

## **Exploratory/Investigative Select Committee**

### **Special Organizational Meeting**

**May 3, 2021 at 6:50 PM**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Schaber at 7:38. Roll call showed all committee members in attendance: Schaber (chair), Meade (vice chair), Ratliff.

#### **New Business**

- Item 1. Committee discussion to define the schedule, format, and scope of review

Schaber believes that the scope should be limited to two topics:

1. \$1.28 mil IRS mistake
2. \$100 mil misappropriated by former auditor as alleged by Auditor Landon

Ratliff stated that he believes that discussion will lead them where it leads them. He believes that it is important to look at who, when, why, what happened as far as the mistake, as well as what they need to do to make sure this never happens again. He believes that they need to look into the comments and happenings that led to the allegations by Auditor Landon that about \$100 mil missing because of actions of the former Auditor. If that is truly missing, they have a lot of work to do. If it is not missing, they still have a lot of work to do because why would we have elected officials making comments like that. They should leave themselves some leeway on discussions and findings because they may go down a path that they cannot foresee now.

Meade concurs.

Schaber does not want to prolong this past the first committee meeting in June. He wants it to be to the point and then to move on because that is better for the City of Marion. He does not want to get sidetracked.

Ratliff believes that they have been given different timelines and reasonings – some conflict with each other, do not make sense, or he is not confident they are getting the whole truth. If they do not get the facts about this, then the citizens of Marion will now know what happened either. They have a responsibility to the citizens of Marion to know what happened to their money and why. He would like these to be formal and held as a hearing with subpoenas and administration of oaths. He would like to go back to in-person meetings. He believes that they can be more productive with a three-person committee in-person and that an oath will mean

more. He believes that the committee could spread out to observe social distancing protocols. They would need to lean on the Law Director as to how to get that done. He believes that they should have the Law Director report back as to how they do this. They will have one Zoom meeting in two weeks. He would like to see hearings in person after that. He would like to set schedule at next meeting.

Mr. Schaber stated that he does not wish to wear mask should they meet in person. He does not want to have another meeting to decide how to have a meeting.

Ratliff said that they have not done this before, and he wants to be sure that they do it correctly. He would like to allow the Law Director time to figure out how to do that.

Schaber said that he will limit public comment or questions to an email statement and will not allow public to speak during the meeting because of the nature of the process. The general public does not have relevant, first-hand information related to this investigation. They will subpoena those parties who they wish to question or provide evidence.

Law Director Russell agreed to provide a written opinion in advance of the next committee meeting – in two weeks.

Meade suggested that they set the committee meetings on Wednesday nights. He thought maybe they would be under 10 people for these meetings and they may be able to work within guidelines.

No other business could be discussed by the committee due to the fact that it was a special organizational meeting. Currently, Schaber is limiting public input or questions to email only. Schaber declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

Note: Individuals wishing to submit comments or questions for consideration by this committee may direct those to [trose@marionohio.org](mailto:trose@marionohio.org). Please reference "Select Committee" in the subject line.