



# 2016 Summer Caucuses & Forum with State Lawmakers

## Township Summer Caucus Notes

### Thursday, August 4, 2016

---

**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The Township Caucus met on August 4, 2016 at 9 a.m. at Penta Career Center (Room 1301), 9301 Buck Road in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Ken Gilsdorf, Lake Township trustee and caucus facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Introductions were made by everyone present.

#### **TMACOG members who were present included:**

- Jacob Barnes – Zoning Inspector & Enforcement, Township of Springfield
- John Crandall – Trustee, Township of Sylvania
- Kenneth Gilsdorf – Trustee, Township of Lake
- Charles Hoecherl – Trustee, Township of Monclova
- E. Mark Hummer – Police Chief/Administrator, Township of Lake
- Daniel Hunt – Mobility Manager, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
- Robert Mack – Trustee, Township of Perrysburg
- Donald Sahloff – Trustee, Township of Whiteford, MI
- Joseph Schaller – Trustee, Township of Perrysburg

#### **Non-TMACOG members who were present included:**

- Amy Malmer – Membership Manager, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

#### **TMACOG support staff that was present included:**

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

#### **Topics discussed during the caucus round table include the following:**

- Mr. Gilsdorf opened the floor for caucus members to discuss township jurisdiction on interstates passing through township boundaries.
  - Lake Township Police had an incident where drug trafficking charges had to be dropped when an arrest was made by the Township Police on I-280.
  - Participants discussed House Bill 378 (HB378), which would grant township law enforcement officers serving jurisdictions with fewer than 50,000 people authority to make arrests for motor vehicle-related violations on interstates that pass through township boundaries. The Bill has already passed through the House, though it is opposed by the Buckeye State Sherriff Association (BSSA) over concerns of creating more speed traps. Most townships agreed that speeding tickets do not create much revenue for the jurisdiction.
- Participants then discussed the current urban township definitions and whether it ought to be changed, granting home rule authority to smaller townships.

- It was noted that the definition for Townships requires greater than 15,000 people, not 20,000 people, as was listed on the Meeting Agenda.
- Perrysburg Township and Sylvania Township, both being home rule townships, cited the main benefits as the ability to use outside engineering services and outside legal counsel.
- Monclova Township noted that in the past nine years, lack of home rule authority has only limited them on 2 or 3 occasions.
- It was mentioned that a current House Bill might reduce the township population requirements.
- Monclova Township brought up the concern of losing points on projects if they use outside engineers
- Participants then discussed issues related to sewage disposal.
  - A portion (about half) of Perrysburg Township has its sewage pumped to the City of Perrysburg, and the current agreement allows the City to charge high rates for sewage. The City of Perrysburg is using the township tie-in to sewage to force annexation.
  - Monclova Township noted that new county health department regulations are increasing costs for septic systems.
  - Whiteford and Sylvania Townships remarked that their relationships with the City of Sylvania as they pertain to sewage have been positive.
  - Participants discussed the contribution of overflow events in sewage systems to Lake Erie's algae bloom and concern over the EPA allowing overflow events.
- Participants discussed the state budget and continued impact on Local Government Funds
  - Monclova Township supported the change in the estate tax, but expressed concern over lack of replacement of those funds.
  - Participants discussed House Bill 538 and its ability to replace some of the lost revenue by adding fees to drivers' licensing.
  - Perrysburg Township supported the change in estate tax despite reaping some of the largest benefits from the old system, noting that the tax encourages people to take their money to places with less severe estate taxes during their later years. The old estate tax was likely not a sustainable economic development strategy.

**Generate Questions for Forum with State Lawmakers** – The Township Caucus generated the following questions:

1. Should the townships anticipate any future budget cuts?
2. How is the Senate planning to prioritize House Bill 378?

**Next Steps** – There were no requested actions from the caucus.

**Adjourn** – Mr. Gilsdorf thanked the attendees for their participation and adjourned the meeting.