

Centerville City Council/Washington Township Trustees
Joint Meeting
January 16, 2007

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Washington Township Government Center
PRESENT: Mayor C. Mark Kingseed
Deputy-Mayor Douglas Cline
Councilmembers: James Singer
Susan Lienesch
Robert Corbin
Brooks Compton
Paul Gresham
Clerk of Council Debra James
City Manager Gregory Horn
Finance Director Mark Schlagheck
Washington Township Trustees: President Joyce Young
Vice President Terry Blair
Township Administrator Gary Huff
Deputy Administrator Jesse Lightle
Fiscal Officer Tom Zobrist
Public Information Manager Jackie Curl

Mayor Kingseed and Trustee Vice President Terry Blair presided over this meeting. A commitment was made between Washington Township Trustees and the Centerville City Council in March 2006 to hire an outside financial accounting firm to make a joint financial study for both entities to see whether the communities function more efficiently separately or together. The purpose of the study is to determine the financial impact on the residents if the two governments were to merge under the existing provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. The residents need to be educated and to have the information available to them. It is important to review to see whether the two governments could provide services more efficiently (saving taxpayers money).

Mr. Huff and Mr. Horn will each recommend three or four consultants who have experience with Cities and Townships doing this type of study. Together they will decide on a qualified firm.

Mayor Kingseed and Township Vice President Terry Blair signed a Joint Agreement between Washington Township and the City of Centerville relating to the Financial Study. In the agreement, the City and the Township committed to a complete financial analysis conducted by a neutral independent agent. Each government will pay 50% of the fees and expenses incurred by the expert in carrying out the jointly agreed upon tasks. "Each government has the right to ask the expert to analyze and make findings relating to any other issue the government desires. The extra study will be paid for solely by the government requesting the study and will be included in a separate appendix, which will be attached to the expert's Joint Report." It is expected that the final report will be completed in the fall. It should be noted that this is not a formal merger study but rather a joint cooperative financial analysis.

A brief discussion was held regarding consolidation of dispatching for the Centerville Police Department and the Washington Township Fire Department. Council believes a joint dispatch center would facilitate communications between the two entities and possibly save taxpayer dollars. Mr. Blair reported that the Township is studying and evaluating the proposed Montgomery County 911 Regional Dispatch System.

Delba A. James
Clerk of Council

Approved: Mark Kinspead
Mayor