

# WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

## TRUSTEE'S NOTES

### SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

ATTENDEES: Mark Messick, Margaret Young, Dave Pollard, Dick Huber, Mary Sue Kane and Mary Lou Habicht

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Peggy Young followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Peggy: The first order of business is the Annual Report.

Mark: The first order of business is the Public Hearing for the Budget. So you need to open up the meeting to a Public Hearing.

Peggy: I open the meeting up to our public.

Mark: Then you will need to close it.

Peggy: Seeing no one in the audience, I will close it.

Mark: From that standpoint then we go to Other Business and I will pass out some stuff as we go. This is just what I give you on a regular basis but the first order of business is some cleaning up from 2018. This involves just the two of you, and you guys need to sign these 3 copies.

These are the minutes that apparently Greg presented to us for the December 21, 2018 meeting. Someone needs to make a motion to approve those minutes and one of the two of you need to second the motion and then you need to approve those without Greg's signature.

Peggy: I make a motion.

Dave: I second.

Peggy: All in favor say Aye.

Dave: Aye.

Peggy: We approve them.

Mark: Sign those three copies, you keep one and give the other two to the ladies.

Peggy: We need to put today's date.

Mark: Yes, and it will be recorded in today's and it will be recorded in 2018. The next thing I have for you is just information about what we have done since the first of the year. If you have questions just ask us about it but there is no reason to ask questions unless you want to. I will let you look at that and then you can tell me if you have any questions about what we have done since the first of the year. Any questions on the information for the Board as far as what we have done this year?

Dave: In regards to the...

Mark: That is just our appointments held, etc. We have had a lot of cancelled appointments.

Dick: Why do you think you have canceled appointments?

Mark: Pleasant Township has like 12 appointments a week and they have been having like 1. I think it is just part of what is going on in the community right now.

Mary Lou: They are just no-shows, they don't even call.

Mark: They don't call, no-show.

Dick: So it is kind of a spur of the moment deal I wonder?

Mark: They want assistance and then they decide they don't want to make the effort. Here is our bank statement, so you just need to record that we have given you the bank statement that we normally mail to you and I checked the bank statement and I signed off on it. Your Board Chairman is the one who is responsible for reviewing those.

Peggy: I do have a question on the bank statement that was mailed to me.

Mark: Ok.

Mary Sue: That would have been the month before.

Mark: And the question was?

Peggy: I was just going to see if the names are in here because I do have them highlighted, Post Road English Garden.

Mark: That would have been the flowers we sent for Dr. Huber's wife.

Peggy: Ok, great. And Norman Line?

Mark: Norman Line would have been assistance for shelter.

Peggy: Ok.

Dick: Say that again.

Mark: Norman Line would have been the landlord for someone we offered shelter assistance for. The next thing that I have for you, I am going to give you these packets but I ask that you not look at the packets until we start talking about them because this is a bunch of information. If we start looking at them before we start talking about them you will not do it in the right order. Peggy, it is important that now you turn the meeting over to me to present the budget.

Peggy: I will turn the meeting over to Mark to present the budget.

Mark: In the packet I gave you, look at Form 1. Form 1 is what the DLGF requires from us and I filled out that information. I suggest that we not discuss Form 1 now because when we get to our budget from the previous year as compared to this year that is when you will have your questions. Are you ok with not looking at Form 1?

Dave: Alright.

Mark: The next thing in your packet is Form 2. Form 2 basically tells you what our estimate revenues are and that is of no interest to anybody because we are going to talk about that later also. Form 3 is just what we are doing tonight, which was Notice To Taxpayers telling them what we are going to do. I'll speak about that for a minute. I'm not asking for any tax levy or taxes to be assessed to our community for Township Assistance. I am asking for \$50,000 for our General Fund out of the \$124,900 that we are asking for our Township Budget. So when you look at we are currently getting \$68,466 and I'm taking it down to \$50,000. So I'm reducing the

amount of tax levy on the community by \$18,466. That is just general information. You cannot raise that. You can lower that. So from that standpoint we will talk about that at our next meeting.

Dick: So that means since you lowered it this year, you cannot be higher than \$50,000 next year?

Mark: No, this year it can't be higher than \$50,000, next year it can be whatever our maximum tax levy is. Our maximum tax levy this year would have been two hundred and some thousand.

Dick: Ok.

Mark: We have money; we don't need to tax our people.

Dave: How many years in a row has it been that we have not either raised or...

Mark: Since I have been trustee.

Dave: That is what I thought.

Mark: Form 4 is just basically telling you what our budget is. So if you look at the first page of Form 4 for our Township Budget, our budget this year is \$129,994 and for our Assistance, it is \$56,200. That just tells you what our budget is as far as the report goes.

Dick: Where do you get the \$56,000 from Form 4?

Mark: That is between our Township Assistance and our Township Welfare Administration. It does not mean anything to you because we are not raising any money for that. It does not affect you guys because you can't increase or decrease that amount. Ok the next form you see is the Budget Estimate Financial Statement Proposed Tax. That basically is telling you that we have more than enough money to do whatever we want to and we can set our budget to whatever we want to and I talked to the DLGF, they prepare this, I don't prepare this, the DLGF prepares this. It is basically saying that we have \$136,000 more dollars than we need and we have \$164,000 more than we need to do both parts of our budget.

Peggy: That is what is in parenthesis.

Mark: Right. It basically says hey guys you're in great shape you don't need to do anything. Ok then the last part that you have is what we need to talk about and this is what you need to consider for your next meeting.

Dick: I have 2.

Mark: Ok, you have the Annual Financial Report too. That is just something I give you every time. That is just for you to have to know where we are at. What we really need to talk about tonight is the Budget Report By Specific Date Range. So if you look at this when we start off it shows the Salary of the Township Trustee to be \$37,080. What I propose for this year is that the trustee's salary goes to \$39,000. The trustee has not had a raise since Jay Marks took office in 2006. I'm proposing that we increase that to \$39,000.

Dave: We have not approved that have we?

Mark: No, this is something you will do at the next meeting. The reason I have done this though is at some point and time if we don't raise this salary, what you are going to find is that

you are not going to have candidates for this office. The trustee right now in Pleasant Township is making almost \$52,000 a year.

Dave: I don't agree with that, at all. I don't agree with your thinking is what I'm saying.

Mark: I'm just telling you what the fact is. In Hamilton County the trustee is making almost \$62,000 to do the job for this size of township. I could present to you several trustees of this size of township that make in that range of money and do not have any fire department responsibilities. So this is what I'm presenting to you, and I don't care, if you say that we keep the trustee's salary at \$37,080 I'm fine with that. I'm just wanting to put it out there that at some point and time the trustee's salary needs to be addressed if you want viable candidates because I'm not going to be the trustee forever.

Dave: I don't believe that.

Mark: I'm not going to be the trustee forever.

Dave: Oh, I believe that. I don't believe that there would be no candidates, there will be candidates. For \$37,000 a year for what you do, no.

Mark: I'm just telling you and it is a part-time job. But you have to remember now that most people in this community are making over \$100,000 a year.

Peggy: Not most, admin. maybe.

Mark: If you look at the medium salary for this area. I don't care, it won't bother me, it won't bother me at all if you say it is \$37,000. You can't lower it more than \$37,080. I'm just proposing this to you guys. The next item is I have asked for an increase for the clerical help from \$14,000 to \$15,000. We haven't had an increase for our clerk in 3 years and I think it is time that we offer an increase for our clerk. So, I'm putting that out there. That is up to the board again. There is no increase for the Township Board because I didn't feel like you would agree to the first two. The part time help, I would have a real problem replacing our custodian if I had to replace her and I think she is about ready to quit. I think I might be able to find someone to come in twice a month at the number of hours that she is working for \$2000. It is not necessarily that I'm going to increase her pay, but I want to be able to increase that pay in case I have to hire a new custodian. The \$200 that we are asking for an increase in social security is because of the increases that we have asked for above those items. We cover part of the social security and Medicare that is the responsibility of the trustee's office. So if you look down at the next area under Operating Supplies we have an increase from \$1500 to \$1750 and under Repair and Maintenance we have an increase from \$500 to \$750 but we did away with Other Supplies. I hate Other Supplies areas. So what I did there I just put it in the areas that I thought it really applied to, I'm not asking for an increase in that area, I'm just asking that we put it where it belongs.

Dave: That's a wash right?

Mark: Yes it's a wash. Under Professional Services, I'm asking for an increase of \$500 and the reason I'm doing that is because next year I'm going to have to hire an attorney to represent us

with the SBA and with Gateway because next year we are over 150 percent in dollars that we have in our amount of money between Rainy Day and what we have in cash, we have over 150 percent and we will next year too, we have to find a way to spend our money. I'm going to have to go out and improve this building by remodeling, build a shelter outside...

Peggy: What do you mean a shelter?

Mark: I have to spend like \$190,000 to \$200,000 next year.

Peggy: What do you mean shelter, like a shelter at Independence Park?

Mark: Yes something like that.

Peggy: Why would we want to do that?

Mark: Because that is something the community could use.

Peggy: But they use that.

Mark: But we could build it here too and use it for the football field and other things. Next year I will have to get an attorney to advise me after I meet with you guys next year on what we should do and what meets the DLGF requirement and what meets the SBA. So we are going to have an increase in the amount of money that we have to spend on Professional Services next year because I'm not going to do anything that is not according to code. So I'm asking for a \$500 increase in Professional Services because we know we are going to get the attorney's advice.

Dave: How much time would you anticipate using an attorney time wise, two hours, five hours, ten hours?

Mark: Less than two hours because the rate is like \$275 an hour.

Dave: That is exactly what I was going to say. You're evidently not going to use him very much.

Mark: No, I'm just going to ask for his opinion on what my proposal is and it is going to probably be less than two hours after he reviews the code and comes back and recommends what we can present to the board. So, I'm not asking for much. The other area that I'm increasing is Insurance. I have already talked to our insurance agent and our insurance is going to go up. It is just a matter of inflation. So we are asking for \$500 additional in insurance, so that brings it to \$1000 to that category. That is all I'm asking for in increases under Township Budget. If you go to Page 3, there again because we have a township caseworker that deals with clerical information and a township caseworker that deals with casework with assistance, I'm asking for \$1000 in there to give both of them an equal raise. The \$100 additional under Social Security is to cover that additional \$1000. If you look, those are the only increases we have in that area. If you look under Direct Assistance, I have not asked for any additional because we are well within our means in what we have under township assistance and we have enough in there...

Dick: Where are you at?

Mark: We're on the last page of the budget. We had \$35,200 and I'm proposing \$35,200 again. What we are saying tonight to make it quickly for you guys is that the only increases we are looking for is the Township Trustee, the Township Clerk, the Township Caseworker, the

Township Part-Time employee, and Professional Services and Insurance. I think those are all very well stated but as you know after working with me for 8 years, this is our 9<sup>th</sup> year to work on the budget, I will take your advice and we will live with your advice. We cannot increase anything that I have proposed, the only thing we can do is decrease mine back to what it was and any of the salaries back to what they were. I would hope that you would not decrease the insurance. I would hope that you would not decrease the professional services because I feel like we are going to be spending those monies in those areas. With that, that is my presentation and I will take any questions.

Peggy: What were these other things that we would be talking about?

Mark: There is nothing else to talk about.

Peggy: I thought we would come back here. What is misc. health care on the Budget Estimate – Budget Form 1 for \$500?

Mark: You will find that in your straight assistance and that is something we have to have in the budget as you saw on Channel 13...

Peggy: No I don't watch Channel 13.

Mark: Ok, Channel 13 had an investigative report that says that the trustees have to offer misc. health care. We have always put that in our budget but we have never had to use it because we have A Healthier Partnership with Johnson County. That is nothing that has been increased or decreased it is just something that we always have in our budget but never used. We have not increased anything in Township Assistance or anything we have done in probably the last 8 years.

Dick: What has been the trend per year over the last 8 years, steady, a little increase...

Mark: We have had a tremendous decrease in Township Assistance in the last 8 years because of our unemployment rate and the fact that we have so many No-Shows because basically now we are seeing those who are in the worst of worst shape. People have gone out and got second jobs, people have gone out and got employment and so we are not seeing near the number of people we used to but we still have to plan for that because the economist are telling us that we could have recession at any time and as a matter of fact they are predicting a recession by the stock market.

Dick: If that happens then...

Mark: Then we are right where we need to be.

Dick: Ok.

Mark: And we have enough in Rainy Day and we have enough in funds that are unappropriated that if I had to come to the board for an additional appropriation I feel like we would have it, therefore I don't want to put it in the budget. That is why I put zero dollars on assistance. I can't believe we are going to spend that amount of money on assistance next year so I don't want to tax the taxpayers.

Dave: You still have the ability to but you don't need to.

Mark: We could but I say zero. Don't be surprised if I don't come back to the board at the next meeting at the adoption and ask that we put a zero on the tax levy for township assistance. We are that healthy. I may come back at the next meeting and say even though we put this in here and we can capture 50 some thousand dollars that would go to the school and to the fire department, do we want to do that or do we want to free those funds up and let the school and the fire department have it again? The reason we have done that in the past few years is because the school and the fire department does, I'll tell you what it is, where is that form at, hold on. We have \$59,000 available to the township if we put \$50,000 against our taxpayers. We are going to get \$9,166 back because we charge our taxpayers \$50,000. If we charged them zero that \$59,166 becomes available to all other taxing entities. The reason we have done this in the past is because the DLGF tells us if you don't put something in there you will get zero and these other taxing entities now they can come underneath the cap and capture that \$59,166. We will spend more than \$59,166 next year, so that supports our township but it does not fill our budget. We will still spend about \$140,000 to \$150,000 next year and this will offset what we spend but if we don't put that \$50,000 in there, then that becomes available to our fire department which sometimes I wonder how they spend their monies and our schools which I...

Dave: That thoroughly thoroughly confuses me.

Mark: It does me too but that is how it is done.

Dave: You have the Fire Department that collects taxes, you have the school that collects taxes yet we have to consider them in ours.

Mark: Look at the second page of Form 1. The second page of Form 1 it says General, Property Tax Cap, we have to put in our budget even though we are not budgeting for it, \$5094 because of the Property Tax Cap. Do you see that? That is not something I put in there, that is what the DLGF tells me. So that takes our budget from \$124,900 to \$129,094 because we have to put that in there because that is what they estimate that we will lose because of the Property Tax Cap. So what we are doing by taking away our tax levy and our tax rate is opening up that much more money to the school, the fire department and the JC library.

Dick: Not the JC government?

Mark: The JC government gets part of that but the main ones that benefit from it are the lower units. What we have done in years past is take the advice of the DLGF and it says that we will have a small property tax levy and rate and this years is lower than we basically have ever had.

Dave: We can't get any lower than can we?

Mark: Well \$50,000 isn't much on almost 3 billion dollars' worth of net assessed value. We will still be one of the lowest in the State of Indiana at the rate we are at but don't be surprised if I don't recommend to you the next time we meet on October 1, if you want we can take it to zero because that is how healthy we are.

Dick: It looks like to me that all government entities ought to be working together and what this kind of tells me is that we are kind of in competition with the other entities.

Mark: Here is what I can tell you...

Dave: Doc, I worked with a budget for years for a company. We had a budget that was for us, nobody else. Why do we have to consider everybody else when we are looking at our budget? The county sheriff has a budget; he should operate under that budget. What he gets and what he does he should pay for. He doesn't do that. The school doesn't do it either.

Mark: Here's the thing Dave, it is a difference. When you have a private concern. I had my own company for many years. When you have your own company you know projected on your sales and projected on what your markup was and everything else, what your net return was going to be. What the government advises is here is the most you can tax and you can tax this amount and we won't object and every year they give you almost 4% over your previous maximum tax levy and since I have been trustee if you compound that I can get 50% more money than I did when I took office because of compound interest. That is crooked!

Dave: Yes it is.

Mark: It shouldn't be based on our net asset value, it shouldn't be based on anything but what our needs are and yet they are telling us what our maximum levy can be. We could have a tax levy in here of almost \$250,000. I'm asking for \$50,000 so we can keep \$60,000 and that is not right. It shouldn't be run this way. Those people up there in Indianapolis have got this backwards. It should be need versus want. The fire department and the school are two they all talk about and they are all on want, I want this, I want that and it doesn't always work out to what the community wants.

Dave: You're right.

Mark: It is just backwards. So I don't have a problem with saying do we want to offer \$60,000 to these other taxing entities that are about want versus need, or do we want to keep the 60, the 59 and keep it from them. That is what I'm going to argue with myself with until October 1 and then October 1, I will make my recommendation. In the meantime I would ask that you thoroughly consider accepting the budget as it is presented with no exceptions because at some point and time whoever takes my seat needs to be somebody that we feel comfortable with and is willing to work for that amount of money and the same thing for these ladies. These ladies toil hard. I come in and do what I need to do and if I'm in here an hour and a half or two hours, I'm in here that amount of time but I'm not hanging around.

Dave: Hey Mark everybody knows who does the work.

Mark: If you ask them they know what they are asked to do but when it comes to making the big decisions, it is on one person. I'm the one who makes the decisions on everything that goes on in here. At some point and time the person sitting in this seat that makes those decisions you will want somebody like me that is going to make the decisions that takes the whole township in consideration and not worry about what they are getting paid.

Dick: Do you think most candidates look and see what the salary is before they decide to run?

Mark: Yes by the fact that I have been trustee for 3 terms, and I have only had one opponent.



Dick: But do candidates really look at oh that salary, I'm not interested in running?

Mark: The ones in their 50s, I took this job 10 years ago and 10 years ago I would have been 56. At that time I had retired as a stock broker. I thought between what I had in my portfolio and what this job was, that was enough money to continue my lifestyle.

Dave: How old are you now?

Mark: I'm 66. So if you look at this and I'm looking at it from the standpoint let's go back even 4 years before that, let's go back to when Jay Marks was trustee. Jay Marks got paid \$37,080. Danny Maple his last 2 years got \$37,080. So if you go back 6 years plus my 9 years, you are looking at 15 years that you have not touched that salary. I haven't asked for it, Jay didn't ask for it but I am starting to say at some point and time this board needs to consider the amount of money you are paying. When we look at the township board what you are getting paid, you're getting paid almost 125% more than the average township board. You only have to meet 5 times per year. You're getting paid well. There was no way I could come in and say compared to so and so's board your being paid underpaid. You're being paid quite well. When we look at our clerks what we are paying the clerks versus a township of our size, they may be getting underpaid. When we are looking at the custodian and we look at CG as an example, our custodian is way underpaid for the amount of hours she works. So when I'm looking at that and I'm thinking ahead not only this year but ahead, I'm thinking in the township trustee, if we don't increase that what quality candidate are we going to get? Are we going to get a quality candidate that would serve this community, not Mark, but the next candidate? If you raise it up and quite honestly when you are looking at 3 billion dollars in net assessed value, to give the trustee \$1920 for that amount of raise, that is nothing. It is 3%. That is what inflation is. If you look back to where I'm at today versus 8 years ago inflation, I'm at a negative value to what I was when I took the office.

Dick: In my simplistic feeling, I'm like ok taxpayers can only pay a maximum of a certain amount, and all the government entities have to decide how they are going to try to get their maximum amount. If we don't ask for ours then somebody else is going to ask for that.

Mark: We are already way under that. Our tax cap is like \$258,000.

Dick: Oh is there a tax cap on each?

Mark: We can't ask for more than \$258,000 but we are way under that to start with. So we are already giving a bunch of money out to the other entities.

Dick: I wasn't on the board last year.

Peggy: When I calculate the amount, it is more than 3%.

Mark: I'm not saying 3%, I'm just saying...

Peggy: It's 5%.

Mark: I'm asking for \$39,000 over \$37,080 and I don't care. That was an arbitrary number and I think I kind of expressed that earlier. I pretty well feel like it is going to be \$37,080 next year.

Dave: Everybody in this room with the exception of Mr. Huber knows every year I have asked you to reduce your pay, not increase it, every year, every year.

Mark: Everybody knows each year I have asked if you will reduce yours by the same amount I will reduce mine.

Dave: I told you if you would reduce yours I would give you mine, all of it.

Peggy: I think I need to close this.

Dick: Is it proper to ask the other members how we feel about our salary? Because I had no idea that we got paid or how much we got paid when I signed up for this.

Peggy: I didn't either. I didn't even look at it.

Dave: I didn't either.

Dick: But yet when I compare it to like school board members or city council members or something like that, to me it seems like we are well paid.

Peggy: Some of those get paid per meeting.

Mark: Yes.

Dick: As well as a stipend too.

Mark: That is where they came up with that originally.

Dick: If any citizen would ever ask me do I feel justified in taking that stipend, I'm not so sure how I would answer.

Dave: I would say yes if anybody asked me.

Mark: That is my proposal for the board tonight. Is there anything else you would like to ask the trustee?

Peggy: No. Do I have a motion for adjournment?

Dick: No, no. Where are my notes? Pleasant Township is listed under here (Daily Journal) for their budget meeting.

Mark: We submitted ours.

Dick: What do we have to do to get...

Mark: We have asked this question many times and what it basically amounts to is we're WR which means we are at the end of space they have to print which means they don't always print ours. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't.

Dick: On the website if you go to minutes, it gives the trustee's notes but when you go to the board minutes, it says none available.

Mark: I have no clue.

Dick: Why don't we have board minutes available on our website?

Mark: That is managed by Jody Veldkamp. I don't know if we have presented them to him.

Mary Sue: We have to pay him to come in to do it.

Dick: To get the minutes put on?

Peggy: We would have to pay.

Dick: But the trustee's notes are on there.

Mary Sue: For the trustee's notes to be put on there we have to pay someone to come in and download and put them on.

Dick: Do you do that after every meeting?

Mary Sue: No. If anybody wants to come in we have a book of minutes that is always right out there in the open.

Dick: It is listed on the portal that the trustee's notes are available but not the board minutes.

Mark: I think you will find out if you went in there that they are not available for this year yet. We do that at the end of the year.

Dick: Ok, that is all I needed to know. Are you willing to share about the meeting with Dr. Long?

Mark: Dr. Long, I didn't have a second meeting with Dr. Long but if you guys...

Dick: I mean tell them about the first meeting.

Mark: Dr. Arkanoff called me because he knew that I had told him that if they ever wanted this building as long as we could agree to something that they could have this property. Dr. Arkanoff called me and said they were building this new safety building and they wanted to know if we would be agreeable to consider moving into the new safety building. During our discussion with Dr. Arkanoff I talked to him about the fact that we wanted to have a community room, we wanted to have a trustee's office, a clerk's office, a place for our files and a kitchen. The rest of the space that we have, we didn't need but we wanted to maintain a community room for our board meetings and also for the community.

Dick: Separate entrance?

Mark: Separate entrance. So I mentioned that to Dr. Arkanoff and he said we will get back to you. Well I went several months; you guys know it was several months before Dr. Long called me to have a meeting. I asked Peggy to attend and she couldn't attend at the time but you (Dick) attended. We met with Dr. Long and Dr. Long mentioned what they had proposed, they had a common entrance, a trustee's office and a clerk's office but no other space for us on their plans. After he finished making his presentation I gave him a list showing him what we currently had and what the minimum amount of space that we would probably need and I presented that to Dr. Long. I even suggested to Dr. Long if they flipped where they had the fire bays with the building, they could probably expand their building to the north and have space for us. So I presented that to Dr. Long and Dr. Long said that he would present that to the architect. Whether he presented it to the architect I don't know but about a month later I was delivering mail that we had received here and took it over there and I asked to talk to Dr. Long's assistant. I talked to her and I said hey, I haven't heard anything back from Dr. Long and I just wondered where we stood with the safety building. I said no big deal I just wanted to know where we stood. About a month later not hearing from Dr. Long after asking a second time, I stopped by a second time and I talked to Lynn and I said I haven't heard anything. She said I will make sure I talk to Dr. Long. The next day I heard from Dr. Long saying that they considered that and they thought the expense of adding us to the building was too great for the school to consider. I

sent back to him telling him the value of this property versus what he thought the expense was going to be and it looked like a great savings for the school and I was a little surprised. I have not heard back from him.

Dick: Am I getting this right that if anything ever happens to this building and it is not the trustee's use, the school has first choice?

Mark: No, if township government ever goes away. If township government ceases to exist, then this property is deeded back to the school.

Dick: I would think that the school would love to have this property.

Peggy: They want this property, I guarantee it.

Dave: I know that, they want it.

Dick: Then why aren't they willing to work with us you know?

Dave: You're asking the wrong people, go ask them.

Mark: Dr. Huber did I not be very calm and collective.

Dick: And he acted like he was very receptive to what you said.

Mark: I left the meeting and I told the ladies I said it is not going to fly.

Dave: You were invited (Peggy)?

Peggy: I had a prior commitment but then it fell thru, we were going to go on vacation but we couldn't find anywhere because it was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I spoke to him and he said well two of you can't be there and I said well then.

Dick: To me it looks like the school would be crawling on their knees and saying what can we do?

Mark: Let's look at it from their standpoint I have looked at it from both sides. If you look at it from their standpoint they are going to tear this building down. They are never going to use this building.

Dave: They would use it for a parking lot.

Mark: But they are looking at it as the value of the property of 2.8 acres, what would be the value of 2.8 acres? Is that equal to the value of adding us over there? His numbers were based on having the fire department and everything in there, not us, just not office space but based on all of the their equipment and everything else that they had to spend, so he just took it at a square foot price of what that building was times the square foot price of what we wanted and then that was an inflated number. So he said to Dr. Arkanoff I'm sure, it's not worth the value of the property, we're spending too much money for 2.8 acres of property and we would have to tear down the building. If that is how it was presented, then I can understand Dr. Arkanoff's decision. If it was presented to the value of this property as every year goes by and able to capture it now with this building, it didn't make any sense. But I'm happy to stay in this building but next year because of the amount of monies we have accumulated and the amount of monies that we are still going to have after next year, next year the DLGF and the Indiana Code requires that we get under 150% of total cash in our accounts, savings, investments, and Rainy

Day, we have to be under \$150,000 or have a plan to spend money to get under that \$150,000. So my proposal would be this. We have not done anything with our carpet, our carpet needs to be replaced in here and the carpet needs to be replaced elsewhere. We need to paint several places in the building. But I don't even think that will get us there. So even after we remodel our own building and get it up to where we are comfortable with it, we are going to have about \$180,000 to \$200,000 that we are going to have to spend or tell them what we are going to spend on something else. So that is where I will come to the board next year with some suggestions that we have a food pantry in here, bring in refrigerators and other stuff...

Peggy: Why would we do something like that when there is...

Mark: Wait, wait.

Peggy: I'm just throwing it out you have your ideas and ...

Mark: I'm going to tell you why.

Peggy: Ok.

Mark: What we would do we would go to the school and say hey we want to bring the Care Pantry into our facility, we will do the remodeling. You guys handle it on Fridays when you are open and we will handle it on Wednesdays. So we will open the food pantry on Wednesdays and they will open it on Fridays. We will use their 501-C3 to have it and then we will bring in an additional staff person and that serves the whole community two days a week, versus one day a week and then when they are closed, we will operate here on Fridays too. So next year I will already have that in my budget with additional staff money, remodeling, etc. etc. Or we can build a shelter that would serve the community which could be used for our soccer, our football, our baseball teams, our community when they have family reunions so they don't have to come in the building, they could use the outside facility. That would be about the same expense. My preference would be the food pantry because it serves the needy versus a community that we do anyway with Independence Park. Those are the proposals that I have been thinking about for over a year that I would bring to the board and say hey, of this laundry list that I'm giving you, which checkmarks do we want to make and we would have additional meetings because I would have to meet with you guys in July so I could present it in August and September.

Peggy: I'm sure Independence Park would probably like to update too. I mean couldn't we help with that?

Mark: No.

Peggy: You can't help with an update?

Mark: No.

Peggy: Why, you can't donate?

Mark: We couldn't help another government entity because they have their own tax base.

Dave: They have their own tax base, why don't they use it?

Mark: That is my argument with them building this Fire Dept. for White River and Bargersville, where is that coming from? They are spending their money to build a Fire Dept. for White River and Bargersville...

Dave: Who is?

Mark: The school is. They are going to house the sheriff's station over there too so they are spending their money. So next year it is going to be interesting, so we may be meeting in July and August before we even get to this part of our meeting.

Dick: To me there are so many variables here; for one thing I'm still looking at...

Mark: And I challenge the board to be thinking of other things that we can do other than what we are in charge to do, what could we do different because we could create a Parks Board and have a separate tax identity. We could increase our community service budget and then you guys could guide me as to how you want me to spend that community money, whether you want me to spend it maybe being a partnership with homelessness and creating a shelter somewhere for people who are homeless, maybe being a partnership with a Healthier Johnson County, maybe spending money on partnering with local food pantries or something like that to provide them money, that we give vouchers to our people and they take our vouchers and get their food at different places but that is just playing games with money because those things already exist.

Dick: We don't even know what can and cannot be done. When we mention something, we can't do that.

Mark: But I'm challenging you to come up with ideas and I'll run them thru our attorney. Next year is going to be a different year all together.

Dick: Here is what I'm asking for the board members, is it time for the board to say we are concerned about the future, because there may be a day when there is not a township government anymore because they have tried to do that with the legislative process anyway. So there may be a day when it is not in our control to say this is not our building anymore because we don't exist and it automatically goes to the school.

Mark: The previous trustee, Jay Marks, and the previous board we took care of that. This property no matter what will always belong to the township because if the township government goes away it will belong to Center Grove Community Schools.

Dave: And that all took place when they built that other building over on Stones Crossing.

Dick: And they made a swap.

Mark: This property will always be township property.

Dick: Are we concerned enough, should we be concerned enough that the board says we want a meeting with township government and the school administration to talk about what is going on here?

Dave: Well that is what they did.

Dick: Well it was Dr. Long.

Mark: It was with Dr. Arkanoff to start with.

Peggy: I think the ball is already rolling and I don't think they are going to stop. I think they already have their decision, they already have the architect; even if we asked to meet with them the decision has already been made.

Mark: Here is what I can say, every year and the ladies can tell you, I have called Dr. Arkanoff and say is this the year that we talk about the property. What I offered him years before, we had a piece of property on 135 that if they would buy it and remodel it, it would save them so much money to buy it and remodel it, we move into it and they get this property. I did that the first year I was trustee, remember? I spent \$1800 of township money.

Dave: Yes I do because I objected to that.

Mark: Fortunately the previous trustee left money in the budget and I was able to do it. Every year that is part of my discussion with Dr. Arkanoff, is this the year that you guys want our property. If we can find a piece of property that you will buy, we will do a property swap.

Mary Lou: Why can't we move in, if their police is moving out, why can't we move in part of the alternative school?

Mark: Because we can't go in there, we wouldn't have a perpetual zero dollar lease and have our own control.

Dave: Why do you keep stirring the bucket every year asking them?

Mark: Because at some point and time I'm thinking the school board will change enough that they will see the value in this piece of property for them. The first year I offered their plan showed that this would be the grand entrance to Center Grove, there was going to be a boulevard right thru here with a great big arch of Trojan Lane and you can go back and still see the plans.

Dick: Should we not even be concerned?

Mark: No, I don't think you should be concerned because I will put it forward ever year.

Dick: Do you think there is any chance of working with the school board rather than the administration?

Mark: Here is the problem with the school board, Carol Tumey she thinks that we should still be here. She likes the idea that it remains the same. Scott Alexander feels like the township government should go away. Jack Russell doesn't want to turn any vote one way or the other. The other gentleman is too new to make a decision one way or the other. There is a fifth one and I can't remember his name.

Dick: Well I have the feeling that the superintendent or the assistant superintendent are not on the same track.

Mark: I would think that Dr. Long and Dr. Arkanoff may not always been on the same track but I don't work in that building.

Peggy: If you, Dr. Huber, would like to contact Dr. Arkanoff and go over and meet with him you have my permission.

Mark: And you have my blessing also.

Peggy: So if you would like to go talk with Dr. Arkanoff, feel free to.

Dick: Are you ok with me asking about the future of this building?

Peggy: Well you could ask about the situation over there.

Mark: Dave are you ok with him talking to Dr. Arkanoff about this building?

Dave: He can do that as an individual but he is not going to represent the board.

Mark: Well we are wanting to offer him the opportunity to represent the board.

Dave: No. If the board is going to talk, the board is going to talk, not one person.

Dick: Are we as a board wanting to go talk to Dr. Arkanoff?

Dave: I don't.

Peggy: I have no desire.

Mark: Well that is 2 to 1.

Dave: He spends too much money to start with, and that is on record.

Mark: We will leave it that I am the contact with Dr. Arkanoff and the board.

Mark: Is the board ok if I invite a member of the board to attend any meetings with me and Dr. Arkanoff?

Dave: That is different.

Peggy: Because you're not making a decision, you're just gathering information.

Mark: I'm just talking.

Peggy: Right.

Mark: Is the board ok with me inviting a member of the board to attend any meetings with Dr. Arkanoff?

Peggy: Yes.

Dave: That's ok.

Mark: Dr. Huber?

Dick: Sure.

Dave: Just don't make it the same person all the time.

Mark: I always go to the chair first, I always go to the secretary second and Dave you would be last.

Dave: I'm fine with that.

Peggy: Do we have any other business?

Dick: Maybe it is time that the chairperson goes because you're not sure that we should even be involved in this, maybe...

Peggy: I told you why I couldn't go, I had a prior commitment.

Dick: I mean future meetings.

Peggy: That is what he said he would reach out to me as the chair.

Dick: What are we expected to decide before the next meeting?

Peggy: We need to look over this and see if you are going to say Yay or Nay on the budget.



Dick: Is it a straight Yay or Nay or can it be line items?

Dave: It can be reduced, but it can't be increased.

Peggy: It is not an all.

Dick: We can say yes to this and no to this?

Peggy: Yes.

Dick: What happens at the next meeting?

Mark: Since you have not been here before, the next meeting will not be public involvement. Next meeting will be just the board. I will present the budget to the board and I will ask the board to adopt.

Dick: The public can come, they just can't voice.

Mark: It is up to the chair whether she wants to allow any comments from the public. I will present the budget, I will ask for approval of the budget. At that time we will have a discussion. The board at that time can decrease any salaried item back to what it was previous, they cannot decrease it any lower but they can decrease it back to the amount. The board can decrease any other item in the budget to any amount of money that they want to because that does not have anything to do with salaries. So if the board wants to decrease let's say professional services back to \$5000, the board can do that, I'm asking for \$8000. The board can reduce it to any amount that they want. The board can handcuff the trustee in any way they want to other than salaries. They can't lower the salaries any lower than what they are now. So that is the up to board. That is true in Assistance and that's true in any other items in the line items. The trustee at the next meeting can make a recommendation of lowering the levy and the tax rate and then that would be up to the board to accept that. The board cannot increase anything that has been put in the budget. You cannot increase any line item. The only thing you can do is decrease line items. Salaries you can't decrease them any lower than what they were in the year previous. You can eliminate positions that are non-elected, you can eliminate our clerks, you can eliminate the custodian, and you can eliminate the investigator.

Dick: Am I correct that outside this meeting and before the next meeting any two of us cannot talk to each other about anything on this?

Dave: Two of us can, three of us can't.

Mark: No, two of you cannot. Two represents a majority. If you talk to each other you can only share information, you cannot share any opinion or how you feel about anything.

Peggy: I think we already know.

Mark: I'm just saying, the only thing you can share is did you see that the trustee has increased his salary from 37,080 to 39,000?

Dick: If I ask one of them that, then they can't respond?

Mark: They can say yes I saw that, they can't make an opinion of it.

Dick: Can they show a facial expression when they say yes I saw that?

Mark: Two of you can't meet ever.

Peggy: To talk about business. If we were socializing...

Mark: But you can't talk about township business.

Peggy: We can't talk about business.

Dick: But I can still ask her did you see...

Mark: Not in a public setting where the two of you are face to face, on the phone and emailing you can't.

Peggy: Isn't it interesting to see different board members out there and they are all together.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?

Dick: I so move.

Dave: I second.