

Walnut Township Special Trustee Meeting November 27, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM at the Gathering Church located at 5286 Fairfield Beach Road, Thornville, OH (Fairfield Beach/Walnut Twp). Trustees Horn, Yates & Leith present.

There were 10 guest present plus Fairfield County Deputy Sgt Jesse Hendershot & 2 Community Watch Volunteers.

Purpose of this Special Meeting was to discuss the possibility of creating a Community Watch Program for the Fairfield Beach neighborhood. Trustee Horn began the meeting by covering the need & purpose in creating this program.

Sgt. Hendershot explained the Community Watch Program for Fairfield County. Purpose is to reduce crime. Certified Watch Volunteers only report questionable activity & Deputies will follow up. Volunteers work only in pairs from 7AM-11PM in 4-8 hour shifts. Sheriff Department has 6 sectors which Walnut & Pleasant Townships are one. Sgt. Hendershot discussed the necessary certified training for Volunteers. Participants must attend a class conducted by the Sheriff's department. This class takes about 15-20 hours. Volunteers are also shown how the dispatch system works plus must spend 8 hours with a Deputy ride along & 4 hours with a certified Volunteer on a ride along. Certified Volunteers are required to work 8 hours per month. Sgt. Hendershot expressed the need for a minimum of 24 residents needed to begin a class & certification. His experience shows not all 24 will complete the necessary requirements.

Trustee Horn discussed options for a vehicle necessary for use by Fairfield Beach Watch Volunteers. He has researched purchasing a new golf cart that could be stored at the Township park building. Cost would be about \$6000. Sheriff Phalen has offered \$1000 towards a vehicle. The balance of the purchase price would need to come from donations. Township would provide storage area & fuel. A car was also discussed as a possibility. Any vehicle would become property of the Sheriff's Department if the program were discontinued.

This program must be "resident" driven & supported in order to be successful. General consensus was to get a minimum of 24 residents committed to become certified. Seven attendees committed to volunteer for the program at this meeting. All were encouraged to get the word out within the area & secure additional volunteers. Names can be forwarded to Trustee Horn.

A follow up meeting with those willing to commit is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2018 at 7PM. Meeting tentatively to be held at this location.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40PM by Trustee Yates with second by Trustee Horn. Motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Respectably submitted by,

Trustee Leith

William Yates

Terry Horn

Doug Leith, Chairman