

Centerville City Council  
Washington Township Board of Trustees  
Joint Meeting  
April 13, 2009

The Council of the City of Centerville and the Washington Township Board of Trustees, met in Joint Session on Monday, April 13, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. in the Law Library of the Centerville Municipal Building.

**Washington Township:**

Trustee President Lee Snyder  
Trustee Vice President Joyce Young  
Trustee Dale Berry  
Fiscal Officer Tom Zobrist  
Administrator Jesse Lightle

**City of Centerville:**

Mayor C. Mark Kingseed  
Deputy-Mayor Douglas Cline  
Councilmembers: Brooks Compton  
Paul Gresham  
Belinda Kenley  
James Singer  
Clerk of Council Debra James  
City Manager Gregory Horn  
Finance Director Steven Hinshaw  
Economic Development Administrator Nathan Cahall

In his opening remarks, Mayor Kingseed recapped the ongoing relations between the City and Washington Township governments. It is Council's desire to state its concerns, to clear the air, and to move the relationship forward. Mayor Kingseed stated that he would not have said it before a year ago, but in actuality, we are two communities and not *one* community and possibly with separate and distinct futures. It was clear from the election results of last year that the unincorporated part of the Township is not interested in studying consolidation of the two governments and Council accepts that fact. The City is considering secession but, at this time, it is not convinced it would be in the best interest of the Centerville residents.

In accounting for the \$466,000.00 of inside millage that the Township receives from Centerville taxpayers, the Township stated that they use this money to maintain the Centerville Cemetery and as general overhead for the Fire Department and the Recreation Center. (They are also funded by separate levies). Ms. Lightle added that a grant has been obtained for four tornado sirens – two sirens will be placed in the incorporated part of the City. She did not have the financial figures of the breakdown of the \$466,000, but the Township will provide a breakdown (an accounting including administrative costs) to Council. There is some limitation to the figures because the amount goes into the general fund and the Township does not backcharge those funds directly. Once again, Council wants reassurance that this money benefits Centerville taxpayers.

Mrs. Young stated that, of the \$466,000.00, the Township budgets \$150,000 from this money in a long-standing offer to combine resources to do a joint project(s) with the City. Council is concerned that the amount is often not spent on any project(s).

Discussion was held on how the Recreation Center is funded.

Mr. Horn entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Snyder stated his position that he believes "we are two communities that work together very closely". Discussion continued regarding the Rec Center and the Fire Department. Questions were raised not in criticism, but rather to share concerns and to look toward long-range planning. The Township Trustees will put the numbers together on how much it costs to run the Fire Department.

Ms. Young voiced the concern of the Trustees that the discussion of secession is a reaction based on hurt feelings resulting from the defeat of the merger study issue at the November election. The Trustees do not see what the Centerville taxpayers would gain from secession. Retaliation would not be in anyone's best interest.

Council does not see the desire for these discussions as payback for the results of the election, but as a means to resolve some issues that have been raised for years without significant change. The Council feels that the status quo is unacceptable because of the inequitable aspects in the existing relationship. Appropriate sharing of information and ideas is the only remedy for the lack of mutual understanding of these issues. Council's primary concern is that money from Centerville taxpayers needs to be spent to the benefit of city residents. Washington Township annually receives .7 mils (\$466,000.00 this year) in Centerville taxpayer dollars. This amount is separate from any assessed millage for fire, recreation, the library, the park district or the schools.

Another key area for discussion also relates to the Fire Department and the Rec Center. Council would like to have a formal structure for City input in these budgets. Both of these entities are funded by Centerville residents, yet there is no representation of City interests. Council strongly believes that this is not equitable.

Council asked the Township Trustees to consider whether they would be willing to cooperate in establishing joint districts for both the Fire Department and the Rec Center, if the City of Centerville should decide to secede from Washington Township. Joint districts would avert the break up of the Fire Department and the Rec Center, yet they would give Centerville some influence on the way things are run.

There was a brief discussion of how we can jointly support the Centerville City Schools and the upcoming levy, May 5, 2009.

Before adjournment Mr. Berry asked if there is a possibility of a joint waste collection district.

Mayor Kingseed reiterated that Council is not satisfied with the status quo and is urging the Township Trustees to meet the Council halfway to resolve these important issues.

*Debra A. James*

Debra A. James  
Clerk of Council

Approved *C Mark Kingseed*  
C. Mark Kingseed  
Mayor