

January 6, 2012

Thorn Township Board of Trustees  
13780 Zion Road  
Thornville, OH 43076

Trustee(s) Wilson, Coleman and Factor,

I write this letter to you today as a concerned resident of Thorn Township.

I received information on January 3, 2012 from an anonymous source regarding an alleged meeting between Trustee Dale Factor, former Trustee Dick Boring and Fire Chief Duane Moore pertaining to the Thorn Twp. Fire Dept. and funds that the fire department raised either by fundraisers or through donations and maintained in a separate checking and savings account held by and under the sole control and responsibility of the fire department.

It was reported that allegedly at some point after the general election in November of 2011 Trustee(s) Factor and Boring had a meeting with Chief Moore pertaining to the funds in the aforementioned accounts. It was reported that Trustee(s) Factor and Boring knew the accounts were established using the Tax ID number of the Thorn Township Trustees and under the pretense that a Firefighters Association had been formed by the members many years ago and that with the election of Bob Coleman as the new trustee to replace Dick Boring and the ongoing conflict and tension between Chief Duane Moore and Trustee Rick Wilson, Trustee(s) Factor and Boring advised Chief Moore and the members of the fire department to dissolve the alleged firefighters association, spend the money which was reported to be in excess of \$3000 in each account and form a new association effective January 1, 2012 so that the monies raised could not be seized by the trustees and placed into the township controlled Fire/EMS funds.

I would like to say that I am not against the members of the Thorn Twp. Fire Dept. having a Firefighters Association. I am also not against them (fire dept.) maintaining a checking and/or savings account with funds that they received either by donation or through fund raisers so long as it is done legally and that they maintain the appropriate records, allow for a yearly audit of said records and have appropriate measures in place to ensure that the tax payers money is safe and spent wisely.

If the above information is true, it alarms me greatly that two of our elected officials would stoop to a level, so low as to violate the trust of the people who elected them to office. Not only is this a potential violation of countless laws and ethics violations it goes against the core principles of the United States Constitution and what our forefathers fought to abolish.

I strongly encourage the board to initiate an investigation into this matter and that it be conducted by an independent investigator with no ties to the Thorn Twp. Board of Trustees or the Thorn Twp. Fire Dept.. I also believe that if the information is proven accurate and true, that all legal sanctions should be considered and those responsible should be dealt with accordingly.

I apologize for not expressing this information at your January meeting, as I had another meeting that I had to attend. If you wish to speak with me regarding this information, please feel free to contact me at (740) 258-5083 to arrange a meeting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Ed Corns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W. Ed Corns