Robert D. Kroshefsky

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November 20, 2018

The Honorable Joe Uecker, Chairman

The Honorable Steve Wilson, Vice-chairman

The Honorable Cecil Thomas, Ranking Member

Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee

Ohio Senate

77 S. High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Uecker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in general support of HB 500, the omnibus township bill presently before your committee and, in particular, the section dealing with R.C. §505.04 which requires an annual inventory of township items.

The statute’s wording is quite simple: “The board of township trustees shall make an inventory on the second Monday of January, each year, of all the materials, machinery, tools, and other township supplies in its possession. The inventory shall be a public record and shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be filed with the fiscal officer of the board and one copy with the county engineer.”

When I first became a trustee in 2016, my first official “act” was to flout R.C. §505.04 simply because my board normally meets monthly on the third Tuesday. Consequently, the statute’s requirement for an inventory to be conducted specifically “on the second Monday of January, each year” had come and gone by the time I was even able to inquire about it.

I felt bad about this in that I had just taken my oath of office to uphold the laws of the State of Ohio and yet, here I was in non-compliance with that very same law. Then, I got curious. I wondered how many other townships go through this annual ritual.

Rather than contact each of the 1,308 townships in the state, I decided to focus on the county engineers who are to receive copies of these inventories. I contacted all 88 county engineers’ offices and asked for those records.

My findings were that the compliance for 2015 inventories was only about 48%, based upon results from 83 county engineers and varied from county to county from 0 to 100% compliance mainly based upon whether the engineer reminded the townships of their obligation. With a reminder or solicitation, compliance was good; but not always at 100%. In many counties, not a single township sent an inventory list to the engineer.

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This led me to believe that R.C. §505.04 is an outdated piece of legislation that might have been useful in the days before rapid communication, but is totally unneeded in the modern era. I therefore suggested to several legislators that the statute be rescinded.

**The current revised language eliminates the filing with the county engineer but misses two points of my concern.** I recommend additional changes to R.C. §505.04.

1. the timing element – January is a lousy time to be conducting inventories, and
2. the ill-defined parameters of what needs to be inventoried – do we need to list every paper clip and staple?

I propose that the timing, if it is to be mentioned at all, be changed to read something like “by June 30” so that the inventories, particularly of any items stored out-of-doors, can be conducted in decent weather conditions.

I also believe that what needs to be inventoried should only be those items that the township insures on an individual basis: buildings, vehicles, individual capital equipment, *etc*. Things like office supplies, tools and other small items are covered by comprehensive insurance and are not individually listed with insurers. **These items should not be included in R.C. §505.04.**

Thank you for your consideration of my position. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Kroshefsky

Trustee

cc: Sen. David Burke

Rep. Dorothy Pelanda