

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL JOINT MEETING BETWEEN COUNCIL OF THE
VILAGE OF EAST SPARTA, COUNTY OF STARK AND STATE OF OHIO AND
THE PIKE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON
FEBRUARY 1, 2008.**

Mayor Truax called the East Sparta Council meeting to order at 7:00PM. Doug Baum called the Pike Township meeting to order also at 7:00PM.

The following members were present for East Sparta; Mayor Truax, Council Members Charlene Stelluto, Michael Caudill, Chris Freitag, Marlene Gray, Robert Smith and Clerk-Treasurer Rice. Present for Pike Township was; Doug Baum, Lee Strad, Don Charneski, and Carol Barto. Visitors included; Joe Kostic (Village Coordinator), Bob Cyperski (Village Solicitor), Dave Reader (U. S. Tile), Wayne Wood, Don George, Dave Collier, Steve Adams, Dave Ross, and Sharon Perrine.

Mayor Truax stated that since Pike Township had requested this meeting, she offered the floor to Baum. Baum introduced the new Trustee, and then stated that the purpose of the meeting is to try and carve out an agreement that both sides can live with.

Cyperski stated that the agreement that had been submitted in the past and what both sides are looking at now is not a CEDA agreement but rather an annexation agreement. They are similar in some ways but differ in many others. Cyperski stated that the Council wants any agreement forged to include not only the park and the bank, but also those properties that have requested water and signed agreements(Sparta Steel, Slants N Nails, and A&R Machine). The agreement would also have to include Adams's Fabricating which would be an island when the other properties are annexed. An island would create huge difficulties in safety services. Cyperski stated that the Trustees have stated that they would like a moratorium on the Wood, George and Nicoletti properties. The Council needs to know what time frame the Trustees are looking for. Also originally an amount of \$5,000.00 was to go to the park but was cut down to \$2,500.00 when the agreement was received. Also the Trustees cannot have a position on the park board, as stated in the O.R.C., but can have an advisory board position.

Smith stated that he just wants this matter settled once and for all. This has been drug out far too long.

Baum stated that taxes are some issue with the agreement and wants the figure going to the park to be \$2,500.00. Cyperski asked if this would be cash or services in kind? Baum stated that they cannot give cash, but that it would be services and material. Strad stated that he also feels that id would have to be services.

Strad stated his position. He wants 50 percent of the taxes for a period of 25 years and a ten year moratorium on annexation any further Township Property, unless requested by land owner, for the term of the agreement.

Baum stated that he would also like Council to ask US Tile to cut the amount of property to be annexed into the Village and limit it to the plant only.

Mayor Truax stated that that was not the Council's call since the Tile Plant requested the annexation and not the Council.

Reader addressed the assemblage. He stated, on behalf of the Tile Plant, that he was not going to change the original petition and feels that the appeal filed by the Township has no merit and will be overturned. He stated that the Council did not approach him but rather was the other way around. The Plant approached the Village and petitioned, which is their right, to be annexed into the Village to protect the property values.

Council replied to Strad that 50 percent for 25 years was unacceptable and unreasonable.

Strad stated that he would like a permanent moratorium on the three properties along route 800. Strad stated that the Township would drop the appeal if agreement could be reached.

Reader stated that the appeal should be a nonfactor since he feels there is no way the Township is going to win the appeal. He stated that he has been assured by his attorney that the appeal will be overturned.

Caudill stated that also the park should not be a bargaining chip. The park was formed to be used and supported by the entire Sandy Valley area and not just the Village. The Village owns the park and must, by the ORC, be the financial supervisors of the park.

Strad and Baum both stated that the Township is committed to helping the park. They stated that the Trustees will continue to help the park in whatever way they can. The \$2,500.00 figure would be in merchandise and not labor. If at the end of the year, the Township has not donated the full \$2,500.00 in materials, they could make the difference in cash.

Baum and Strad both stated that a second meeting was needed. This would give both sides time to speak to their attorneys and the attorneys to speak to each other. Council and the Trustees agreed to a meeting date of Feb. 15th at 7:00 PM to be held once again in the Municipal Building. At that time both attorneys should be in attendance and a draft should be ready. The draft should state a 15 year moratorium on the Rt. 800 properties and the standard sharing of taxes for 12 years. The agreement will also cover Sparta Steel, Slats N Nails, A&R and Adams Fabricating.

Caudill made motion to adjourn, seconded by Smith. Meeting Adjourned 8:34 PM

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer