2022 TMACOG General Assembly
Township Caucus Notes
Monday, April 25, 2022

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The Township Caucus met on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 8:15 a.m. in the Lawrence room at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, Ohio. Jacob Barnes, Springfield Township planning director, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He explained the purpose of the caucus for anyone who may be new to TMACOG.

Caucus members in attendance included:

- Jacob Barnes, Planning Director, Township of Springfield
- David Bench, Trustee, Township of Jerusalem
- Walter Celley, Administrator, Township of Perrysburg
- Barry Cousino, Fire Chief, Township of Springfield
- Ken Gilsdorf, Trustee, Township of Lake
- Michael Hampton, Administrator, Township of Springfield
- Donald Sahloff, Trustee, Township of Whiteford
- Mark Sattler, Trustee, Township of Jerusalem
- Oliver Turner, Administrator, Township of Sylvania

Other TMACOG members and guests in attendance included:

- Aaron Bowser, Survey Team Leader, Woolpert, Inc.
- Jeff Landel, Division Superintendent, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
- RJ Lumbrezer, Principal and Survey Manager, DGL Consulting Engineers, LLC

TMACOG staff members in attendance included:

- William Best, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Michael Fuller, Transportation Planner

Election of Representatives to the TMACOG Board of Trustees – The first order of business on the agenda was the election of caucus members to this year's Board of Trustees. A *motion* was made by Kenneth Gilsdorf and *seconded* by Michael Hampton to elect the following representatives. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustees
Walt Celley, Township of Perrysburg
Mike Hampton, Township of Springfield
Mark Hummer, Township of Lake
Don Sahloff, Township of Whiteford

Alternates
Barry Cousino, Township of Springfield
Ken Gilsdorf, Township of Lake
Joe Schaller, Township of Perrysburg
VACANT SEAT
VACANT SEAT

Appointment of Township Representative to Transportation Council –A *motion* was made by Mike Hampton and *seconded* by David Bench to appoint John Crandall to the Transportation Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Township Representatives to Water Quality Council – A *motion* was made by Dave Bench and *seconded* by Ken Gilsdorf to appoint Mark Sattler to the Water Quality Council. The motion passed unanimously with no one abstaining.

Round Table Discussion & Suggested Topics

- **Policing**
  Springfield Township has Issue 5 up for vote in the May 3 primary to cover the costs of patrols by the Lucas County Sheriff's Department in their township. Past issues in 2009 and 2015 failed to pass. Springfield Township comprises about 60 percent of the Sheriff's Department call volume--about 1,100 calls per month. Smaller, rural townships like Jerusalem Township do not have the resources to cover the costs of patrols. Jerusalem Township specifically loses tax revenue to nearby municipalities where many of its residents commute. Attempts to partner with local municipalities with their own police force have been unsuccessful. It would be cost prohibitive for Springfield Township to build its own police force. The townships might have a case to legally challenge the Sheriff's Department's decision if the issue does not pass. The Sheriff's Department is not required to maintain regular patrols.

- **COVID-19**
  Townships have seen increases in complaints with respect to zoning violations. However, those complaints are being resolved more quickly. Some townships are seeing an increase in permit requests.

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding**
  It was noted that the reporting deadline is April 30. Townships have an opportunity to claim 100 percent of the funds as revenue loss. Sylvania Township noted the reporting was easier when claiming the 100 percent as loss.

- **Municipal courts**
  Some townships noted delays in court processes. Lake Township expressed concern over court rulings in favor of a village in a few cases.

- **Property maintenance**
  Sylvania Township adopted a property maintenance code in January 2022. Townships must adopt a limited home rule government in order to adopt a property maintenance code.

- **Planning and Zoning**

  Springfield Township noted they are starting to fill some of their commercial/industrial positions that had been vacated by lockdowns that were imposed during the pandemic. Several townships noted swimming pool permit increase. Lake Township expressed concern over the increased traffic on the State Route 795 corridor. Springfield Township expressed concern regarding the consultation process for intersection improvements recommended by the Governor's office for an intersection in their township. Jerusalem Township updated its comprehensive plan in December 2021 with a plan to regularly review it rather than waiting to update it. Other townships agreed that annual reviews or updates are a better practice than updates

every 5-10 years. Whiteford and Royalton townships noted concerns over the preservation of farmland in their townships.

- **911 funding**
  Members are optimistic about progress on this issue.

- **Ohio Turnpike update**
  The Turnpike is working on a new toll system to go live in late 2023. The Turnpike Association makes an effort to consult with townships.

Townships identified two issues to bring to the attention of the state legislators: public involvement on the Governor's projects list and the requirements of the county sheriff's departments.

Legislative Update – This topic was not discussed.

Next Steps – There weren't any requested actions from township caucus members.

Questions and Answers – All questions took place during the round table discussion.

Adjournment – Mr. Barnes thanked the attendees for their participation and adjourned the meeting.