

MILTON-UNION EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS
Village, Township, School Meeting
Union Township Building

Unofficial
Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Milton-Union Exempted Village Board of Education was called to order by President Long, on May 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Long, Dr. McCarroll, Mrs. Minneman, Mrs. Swigart

Absent: Mr. Huffman

Union Township: Bill O'Brien, Jim Albaugh, Tony Hughes, Margie Coate

West Milton Village: Matt Kline, Jason Tinnerman, Karen Grudich, Scott Fogle, Anthony Miller

NEW BUSINESS

Team Management

Joint Meeting with the Village of West Milton Council, and Union Township Trustees:

Union Township Update

- This is a busy time of year preparing cemeteries for Memorial Day activities.
- There has been a decline in the number of burials this year.
- Tony Hughes requested that the joint meeting of village, township and school administrators be held in April 2016 due to the workload the township has in May.

Milton-Union Schools Update

President Long reported on the following items:

Refinancing the 2009 School Improvement Bond

- The district recently refinanced their 2009 School Improvement Bond.
- The refinancing will save taxpayers approximately \$360,000 over the life of the bond (7%).
- Treasurer Altenburger commented that the district is pleased with the amount of savings.

Logging in Lowry Woods

- Logging will soon begin. Signs will be placed at the entrances to the woods stating that they are closed.
- The majority of the dead or dying trees are infected with the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Approximately 189 trees will be cut down, which equates to about 4-5 trees per acre.
- Schulte Logging will pay the district \$14,000 for the timber, which will be used for pallets.
- Honeysuckle was sprayed in the fall. Much of it is brown. We will continue to spray.

Superintendent Rammel reported on the following items:

Pilot REACH (Reading Expands All Children's Horizons)

- The focus of the \$2.1 million grant is to help kindergarten and first grade students become better readers.
- Thirty-two reading modules have been designed by reading experts and are being produced by PBS/ThinkTV. The Ohio State University Crane Center and Wright State University are also involved in the project.
- Each student will receive a laptop device, each loaded with their own self-paced reading modules.
- The district is conducting a pilot in four classrooms: two kindergarten and two first grade. The pilot classrooms now have laptops.
- Students & parents are extremely excited with their 1:1 device.
- Students are taking the laptops home every night and completing homework on it.
- Through the Straight A grant, the district purchased 315 laptops, all equipped with headphones, backpacks and 180 Chromebooks – all with charging stations.
- On May 21, PBS/ThinkTV will be on-site to videotape students using their devices.

President Long and Superintendent Rammel reported on the following items:

Hiring Staff

- Thirteen certified staff members will be replaced this coming year.
- A number of teachers are retiring due to changes to STRS: Barb Peck, Theresa Arnold, Ken Christello, and Dee Earl.
- Classified retirees include: Dan Hobbs, Peggy Smith, and Rhonda Weiser.

Professional Development

- Professional development for teachers will be held the first two weeks in June.
- Training will include technology training and curriculum mapping.
- A new elementary principal has been hired, Loretta Henderson. She comes to Milton-Union from Piqua City Schools.

Important Dates

- Last day for students is Thursday, May 28. There will be a 2-hour early dismissal.
- Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 22 at Memorial Stadium (weather permitting).
- The Bulldog Golf Classic is Friday, June 12 at Homestead.

Miscellaneous

- Three board member positions will be on the ballot in November 2015.
- The 3.9 mill permanent improvement levy is slated for renewal on the November 2015 ballot. The money generated from this levy is used to purchase buses and technology.

West Milton Update

City Manager Kline and council members reported on the following items:

New Council Organization

- Karen Grudich was recently sworn in as a council member.
- Fred Francis will be sworn in as mayor. Jason Tinnerman has done a great job as mayor and will be the commencement speaker this year at Milton-Union's graduation. Fred will be the speaker at the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Safe Routes Update

- The Wion's sold their property from the sidewalk to the road, and it is now the village's responsibility to mow and maintain.
- City Manager Kline would like the contractor to make the ground even so that it is easier to maintain.

Playground Grant Application

- The village recently applied for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant for new playground equipment. The newest piece of equipment is thirty years old.

Low-head Dam Removed

- Low-head Dam has been completely removed.
- Different kinds of fish are now seen.
- Brukner would like to partner with the village for a trail to the Brukner site.

Ballot Issues

- 0.5% income tax levy for police and fire personnel was defeated in May.
- The levy continues through 2016; therefore, there will be other opportunities to pass it.
- Low voter turn-out.
- Ballot wording was poor and confusing.
- The time period for the levy was for a continuous period rather than a renewal for a fixed period of time.
- Council must now decide when the levy should be on the ballot again.
- Five seats will be open on Village Council in November 2015.
- Superintendent Rammel commented that she has heard positive remarks regarding the council and the mayor.
- The Village has been deficit spending the last three years due to decreased state funding.

Sewer Line to Ludlow Falls

- All Ludlow Falls residents are on a septic tank.
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission completed a pre-engineering study and determined that the best option is to tie into the West Milton system.
- Sewer lines would be beneficial for development.
- On June 12th, Manager Kline will do a presentation for funding.

Paving Program

- Plan to re-do the south side.
- Also plan to pave S.R. 571 to Davis and re-stripe with thermal.
- Will probably be done in June or July.

Miscellaneous

- Eighty Hometown Heroes banners will be put up next week.
- Scott Fogle commented that Tai chi classes are being held from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. every Sunday for free in the park.
- Discussing the possibility of movie in the park night.
- Sign-up sheets are available for the Fourth of July parade. Working to get more help for the festival. Milton-Union music boosters will be helping out.
- The next park board meeting is 5/20 at 6:30 p.m. in the council office.
- West Milton Rotary is in charge of the Fall Fling, which will be held in the fall.
- The owners of the bowling alley will host a farmer's market on Sundays in July and August.

The next joint meeting of the village, township and school will be September 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Milton-Union Schools.

ADJOURNMENT

President Long declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.