

# CAMDEN VILLAGE COUNCIL – SPECIAL #2

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

Mayor: Lisa Moss

Fiscal Officer: Rebecca Wilson

Village Administrator: Rusty Wilson

Council: Wendell Mackie, Judy Michael, Toni Keesler, Ernest Crabtree, Debbie Hickman and Kelly Doran

Guests: Dan Michael, Ed Steiner, Donna Cross, Bill McQuiston, Jeff Steele, Eshelle Bales, Derek Bales, Gary Taylor, Kate Duskey, Nick Duskey, Jeff Brandenburg, Rob Dake, Debbie Witt, Billy Housewright, Charly Wooton, Megan Hudson, Stephanie Forrer, Chad Doran, Andrew Groh and Charo Mackie

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 P.M. Kelly Doran started the meeting and said what I really don't want is this to be a finger point blame session, but a this is how we got to this session and I hate that we had to have a meeting anyway but I have some questions and I'm confused on how this all happens and I don't understand how all these things get posted and who allows it, who permits it sanctions it, puts the posts on takes them off on the Camden-Somers Township Fire & Rescue facebook site. Someone said they answer to the Board. Kelly said one of my problems is breaking it down, Camden which is us, Somers Township which is everyone, Fire & Rescue which the board should be a sanctioned site and it's not. And the heading you are using you would speaking for Camden and the Fire Department and you're not. That's a problem and it needs to be corrected. If you want to have your Fire Association site and complain about something which I think is unprofessional, ok but I think there needs to be an understanding that we don't do that. If the shoe was on the other foot here and we had our Village employees with a site that was Camden Town Hall facebook site making comments that weren't factual about people on the Fire Board we would be livid because it's not coming from the Council themselves. So I think that needs to stop now and I'm pretty sure that has been talked about before and as a courtesy and I'm asking you very politely to stop because that is not helpful. Everybody knows where most of us Council live and we aren't hard to find and if there was a problem someone should have gotten ahold of us and we would have solved that. When you came last year to ask about using 725 there was no problem. Gary Taylor the chief said the location wasn't the problem it was the detour. Kelly said ok so when you came to Council in January 2017 and we were under the same impression I guess that you were hiring Area Wide Protection to do all the signage. Gary said that was in 2017 but in 2018 it was going to cost us too much to do professionally to route them out of town. Kelly said but it was still your burden to make sure we don't have everything coming to town that can't get through town. What I read which I didn't see that part but you gave me 10 years or whatever and we brought it up that we had to detour through the Village but that never made it to where it should have made it to. Kelly said so let's explore that – you were going to detour them through the Village, Gary said like we always have, Kelly said ok let's just assume that's how it was so now what was the problem. The problem was that some of your employees stopped at the station and told them that they couldn't detour the commercial vehicles through the Village and they tore our barricades down and said we had to wait for some reason until the carnival got here but my permit says 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and we waited until noon but they tore the barricades down and said we had to put signs on 725 which we can't do that because I can't detour them off a state route to the county without it being professionally done. That's why we wanted to detour them through the Village. Judy said she was confused because she had heard from the employees why close today and not Wednesday when there is nothing here yet. Gary said we give ourselves time because we don't know if she's coming at 2:00 in the morning or what. And as far as the commercial vehicles in all the years we never had the accusations that it could be a possibility of ticketing. Kelly said when you look at our ordinance from 1990 we didn't pass that it was done way before any of us and it wasn't passed 10 minutes ago. Gary said I didn't say that. Kelly said well it was implied that we just passed it to simply trip you guys up and that is not true. Someone said something about some signs looking newer. Kelly said some may look newer because they've been updated but were already there since 2008. Gary said my name is on the permit and I wasn't going to stick my name out there in case someone got ticketed because I could be liable. Kelly said that's why we're having this meeting because there were several assumptions being made where you were having professional detours being done and had we have known that wasn't going to happen we probably wouldn't have given you the 725 location. He said I'm pretty sure when I was here at the meeting I mentioned that. Council said we don't recall that and Kelly said let's just assume you did but the fact is you didn't and that's where the problem is and that's why we're having this conversation. So both have made a mistake either you didn't make that clear or we didn't understand so why can't we just say on facebook we've made a mistake. Is it that hard? I don't understand why it's this way and so now we have people that are all upset at us over nothing. And let's go back to the barricades as a courtesy to businesses and the traveling public you might have someone give you a call and say we're coming put

the barricades in place because people get mad when they are detoured for nothing. They don't call you they call us. Again going back to this facebook post, I think it's terrible and I think it's a shame that it has caused all this dissention throughout town over this. We depend on you guys and we want you to be happy and we don't want anything bad to happen to you guys over this or anything else we want to have more conversations with you. It just seems like there is always dissention in the ranks over there and it's directed at us and I just don't understand it we should all be working here on everything. Judy asked Gary if it was the confusion over the commercial traffic going through town that caused the carnival to be cancelled or something else. He said mostly because he wasn't going to stick his head out there in case someone got a ticket. He said I had between 8 and 8:30 to make a decision so I called the state and they told me they wouldn't pull our permit but that I could be liable if someone got a ticket because I forced them off the road so I called Rob and I was getting all kinds of grief that the road was blocked and then I talked to the carnival crew and that's when she gave me her spill about only bringing 5 rides or whatever so I was already aggravated about it all so I said just throw in the towel. Debbie asked if he was aware a tanker got stuck in an alley and Kelly said you have worries about a ticket and we have worries about 88,000 gallons of fuel and the liability the Village would have to deal with should something happen. Judy said so it wasn't entirely the traffic detour if Kissel wasn't bringing what ..... Gary said I'm tired it was the biggest part ...Kelly said how is that possible when you have 5 rides coming you call that carnival. Judy said they let us down this year again Gary said yes we were done so we threw in the towel and if I hadn't been worried about tickets we probably would have brought her in for 5 rides. Toni asked if there was a signed contract and Gary said no. Toni said where that's a big problem and on facebook someone said she had no intention of coming to Camden this year so it sounds like some people already knew there was going to be no carnival. Gary said when I talked to her she said they were hooked up and ready to go you'll have to talk to Rob about his comments. Toni asked Rob about his comment that they had no intention of coming to Camden. Rob said he didn't say that. Toni said you did I have it right here on paper I printed it off and it's your comment to Mr. Pearson's wife. So there you go people could see it wasn't the Council for the reason of the carnival being cancelled and what you said is wrong. Do you know there has been violence towards us because of this and that's real mature all because of these posts from the fire station. Kelly read the original post and said this is where it all started. Kelly asked who is writing and posting this stuff. Gary said we have three administrators, Josh, Stephanie and Billy. Kelly said who posted this one and Stephanie said she did. Kelly asked at whose direction and she said the chief. Kelly said to Gary so you told her to post that and he said not in those exact words but we are tired of fighting people. Every time the carnival comes we are fighting someone. Debbie said you didn't fight us this year and he said I thought it was going to be ok. Debbie said but you did the detour different. Rusty said the detour was okay for regular traffic but the signage wasn't there for commercial traffic. Rob said wouldn't it have been better to put up another sign instead of taking our barricades down. Kelly said maybe but it would have been even better to have a professional sign company detouring the traffic. Debbie said Rusty talked with Billy and he told Billy he had all the signs that he would let them borrow them and he would even help if need be. And Billy said yes he did but that's when we found out we couldn't put them on 725 we can't detour them out to the country roads. Kelly said then why do you think we would want them on our side streets. Kelly said Lafayette and Bloomfield are good venues. Kelly said so who is the legal leader at the fire house and Gary said I run the day to day operations and answer to the Board and can change the name on the facebook to the association if that's what you're saying but most of our stuff is labeled Camden Somers Township Fire and Rescue. Kelly said you can have the official site that is there now but the association should have their own facebook page and not use the name of the Fire and EMS. Another question is when you are posting this stuff are you are your own time or on the clock. Gary said technically she was at home that day and Billy and Josh are volunteers. Kelly said my problem would be if we have an employee that is being paid and posting association stuff while working and doing stuff they shouldn't be doing. Every one of our employees is on the associate too. Kelly said that's fine but you do your Association business somewhere else and not when you're on the clock if you're a paid employee – does that make sense. Rob Dake said no it doesn't. Kelly said ok so you want to do your hobby at work and Rob said yes I do. Kelly said well then you should be fired. Gary said look I'm not in this arguing stuff I have things to do because that doesn't fix this. The state told me that the only way I can use this route is for you to pull your Ordinance on the commercial trucks being on side streets and if you can't do that then we are just done. Billy said talking with the people who are going to maybe be here next year they have to meet their requirements for wide streets, no electric lines, etc. Judy asked if others can come look and see about the other options. Billy said one did come look at the Bloomfield area about a year and a half ago and it was too narrow and we try to keep the ballpark open for tournaments which are always that weekend so we came and measured Main Street and he didn't like that and then he looked at Central and said this is the best spot. Ernest asked about the Water Park and Billy said we can but before I was on the

committee it came back to them that we couldn't be on that lot with all the traffic and the weight of the rides. Ernest said that would be a great spot. Judy said we want you to have a carnival and we want it to be successful and we want to do whatever we can to help you have a successful carnival. Kelly said but we don't want to be blamed for things. You have to shoulder your responsibility and you don't have a signed contract, you have a lady you can't get ahold of and I tried calling them and their phone doesn't even work. Matter of fact I called every Kissel I could find and none of them have even heard of Camden and the one that I did get ahold of said that it was probably Kissel Brothers and that they would probably be out of business by the end of the year. But you've had warning signs the last few years by how they have treated you. Gary said yes we have. And here you are coming down to the wire without a contract or anything – did you even have food vendors lined up? Gary said a few not many. Billy said that was part of the problem because they have 3 years out booked and Kelly said but that kind of falls under the heading of not my problem that's your problem and you kind of made it our problem by flying by the seat of your pants. Had you maybe lined something up a few years back when you were here because you've kind of had this signal that this isn't working out but to blame us for everything I think it's a low blow and unnecessary and again what if people from the Village were running your people down the road including your officials I mean don't you think that low. Gary said yes I do. Some of the feed back I got from your employees was it was bad. Bill McQuiston said well that's when we need to come to them and not Facebook. Toni said the Facebook policy has been brought up before about not doing it and it was brought up at a meeting. Ernest said I would have liked the Fire Department to come see us before cancelling the carnival because maybe we could have worked something out. Judy asked about next year and the outlook. Billy said he has one more guy and he is supposed to let him know something by August but where are we going to put it. And it would be good to find a permanent spot without any hassle, arguments or anything. Kelly said another thing that would have been nice was a courtesy call telling us when the carnival was, to have the police lined up for coverage. No one made any contact or communication to say hey it's carnival time these are the dates just nothing except barricades up. It would be nice to communicate. Gary said it's always the same weekend. Kelly said it doesn't matter communication is the key. Kelly read a letter that the Village was giving the Fire Department tonight, which was drawn by our attorney stating two reasons for the letter which has caused the Village great concern. It specified the Facebook postings and making derogatory statements against Village Council, members and Village employees. Also asking that the employees responsible for these postings be disciplined. (copy attached) Second there was purchases made of massages, manicures and Red's tickets for employees that were not approved by the district and were inappropriate. Because the Village is a joint member we request the department conduct an audit of expenditures and report the findings to the Village. The Village reserves the right to take action of its own to address these matters should the district chose not to take action. That's what we are asking from the Fire Board and to get these wrinkles ironed out and hopefully have a peace treaty here. We need answers and some of these things need to stop. We want a carnival is the main thing and maybe we can all divvy things up in thirds and all be a part of something even better and you would have more money and more backing. Billy said if we get permission to use the waterworks park, what are we going to do about parking? Kelly said if that's something we decide to do, we can improve that parking lot area and we will make a parking area. Debbie said this is what we are talking about – working together. Kelly said I just don't like the snipping coming from a couple different people. We're trying to better the image of our town little by little and there just seems to be somebody taking pot shots at us and we didn't deserve it. If we did something that we would take the blame but we deserved none of this and we're getting the blame but moving forward we want to make it better. Kelly said he would like to recap when Rob Dake said we passed an ordinance and you posted something and said we basically did it to be vindictive on this heavy truck stuff and we didn't do that so would you admit that you were wrong about that. Bill McQuiston said and I think you were wrong in stating the Association didn't cancel the carnival but they did correct. Rob said I did put on there that the Fire Department didn't. But it was done by the Association and not the Board correct. Yes that's true. Kelly said Rob you really haven't shown a lot of professionalism in this whole thing and it's reflected poorly. Rob said you're entitled to your opinion. Kelly said I am but you've been a disservice to your community and your department and yourself and I think you need to be held accountable to that. There was some comments from the public about the negativity from Rob Dake and comments that the people on the Fire Department made but Kelly said that's why we're here to clear the air and leave here on good terms. Kelly did say that there is so much confusion on donations whether it goes to the Fire Department or the Association and I think that needs to be much clearer to everyone so they understand where their money is going.

Wendell made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 P.M. Kelly second. Roll Call. Kelly – yea, Debbie – yea, Ernest – yea, Toni – yea, Judy – yea and Wendell – yea. Motion passed.

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Rebecca Wilson, Fiscal Officer

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Lisa Moss, Mayor