

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

State, ex relator :
Village of Bellville, Relator, : AFFIDAVIT OF LARRY
vs. : WEIRICH
Washington Township, et al., Respondent. :

STATE OF OHIO :
County of Richland : ss.:

Now comes Larry Weirich in the above-captioned case, and being first duly sworn, hereby states as follows:

1. I am over eighteen years old and competent to testify.
2. I am employed as Village Administrator by the Village of Bellville, Relator herein, which is a duly incorporated village operating under state law. The real estate comprising Bellville is located both in Washington and Jefferson Townships, Richland County, Ohio.
3. I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint in Mandamus, have personal knowledge of the matters, and verify that the factual information stated is true and correct as I verily believe.
4. State Route 97 and Interstate Corridor I-71 was annexed by the Village of Bellville back in August of 1995. Shortly after annexation, the Village of Bellville and Washington Township entered a fire contract in November of 1995, Exhibit B hereto. The contract spelled out the basis for which Bellville would pay Washington Township for fire protection in the newly annexed area.
5. Not considered when entering into the Fire Protection Contract is that the residents in the annexed area are being taxed twice for the same service: once through Washington Township property taxes, and a second time through the Village of Bellville taxes that are partly forwarded to Washington under the Fire Protection Contract.
6. To date, the Village of Bellville has paid Washington Township \$1,195,803.73, in addition to the regular property taxes.
7. A portion of these funds, according to the Fire Protection Contract, are to be used for the purchase and update of equipment for this area. After meeting with the fire chief to discuss what equipment had been purchased, he confirmed nothing specifically had been purchased for that Village of Bellville or its annexed area.
8. As documented from our public records request, it is clear that a lot of mutual aid performed by Troy Township & Jefferson Township fire services is covering the area in question. It is very rare to see Washington Township Fire Department itself responding to a call at the S.R. 97 & I 71 area.

9. We are concerned that residents are being taxed twice for emergency services. Residents are being billed by mutual aid departments when it applies.

10. The Fire Protection Contract, Exhibit B, and the Judgment Entry, Exhibit C are true and accurate copies of the documents referred to in the Complaint.

Further, Affiant sayeth naught.



Larry Weirich

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence by Larry Weirich this 25th day of September, 2023.



Notary Public



Amanda Perry
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 11-16-2026