



## 2016 Summer Caucuses & Forum with State Lawmakers

### Village Summer Caucus Notes

#### Thursday, August 4, 2016

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**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The Village Caucus met on August 4, 2016 at 9 a.m. at Penta Career Center (Room 1113), 9301 Buck Road in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Gordon Bowman, Pemberville Village Mayor and caucus facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Introductions were made by everyone present.

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

- Larry Boday – Council Member, Village of Walbridge
- Gordon Bowman – Mayor, Village of Pemberville
- Holly Emahiser – Council Member, Village of North Baltimore
- Janet Goldner – Mayor, Village of North Baltimore
- Joseph Helle – Mayor, Village of Walbridge
- Roasanna Hoelzel – Administrator, Village of Swanton
- Chris Kirk – Fiscal Officer, Village of North Baltimore
- Ann Roth – Mayor, Village of Swanton
- Rick Whetsel – Mayor, Village of Risingsun
- Nancy Perry – Council Member, Village of Haskins

#### **Guests who were present included:**

- Paige Curlis – President, Risingsun Kids Council

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

- Kari Gerwin – Water Quality
- Joy Minarcin – Water Quality Secretary/Accounting Assistant

**Introduction of Discussion Topics** – Gordon Bowman led the group in a roundtable discussion of topics as presented on the agenda.

- **Sidewalk Ordinances** – Members voiced their concerns over the repair/replacement of unsafe sidewalks in villages.
  - Who is responsible for cost – village or homeowner?
  - Funding possible through ADA, CPG low-income, Safe Walk To School
  - Work with tree commission to remove trees and replace with ones that adhere to sidewalk areas
  - Contact Stephanie Miller – ODNR for help
  - Work with an arborist
  - Establish a sidewalk replacement fund
  - Establish a sidewalk reimbursement fund

- **Water & Waste Water Operators:**
  - Wage a major concern
    - Villages cannot pay as high as cities
    - After training, employees move to cities that pay much better
  - Hiring pool for plant operators is extremely low
  - Incentives for obtaining different class certifications
  - Would like TMACOG to reach out to communities and schools to promote water and wastewater job opportunities
  - Incentives for employees to stay in the villages
  - PERS stipulations are preventing retirees from filling part-time position
  
- **Medical Marijuana Bill** – Because of time allotment, this topic was briefly touched upon.
  - Communities definitely need more education
  - Small towns would welcome dispensaries due to income/tax revenue
  - Law enforcement understanding

**Generate Questions for Forum with State Lawmakers** – The Village Caucus generated the following questions.

1. What is legislature doing to modify PERS retiring/here/re-hire requirements so it does not have an adverse effect on some of the municipality jobs – especially part-time job such as mayors, police, fire, water/wastewater operators?
2. What is the State’s stance on vocational education instead of a 4 year college?  
(Submitted by Paige Curtis, Village of Rising Sun Kids Council)
3. Can local Governments expect additional cuts in funding from the State or can we budget in the future based on current funding levels?

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

**Adjourn** – Mayor Bowman thanked the attendees for their participation and adjourned the meeting.