

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE
BELLEVILLE TOWNSHIP TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 22, 2016 5:00pm**

Members Present: Cheryl Brunsmann
Nichele Moore
Cory Hartz
Bill Kreeb
Gerry Hasenstab
Jeff Dosier
Doug Boyer

Members Absent: Barb Hohlt

Staff: Mayor Eckert
Jim Schneider

Guests: Dennis Korte
Alderman Scott Tyler
Michael Hagberg
Michael Kozitech
Debbie Dawson
Jen Conklin
Joy Schreiber

Mayor Mark Eckert called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Mayor Eckert asked for introductions of all members of the Task Force.

Discussion of Ordinance No. 7949-2016 and the responsibilities of the Belleville Township to the Task Force.

Discussion of financial report of the Belleville Township.

Dennis Korte provide update and history of the Township.

- Main function to offer general assistance.
- What all township does.
- Functions of the townships
- Programs, etc.

Cory Hartz went to ask about how mandate is only thing task force has to consider. How is everything else evolved? Dennis Korte explained functions have just fallen on us over the years.

Cheryl Brunsmann asked what do other townships do? Dennis answered back that only concerned about ours.

Cheryl Brunsmann went on to ask Dennis about the spreadsheet of township costs. Gerry Hasenstab asked a question about the general fund spreadsheet.

Michael Hagberg starts to explain the tax levy collected of the general assistance fund. The members then went on to talk about the rate and why it was lowered by 30% since last year. They lowered it for overtaxing.

Mayor Eckert asked a question about if whether the general assistance numbers have been higher than they are today. If general assistance does rise, it's Belleville's responsibility to cover that. There then was discussion about how this could happen and what different factors there are on why the general assistance would spike.

Members of the township recommended that the Task Force take a look at Evanston, Illinois Township and see what they did and how they run things because they just dissolved theirs a year ago.

Mayor Eckert mentioned that we have to keep in mind that even though the township structure may change, the homeless and people's needs won't be going away and that it's important to be as effective as possible to help them. What can City of Belleville do at this crossroads to strengthen what we already have and make it better?

The members of the Township have been in contact with Evanston, IL and they said they expanded their programs, however it did cost them more.

Mayor Eckert then recommended that the members do their research, brainstorm and gather facts on townships.

It was recommended that the City get a hold of someone from Evanston, IL to share their process with us. Mayor Eckert suggested that maybe we could get them via Skype for the next meeting.

Jeff Dosier had a question about replacement tax. Township does still get it, however, as of July 1st it is going to be held. Belleville Township was not overpaid. City of Belleville did have a slight over payment. It was asked if the cities will continue to receive the tax. They are holding it until they claim they get a budget or to override it. Discussion about whether the City of Belleville will receive the same amount the Belleville Township was getting.

Mayor Eckert brought up that once the renovations of City Hall, etc are complete, there will be facilities that we can stop paying rent and utilities which will bring us some savings.

Jim Schneider talks about how he has been networking with community development to research programs to help expand the some of the Township programs for the transition.

Mark Eckert asked members what they want him to do before their next meeting. He also recommended that the members select a chairperson to run the next meetings.

Bill Kreeb asked what was the basic thinking about getting rid of the Township. Mayor Eckert explained there was discussion back in 2012 about whether the City of Belleville could eventually take over.

Mayor Eckert hopes the Task Force can get a real handle on what exactly needs to be done to continue the programs. Mayor Eckert goes on to talk about the State Budget and how none of us can know what will happen in the years to come.

There was a discussion about what would happen and what would need to be done if schools would be delayed to start.

Nichele Moore added that she would like to see the Task Force have more guidelines and structure for the grants.

It was recommended by the members that there should be another business owner added to the Task Force Committee since there was another member who had to step down.

The Task Force needs to educate the public about what exactly the Township did and what the City of Belleville is going to continue to do.

It was recommended that the Task Force talk to someone from the general assistance training institute and find out all the different options that are out there for general assistance. The institute is in the process of updating manual, but it was recommended that the Task Force get a copy of it eventually for general assistance.

Nichele Moore asked about the amount of money in savings.

Mayor Eckert talked about the reserves. Then there was discussion regarding the City's reserves.

Mayor Eckert will recommend another business person to add to Task Force and take to Council. He also stated he does Task Force to pick a chairperson.

The next Task Meeting was set for Wednesday, July 6th at 5:00pm the location was still TBD.

Public Participation:

Michael Hagberg wanted to make sure the Task Force is not duplicating what's being done at county level. He then goes on to talk about the general assistance reserve fund and what we would need to do if Obamacare were to stop. Also, general assistance revenue can only be used to provide only general assistance. We cannot take that fund and use in other programs. Michael also mentioned that with resources the city can apply for state and federal grants to help do more community projects.

The Committee asked for the definition of general assistance.

It was recommended that the committee make their own check list about what the Task Force wants to accomplish.

Meeting was adjourned.