

FO Miller then detailed the expenses which the Township projects annually from the General Fund which includes:

1. Elected Official salary and benefits.
2. Zoning Inspector salary and other Zoning Expenses
3. Officers Insurance
4. Election Expenses
5. Tax Collection Fees
6. Health Department Services
7. Other expenses as approved by the Trustees

The amount of annual expenses is estimated at just under \$270,000 for 2014 and will vary over the next 5 years considering an upward trend in costs.

After a period of discussion, FO Miller concluded a General Fund Levy will eventually be needed.

Open Space Levy:

FO Miller reported the 2.5 mill Open Space levy is last set to collect during calendar year 2015. FO Miller advised the Trustees the 2.5 mill Open Space levy could be placed on the ballot this fall and if it failed, could be repeated twice in 2015 in order to have no brake in funding. FO Miller indicated the deadline for filing for the November ballot would be around the first of August.

There was discussion on the amount of money currently in the fund (\$5.5 million) and the amount of additional money which is expected to be collected through calendar year 2015 (\$1.5 million). An additional \$300,000 will be collected in 2016 and 2017 from the 1.0 mill Open Space Levy which was last passed in 2012.

Open Space known expenses were then discussed, including the current development easements the Trustees are finalizing (\$1,955,000 for the Granville Golf Course and \$510,000 for the Wolfe property). It was noted the Wolfe property will have roughly half of the easement's purchase price paid through the Farm Ranch Protection Program (FRPP).

Other potential Township properties were reviewed along with the utilization of the Federal matching program. Trustee Jenks spoke about the increasing tax burden being placed upon Granville Township residents. Trustee Jenks commented on the recent School Levy and the Township's future need for a General Fund Levy. Trustee Jenks questioned what the right amount of money should be on hand to meet future Township Open Space needs? No conclusion was reached.

Fire Station:

Chief Hussey provided the following handout.

Granville Township Fire Station Planning Discussion Points

History

- The main fire station was built in 1972 with mostly donated materials and labor
- The building was built for an all-volunteer operation with no facilities for career staffing
- The main station is owned by the Village of Granville, along with another small parcel in the rear of the building (Petunia Park)
- 1995 – The corporation purchased 135 E. College for office space. In 2006, the upstairs became dormitory space for three personnel. In 2008, the building was converted entirely to dormitory space, with capacity for six personnel.
- 2007 – The private corporation turned over all assets to the Township Trustees, including 135 E. College. The Village continues to lease the main station to the Township for \$1 per year on a five year lease.
- 2008 – The Township purchases 133 E. College and converts the house to office space for FD operation and eventually the Township Fiscal Officer located in the second floor. Key property along the rear of the fire station is acquired in the transaction, allowing for potential future expansion or reconstruction.
- 2006 – First career fire chief hired. Board of Trustees name fire state replacement as a priority goal along with increased paid staffing.

Studies

- 2006 – Poggemyer community study identifies fire station replacement as a community need in a major community needs assessment.
- 2010 – Township hires MSA architects to produce a facilities plan for public safety needs. Report identifies many facility deficiencies, introduces concept of joint Fire/LE facility. Preferred locations identified as close to current site, with preference for S. Main corridor due to lot requirements. Current site not considered due to site constraints. Project cost estimated \$5.5 million plus land acquisition.
- 2012 – Granville Village rejects concept of joint facility and proceeds to remodel current LE facility within Village Hall in 2013.
- 2013 – Architect Bob Houser (Moody Nolan) becomes involved in planning and revisits current site. Determines (preliminarily) that current site reconstruction is feasible, and in fact preferable to maintain downtown, strong community presence and to control costs. Estimates of \$3.5 million. Efficiency in more compact footprint, reduced site acquisition cost and challenges. More study needed to fully explore this scenario.

Finances

(Current Township Assets)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Current fleet replacement account | \$ 1,600,000 |
| • Fire fund carryover available | 1,000,000 |
| • General fund fire station account | 400,000 |
| • College Street houses | 400,000 |
| • TOTAL | \$ 3,400,000 |
- Fleet replacement fund is a good internal funding source but must be replenished. Current funding rate is \$175,000 per year. Most large apparatus is still ten years from replacement. Repayment should be increased to \$ 325,000 (+ 150, annually) to fund future equipment purchases as currently projected *if* fleet funds are used for station construction.
 - Current Levies

○ 2.5 mil	2.30 effective
○ 1.3 mil	1.18 effective
○ 1.0 mil	0.99 effective
○ 4.8 mil TOTAL	4.47 TOTAL EFFECTIVE
 - Restoration of levies to full values would provide approximately \$ 100,000 annually
 - One mil additional would provide approximately \$300,000 annually
 - Bonds may be issued with repayment through voter approved levy OR through current operating revenue streams.
 - \$1 million in bond funds would require:
 - \$100,000 annual payment for 20 year term
 - \$175,000 annual payment for 10 year term

Conclusions / Action Items / Considerations

- Reconstruction at current site would be cost effective and maintain good community presence from an optimal emergency response location. More study is needed to determine if all future needs can be accommodated on this challenging site. Cooperation from Village Council is needed for site acquisition and zoning variances. Cost of \$3.5 million is within reach without additional tax levies or possible restoration of current levies to full value.
- S. Main Street site allows for more conventional design without as many site challenges. Site acquisition will potentially be expensive, and any infrastructure changes (road reconfiguration, utilities, relocation of current operations) could add significant expense. Cost projections are over \$5 million in addition to unknown site and development costs. This project will require bonding and additional tax levies, either via fire fund or general fund. If fully bonded for 20 years, bond payments will be approximately \$600,000 annually, which requires a 2 mil levy for the 20 year period.
- Either proposed (site) design would allow for current operation levels with modest expansion room for slightly larger apparatus and additional staffing/support spaces. Long term (20+ years) community needs *may* need to be distributed into small outlying substations. This concept is identified in the MSA report. The proposed main fire/EMS facility will not need substantial expansion in the near future; as substations would serve this function.

Chief Hussey reviewed the history of the current fire station and the studies which have taken place. Chief Hussey continued by providing some funding options and his conclusion. After a period of discussion, the following actions were agreed upon:

1. Trustee Mason and Chief Hussey needed to meet with the Villages' Safety Council to better understand the Village's position, as they own the land and building where the current fire station is located.
2. FO Miller and Chief Hussey to work together to look at funding options. This includes more details about issuing bonds.

There was discussion concerning a new General Fund Levy along with the need to fund a new fire station. The Trustees all agreed they did not want to increase taxes for Granville Township, but acknowledged a General Fund Levy would eventually be needed. Trustee Mason indicated it was important to continue to increase the amount on money set aside for a new fire station. Last year the Trustees established the Fire Station Capital Fund and moved \$417,000 of inheritance tax money to the fund. Trustees Jenks agreed and suggested the Trustees take similar action. FO Miller informed the Trustees they could return these funds to the General Fund if needed.

Trustee Jenks made a motion to move \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Fire Station Capital Fund, Trustee Mason seconded the motion and after no further discussion was passed by unanimous vote.

FO Miller stated he agrees with the action, but notes it has shortened the time needed for a General Fund Levy. There was discussion concerning no new taxes and how the reducing or terminating the 2.5 mill Open Space Levy was an option. Trustee Schott stated she needed a better understanding of the possible property acquisitions before being able to make a decision. The Trustees agreed to discuss with the Steve Layman and the Open Space Committee.

Trustee Jenks then asked if there were any other long range plans which the Trustees needed to consider.

Chief Hussey indicated he would like to see some additional peak time staffing on weekends, as it is becoming more difficult based on their current staffing levels and the run volume. Chief Hussey suggested it might cost around \$45,000 annually to meet the need.

Superintendent Binckley stated he would like to look at a combined cemetery and roads staff position which would be able to assist with plowing snow during the winter.

The Trustees agreed this was a valuable meeting and would like to continue the long range planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

*The Board of Township Trustees of Granville Township, Licking County, Ohio, meet in their dual capacity as the Board of Township Trustees of Granville Township and the Board of Granville Township Road District Trustees.