

Mt. Pleasant Twp / Yorktown Reorganization Committee

Emergency Services Sub-Committee Minutes

September 20, 2010

Present: Paul Cox, Fire Chief David Coffin, Police Chief Todd St. John and Jeff Marlow

Chief Coffin indicated that he had no concerns with consolidation of services. He did have some concern about his budget, since it now roughly 76% town and 34% township. He further stated that he didn't see his service area changing dramatically since the department furnishes fire protection for all of the Town and Township with the exception of those areas annexed by the City of Muncie. He saw no changes in the way his position as well his officers were appointed. He indicated that the rank and file volunteers have more confidence in their officers if they have input on who is appointed. He did not think the consolidation would any effect on his manpower. They are currently operating with approximately 40 volunteers. The presently answer anywhere from 600 to a high of 800 calls per year.

Chief St. John questioned if any of the Town ordinances would apply to the Township after the consolidation. He felt as did Chief Coffin that this might turn residents of the Township off as they enjoy certain freedoms that would not be allowed in the Town. I then explained that the only time that Town ordinances would apply is if there was an annexation of parts of the Township and this was not the function of this committee. At present his department does not patrol the extreme west area of the Township but do answer calls there if called on by the Delaware County Police Department. He indicated that certain residents of the Township might expect to see a Yorktown Police patrolling that area once the consolidation took place. He further indicated that he might need and additional officer if that took place. Chief Todd and myself, were interested in what Sheriff George Sheridan might have to say about this since he might lose some revenue from the Township/Town. It was decided to extend and invitation to him to attend the next Sub-Committee meeting.

Jeff Marlow questioned if there would be a loss of revenue to the Township and Yorktown after consolidation. He indicated that he was primarily interested in saving tax dollars.

In closing the meeting I asked for copies of the Fire and Police budgets and asked each of the Sub-Committee members to solicit any firemen, police officers or public citizens to join this Sub-Committee. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Cox

Yorktown/Mt. Pleasant Twp. Consolidation Task Force

Police/Fire/Emergency Services Subcommittee

Minutes

11/7/10, Talked with Chief Coffin, YFD. Chief Coffin questioned whether this consolidation effort would affect the Fire Review Board. This board governs the operation of the Fire Department. This board is responsible for rules, regulations, policies and procedures. I explained that this consolidation should not have any bearing on this board. It appears to be working well with the department. He also wanted to know if this would affect the department electing their own officers. I stated that this also seems to be working well for the department but the combined Town and Township Council could make changes later on. I reviewed the Fire Department budget and they are working well within its guidelines. Coffin indicated that they historically come in under budget. Coffin also indicated that a lot of townships have gone to fire districts in order to insure the same thing that the consolidation effort would. I told him I was not so sure if Muncie/Delaware County were to consolidate prior to us that this might not hold true. He stated that he had heard some comments from various people who were questioning the need for the consolidation. I explained that we needed to educate these people in the need for the consolidation and to dispel most of the rumors.

11/10/10, I met with Chief St. John, Sgt. Wolfe, YPD, and Sheriff elect Michael Scroggins for lunch at Osborne's Café. I started by bringing Scroggins up to date on our consolidation efforts. He indicated that his primary campaign promise was to make the jail more efficient and he was concentrating all his efforts to that at this time. He questioned the amount of tax dollars that his department might lose if this took place. I told him, as I understood that neither he nor the county would lose that portion of tax dollars that they presently get. He wanted to know if YPD would be patrolling the rural areas once this happened. I indicated to him that this would not be the case unless the combined council received a request from rural residents wanting this service, and then, if approved, would not take place for two years. I invited him to the public meeting on the 15th, so that he might get additional information and have a better understanding of the consolidation process. In talking with Chief St. John, he stated that he would not be able to patrol this area with his present manpower. He and I reviewed his budget and he is operating quite well within its perimeters and it appears that he also will come in under budget.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul E. Cox
Chairman of Sub Committee