

Hiram Township

Special Meeting Minutes October 25, 2011

Present: Chairman Pancost, Tom Bosma, Kathy Schulda, Attorney Alfred Schrader

Chairman Pancost opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:08 pm.

Comments from Alfred Schrader:

Tonight's meeting is intended to be an informal discussion.

Appeal for Annexation has been postponed to November 25. All other action is postponed till 2012.

JEDD means the land stays in the township without annexation. The sidewalk services would be enhanced to include Fire and Police services within the JEDD property.

The goal is to create the JEDD which could lead to Hiram College giving some land to the township in order to resolve all three lawsuits.

Question: Martin Moleski inquired about the timeline for settlement and how will the residents be notified?

Answer: Attorney Schrader

There will be Public Hearings for both the Village and the Township. Both sides will have time for the Village and the Township to get together and negotiate, and possibly re-write the contract. A Referendum will lead to voting for written changes if trustees don't agree or a "no vote" if the trustees do all agree. Agreements go through Portage County Commissioners who have 30 days to decide. If it is not decided in 30 days, the township clerk puts it on the ballot for vote. An election will give time for certification of 2-3 weeks after the vote. The election can be Primary or General. The township should plan for Jan 1st.

Question: Wendell Schulda inquired if the "stalled" negotiations for the JEDD should be taken as a bad sign?

Answer: Attorney Schrader

There are mixed signals due to the Summary Judgments having been filed. The Summary Judgments need to be reviewed with the Trustees before the next negotiating session.

Question: James Koptis inquired if Hiram College is telling us what the real plans are?

Answer: Attorney Schrader states, "We are not going to let them do whatever they want. We are pursuing the positive signals when in negotiations."

Question: Jack Groselle inquires about new Annexation.

Answer: Attorney Schrader is concerned about the process because if annexation is tried again, there will be no hearing and no time to respond with a proper written response. The commissioners cannot have a public hearing; therefore, decisions can be made without appeal. In a court case, there is potential to win, lose, or appeal. The Supreme Court has not ruled on the new annexation laws.

Kathy Schulda motioned to adjourn the meeting and go into Executive Session at 7:43 pm to discuss pending litigation. Tom Bosma seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Pancost AYE. Schulda AYE, Bosma AYE.

Tom Bosma motions to end the Executive Session at 8:55 pm. Chairman Pancost seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Chairman Pancost AYE, Kathy Schulda AYE, Tom Bosma AYE. No action was taken.

Kathy Schulda motions to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:56 pm. Tom Bosma seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Chairman Pancost AYE, Kathy Schulda AYE, Tom Bosma AYE.