

Cessna Township History

Located near the center of Hardin County, Cessna Township was established in 1834.

The land in the township is primarily used for grain farming with no incorporated villages within its boundaries. The township maintains approximately twenty-five miles of paved roadways.

The first township hall was located on State Route 309. This building served the township for many years, until it was sold to the state in 1968. The Kenton Building Center of Kenton, later to become Morton Buildings, presented plans for a new township hall to the state, and a new township hall was built in 1968 at the corner of TR 90 and TR105 and still serves the township today along with a machinery shed also built by Moriarty Buildings, Inc. to house township trucks and equipment.

The township held its first election in an old school house, voting booths were used before they were replaced by voting machines. The trustees met the first Saturday of each month in order to discuss maintenance of public works. The trustees now meet the second Monday night of each month. In 1939, Trustees signed a contract with United Rural Electric to construct a pole line to transmit electric throughout the township. Fire protection was a township responsibility starting in 1940, and the township had Kenton Rural Fire Department under contract until 1968 when the township became part of the McGuffey Volunteer Fire Department. This agreement remains effective today.

The township joined other county local governments in 1970 to create the Hardin County Regional Planning commission with Virden Ault representing the township on this board. The Cessna Township Zoning Commission was originally formed in 1972 to consider the possibility of land use zoning for the township. The original board consisted of Gene Wedertz, Richard Kritzler, Lowell Ludwig, Gerald Potter and Donald Steinman. This committee would eventually

oversee a land use plan that was eventually presented to the voters for a decision on zoning for Cessna Township in November of 1974 with the vote to adopt zoning passing by a margin of 77 yes to 63 no votes. An attempt to repeal zoning in 1976 failed.

Another township issue was Emergency Ambulance Service. This was resolved in a membership to Buck, Kenton, Pleasant, Ambulance District (BKP) in 1974 with each participating entity paying \$500 start-up fees. BKP still serves the township today overseen by a board of directors that includes one Cessna Township Trustee.

Snow removal and cemetery maintenance are also township responsibilities, with trustees operating the township-owned snow plows. The township has used contracted services over recent years to maintain the five township cemeteries for mowing and burial services. Road mowing has been completed by part time township employees for a number of years with the use of township owned equipment.

The financial record keeping of the township was moved to an Ohio Auditor State computerized accounting system in 1991 and continues today.