

**Village of Shepherd
Minutes of Meeting
May 1, 2018**

Special Public Hearing of the Shepherd Village Council held on Tuesday, May 1, 2015. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Village President Mike DeGraw at the Coe Township Hall

Roll Call: Koutz, Maloney, Myers, Reynolds, Roth, Yates, DeGraw
Absent: None
Present: DPW – Davidson Treasurer – Wilmot Police Chief - Sawyer
Also Present: Tom Ramon, Mary Kay Maas, Joan Whitmore, Don Brown from the Fire Board;
and Patti Sandel, Dana Tomaski from the Coe Township Board

Tom Ramon of the Shepherd Fire Board introduced himself along with the Fire Board Members that were present and briefed the attendees on the process.

Village President DeGraw then discussed the resolution that was approved for the public hearing and about Public Act 33 allowing the entities to hold these hearings for the assessment.

Motion by Koutz Jr., second by Maloney to open the public hearing for the proposed emergency improvement and service special assessment district. Carried by roll call vote 7-0.

President DeGraw stated that all publications and mailing were completed by Public Act 33 and that two publications were made in the local newspaper and notices were mailed to all the addresses shown on the last tax assessment roll.

President DeGraw presented the power point presentation that included information on the Fire Department, expenses, revenues and operations.

Public Comment:

Greg Koutz, 136 E Cottage, asked about the exempt properties – being the schools, churches, medical; and wanted to know why they don't have to pay when they receive most of the runs. Tom Ramon stated that Station 1 is always toned during the day for all the departments and that the Village only gets charged for Village runs. Those properties are tax exempt, you can't assess them.

Louis Holliday, 112 Cottage, asked if it was a tax or service fee because he's heard it both ways. DeGraw stated it was a service fee assessment. Holliday also asked about the funds that will be available to the village since the village already pays for the fire department. DeGraw stated it would be about \$37,000. Holliday said with the additional \$25,000 for the equipment it would be over \$60,000.

Discussion on taking this to a vote could be for 1 mill which a house valued at \$150,000 would cost them \$150 a year. Tom Ramon also discussed the \$25,000 equipment replacement.

Emma Curtiss, 355 E Central, said it would be \$64,000. DeGraw and Ramon both stated no it would not be because it doesn't exist yet. Curtiss asked if it would increase every year. DeGraw stated no and that will be discussed with Council and removed from the Resolution.

Joel Rockafellow, 127 S Union, apartment owner, stated he has an issue with the presentation on the release of funds of \$37,000 that's left over, and he didn't think the notice discussed everything and was detailed enough. Rockafellow asked how much per apartment or is it a commercial building. DeGraw stated it is \$55 a unit, classified as residential. Rockafellow asked if there would be another public hearing. DeGraw stated yes. Rockafellow asked if it was 10% of the people for a petition? DeGraw stated it is 10% of property owners to sign a petition and would take it to a vote. Rockafellow wanted to know the number of years. DeGraw stated unlimited at this time. Rockafellow asked if it wasn't enough. DeGraw stated he doesn't foresee raising it and if the entities needed to then they would have to go through this whole procedure again for the emergency services.

Louis Holliday, 112 Cottage, asked about the assessment or tax and if assessment then the tax-exempt properties may be able to be assessed and would like this checked on.

Bob Lemorie, 326 Red Maple Lane, had an issue with the notice being post marked April 18th and he didn't get it until Friday the 27th. Discussed the headlee rollback and the sewer assessment. Asked about the numbers for the Village only and stated its only 15% of the budget?

Greg Koutz, 136 E Cottage, stated that it sounds like this is taxation without presentation and referenced the Boston Tea Party. Why can't this go to a vote? Tom Ramon stated that a flat tax or assessment does not go to a vote and that millages are voted on. If we go to a vote by the people, it could be higher based on the values of the homes and some people will be paying more but everyone gets the same service.

Discussion was held regarding the grants that the Fire Department and the entities use to receive for equipment and that they are not as easy anymore and this affects the general fund.

Bob Courter, 149 E Maple, asked if the Fire Department still bills the insurance company. Fire Chief Don Brown stated yes and sometimes they pay and sometimes they don't and most times it is no more than \$500. It took years to accumulate \$40,000 that helped purchase a generator and small equipment. Courter supports the Fire Department but as a homeowner does not agree with the assessment and should go for a millage.

Motion by Roth, second by Reynolds to close the public hearing. Carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Council held discussion on any possible changes to the proposed assessment.

Motion by Reynolds, second by Yates to remove the statement regarding the 5% cost of living from the Resolution and the Plan. Carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Discussion on the amount to not exceed in the account for the fire assessment fund. Trustee Koutz Jr. stated he would like to go with the State requirement not to exceed \$15,000 and then adjust the rates annually if needed.

Trustee Yates asked if this was to go to a vote of the people and doesn't pass for the Village or one of the other entities that funds the Fire Dept. what happens. This would deplete other areas of each entities budget, home owners insurance would go up, fire dept budget would also get hit.

Motion by Koutz Jr., second by Maloney to not exceed a balance of \$15,000, maximum allowed by the State, in the account for the fire assessment and to adjust annually at each Village budget process if needed. Carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Trustee Roth stated that he feels rushed on the process and would like to see it go to a vote for the people at a 1.5 mill increase and live with it.

Motion by Maloney, second by Myers to move that the Village Council approves the proposed improvements and services, approve the estimate of cost and approve the creation of the proposed special assessment district by adopting Resolution No. 2 as amended for the Village of Shepherd Emergency Improvements and Services Special Assessment District. Carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Copies of this resolution have been distributed to the Council and additional copies have been made available for review by members of the public.

President DeGraw asked for any final comments.

Louis Holliday, 112 Cottage, again stated that he would like to see if any of the tax-exempt properties should also be assessed. He also thanked the Village Council for the work they do for this community.

Bob Courter, 149 E Maple, wanted to make a general statement regarding the traffic on Maple Street between Fourth Street and Chippewa Street and that something needs to be done. They speed down that street and there were two trucks drag racing recently and someone is going to get hurt. He would like to see a 3-way stop sign at Maple and Fifth.

Discussion was that there have been some things done as far as no parking on one side of the street and there have been speed studies done on that stretch of road between Fourth and Chippewa. President DeGraw would like to meet with Mr. Courter, DPW Steve Davidson and Police Chief Luke Sawyer to discuss this further.

Motion approved to adjourn at 8:15. Carried 7-0.