



**Jackson Township Hamilton County**  
**506 W. Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 456**  
**Arcadia, IN 46030**

**Robyn Cook | Township Trustee**

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**Township Board | Jeff Roberts | Glen Schwartz | Randy Hill**

### **SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS WHITE RIVER CONTRACT/WORK RELATIONS**

**Date:** November 6, 2020

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Call to Order:** Jeff Roberts

**Present:** Jeff Roberts  
Glen Schwartz

**Absent:** Randy Hill

**Others Present:** Jeff Muszar, Fire Chief  
Robyn Cook, Trustee  
Nicole Duncan, Deputy Trustee  
Craig Owens, Jackson Fire Firefighter  
Jamie Rulon, White River Township Trustee  
Bob Smith, White River Fire Consultant

**Quorum Declared:** Jeff Roberts

Jackson Township requested the meeting with White River to improve communication and determine working relation expectations for the year 2021.

Chief Muszar began by stating that Jackson Township has invested significantly in this partnership with staffing, equipment, uniforms, etc. and now, via second and third hand information, has learned that White River may be looking to sever the relationship. Chief Muszar stated that Jackson needs to know what WR expects from Jackson moving forward.

Trustee Rulon stated that Bob Smith is working as fire consultant to WR and they are looking to hire a full-time fire chief by the beginning of the year. Mr. Smith explained that they would like to, over time, hire some full and part-time firefighters, EMTs, and medics.

Mr. Roberts inquired about the sustainability of their budget to which they replied they are hoping to plead their case to the Department of Local Government Finance for a levy increase otherwise they will have to depend on emergency loans.

As long-term goals for a full-time department are years out, WR still wants EMS services from Jackson. Trustee Cook provided the 2021 contract proposal for these services. The contract is the same (\$150,000) as 2020 for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. staffing at the WR firehouse, however, it also includes an additional \$75,000 for Jackson to have additional staff at Station 55 for 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. coverage. Trustee Rulon asked if the price would be lowered if all staff were to remain at Station 55. The answer to that is no, as Jackson is not making a profit.

Trustee Cook also advised that due to the recent staffing challenges, and as a show of good faith, Jackson Township has written off the previously agreed upon 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. fees for the last half of 2020.

Chief Muszar explained that staffing issues have become more challenging because Jackson employees are uncomfortable at Station 31. Promises of basic improvements such as comfortable furniture, internet, and showers have gone unfulfilled. He added that Covid has added to these concerns as WRVFD does not follow Covid protocols which cause concern for the health and safety of Jackson employees.

Trustee Rulon stated that she will have to take the contract to her board for review.

Chief Muszar offered to help WR Fire Department get up and running and advised that it is important for our two departments to communicate, work together, train together, and share information in order to best serve the community.

Mr. Smith stated that as soon as the new WR Fire Chief is chosen, he (Mr. Smith) will notify Chief Muszar and put him in direct contact with the new chief so they can work together and collaborate.

There was general discussion about the purchase of comfortable furniture and internet needs for the staff. No decisions were made.

Contact information between Trustee Rulon and Chief Muszar was verified as Trustee Rulon seems to have not received past communications from Chief Muszar.

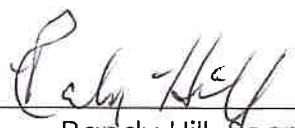
**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Schwartz moved to adjourn with Mr. Roberts seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Signatures of Jackson Township-Hamilton County

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Jeff Roberts, President

  
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Glen Schwartz, Financial Officer

  
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Randy Hill, Secretary

  
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Robyn Cook, Trustee