

**Manchester Village Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2019**  
**Unapproved Minutes**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair, Jim Keller, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Dunsmore, Pat Fielder, Rick Finger, Leslie Kiesel, Denise Collins, Carol LaRock, Herb Mahony, Jack Gould, Jim Keller

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gene DeRossett, Ron Milkey, Ron Mann, Lisa Moutinho, John Seefeld, Laurie Carey, Danell Proctor, Carl Macomber, Margene Dunsmore, Sara Swanson, Susan Gleason, Chelsea, Mikel, Marin Way and George Daubner.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-** A motion was made by Dunsmore to approve, Kiesel seconded. Motion passed.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA CHANGE-** A motion was made by Mahony to approve switching New Business with Reports, Dunsmore seconded. Motion passed.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** A motion was made by LaRock to approve, Mahony seconded. Motion passed.

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-**

- a. Marty Way – Village Council, feels it's time to move forward as a city. Says it feels like we are paying rent in the Township.
- b. Chelsea Michael – Sharon Township Clerk, interested in educating on how any changes might affect their township.

**7. NEW BUSINESS- Manchester Township Trustee Input**

- a. Gene DeRossett – Talks through reasons why he likes living in Manchester: schools, affordable housing, taxes. He also talks through spending from the township to the village, such as upkeep of Oak Grove and Reynolds cemetery (\$30,000), road maintenance – Buss Road improvements (\$63,000), culvert repairs (\$150,000) and Watkins Lake State Park connection and trailhead (500 acres in Manchester Township). DeRossett covers new permits and new construction with Village and Township and then goes on to mention the contract for tax assessment is \$52,000/year, then goes on to talk about elections and (215 calls to date this year to MTFD). MTFD also contracts with Clinton and Sand Lake, DeRossett goes on to cover the four different options for what fire services might look like in the case of cityhood.
- b. DeRossett speaks to an April fire report given to him by the Chief: 27% Manchester Village, 23% Freedom Twp. 16%, Bridgewater Twp. 14% Manchester Twp, 11% Sharon Twp. and four calls for mutual aid. DeRossett believes MTFD will need 2 full time fire personnel in the near future during the day. He also believes fire will need a new building sometime in the future.
- c. DeRossett goes through commenting on issues that have been brought up in past Citizens Advisory Committee meetings to share his thoughts on what the pros and cons and states a few things that would change if the Village were to become a City, such as there may no longer be a joint planning commission; yet some things would stay the same, like the library and generally the community. DeRossett goes on to say that he supports the relationship between the township and village regardless of decision.
- d. Moutinho speaks about her struggle with Village leadership not collaborating more with the Township on this issue and believes it's becoming adversarial.
- e. Laurie Carey, Manchester Township Treasurer, shares concerns and issues about the potential change to a city. Her question is why now, what is driving this decision to look into making this change? She believes working together is the best path and brings up the questions around what will happen with the fire service? Carey brings up a financial cost to moving forward on a decision such as this and whether that is a good use of money.
- f. Ron Milkey, Township Trustee, talks about Manchester as a community and its strong history. Milkey

speaks to millage dollars that come back to Manchester from the Township, states the Township improves their roads for the betterment of all in the surrounding area.

- g. Ron Mann, Manchester Township Trustee, speaks to the boundaries that already exist everywhere but echoes the sentiment that we are one community regardless of boundaries. Says that the money village residents pay for roads is a wash for “extra services” the village receives from Manchester Township Fire Department. Mann believes the biggest impact will be the Township offices having to move outside of Village limits.
- h. Carol LaRock comments that, though the word wedge has been mentioned a few times, that the purpose of a cityhood inquiry is not meant to cause a wedge.
- i. Rick Finger asks if there is a numerical projection from a Township perspective on what the financial loss would be. DeRossett says they will be talking more about it during the budget process in the coming weeks. Ron Mann says millage loss from Village income would be about a 1/3 of their budget or \$200,000. Finger asks what the everyday impact would be, and Mann says potentially salaries of elected officials or cutting back of office hours.
- j. Scott Dunsmore comments to Lisa Moutinho regarding feeling left out of communications about this process to clarify that Committee has been forward about the charge that was given, and she agreed.
- k. Herb Mahoney comments on what’s been mentioned as negative affects to the community and asks specifically what those negatives entail?
- l. Carol LaRock also asks about how this decision may impact Sharon Township, since this has been brought up in the past. Chelsea Michael speaks, as a political official and resident, to the potential of annexation of property, which is possible but also states she realizes this has not been brought up as an issue.
- m. Ron Milkey asks, doesn’t a city have the ability to annex property easier than a Village? Jeff Wallace answers how that process works as both a village and city.
- n. Herb Mahoney speaks to his personal opinion as to why this is a good time for the Village to consider cityhood. He believes that it’s important for both village and township residents have different needs and should have their local government advocate for them.
- o. Jack Gould asks Ron Mann if he can project what a contract would look like for comparison purposes. Mann says he will work on a projection based on runs, SEVs and population.
- p. Marty Way, Council Member comments on not feeling like an equal party in the process of working with township.

## **7. REPORTS-**

- a. Administration – Gould comments on changing a sentence in #17 of FAQ. Herb notes we should move to make the revised FAQ public, but it’s decided work needs to be done on #15 and #17.
- b. Chair – Keller talks about the report’s current status. He states there will be a draft ready for the next meeting minus a recommendation for the Committee to review. He also talks about the need for a few more meetings beyond what is scheduled and asks for the Committee’s availability.
- c. Finance Committee – None

## **8. OLD BUSINESS-** None

- 9. ADJOURN** - A motion to adjourn was made by Finger, seconded by Mahoney. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Kiesel

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