaluate everything.

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Mr. Lewis made a motion to have Mayor Harsanje Sr. and the Village Administrator, Kevin Gladden schedule a meeting with Mark Messa the Regional Planning Commissioner of Ottawa County to discuss the St. Rt. 51 corridor.

A verbal vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mr. Koppinger asked what the opinion was on the shared services committee meeting once a month to help bring things along.

Mr. Gladden asked that they wait until he can get information on the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Mr. Lewis suggested the committee meet on an as needed basis.

Mr. Gladden mentioned they will need to go to Council for the decision on who would be on the committee, and when they should meet.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. explained that he and Mr. Gladden would meet with Council to set a date, then they will contact the Township Trustees to let them know the date.

Mr. Lewis asked Chief Weis if he had anything he would like to say. Chief Weis replied no, he was just listening.

Mr. Gargas suggested that the Village may want to look at what it would do for the Village to have a combined Police Department.

Mr. Bittner made a motion to close the Council of the Whole meeting seconded by; Mr. Koppinger.

All in attendance voted by saying "Aye".

With no further business, Mr. Lewis declared the Council of the Whole meeting closed at 8:05.

An audio recording is available upon request.

ATTEST:  SIGNED: 
Julie Van Nest, Fiscal Officer John Lewis, President of Council

APPROVED: 7-2-18