

**Miami Township Trustees**  
Minutes of April 17, 2023

**Call to Order**

The meeting was **called to order** at 5:03 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Hollister present.

Fire Chief Colin Altman, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce President Mark Heise was also present.

**Adoption of Minutes**

After a **misspelling** in the minutes was corrected, Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **adopt the minutes** of April 3, 2023, as corrected. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Payment of Accounts**

Trustee Hollister **moved** and Trustee Moir **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$64,510.62:**

- General Fund – \$4,138.33
- Fire Fund – \$45,766.27
- EMS Billing – \$3,943.16
- Cemetery – \$2,166.06
- Road and Bridge – \$8,496.80
  - 2021 – \$5,146.44
  - 2031 – \$3,350.36

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Correspondence**

The Trustees received:

- OTA dues for 2023
- Liz McGuire: Anthem insurance renewal, plan information
- Stephanie Goff, Greene County Engineer presentation
- MVRPC training opportunities: Climate Change seminar, Disaster Relief training, long-term housing after natural disaster
- Chrissona Anderson, Greene County Engineer's Office: 2 fiber optic permits
- Greene County RPCC Executive Committee meeting packet, with draft Letter of Support previously discussed – due April 20th
- Lyndsey Schwartz: financial reports/audit for Clifton Union Cemetery
- Tyler Butler, Ohio Auditor's Office: Fund 4901 and Debt Service Fund
- Jen Huber, attorney: Board meeting procedures manual
- OTARMA: distribution of excess reserve funds
- Yellow Springs Tree Committee newsletter

- Trustee Moir's April 9th email to Trustees Mucher and Hollister – to be addressed under New Business
- Citizen exchange with Trustee Mucher re: cemetery information request for those without Internet access

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comments

### **Fire Department Report**

Chief Altman reported **39 EMS runs** and **11 fire calls** since last meeting, including the first rescue of the season at John Bryan State Park.

**Confined spaces rescue training** will be completed this weekend, bringing the number of staff certified to 16.

Three firefighters are interested in taking the **Firefighter 2 Transition Course** (required for full-time) at Clinton Massie Fire Department through the Great Oaks Career Center at a cost of \$1,500 per person. After a brief discussion of the various levels of firefighter and EMT/Paramedic training and respective costs, it was agreed these requests should be approved. In return, each firefighter will sign a one-year service agreement with MTRF.

Miami Township Firefighter's Association **election of officers** was held recently:

- Nate Ayers, President
- Cassady Brewer, Vice President
- Dave Meister, Secretary
- Jeremy Rea, Treasurer

**National Telecommunications Officer Week** was last week. In recognition, the department provided a Chipotle dinner to the dispatch staff.

Captain Ayers acquired the **donation of a tool cabinet** to the Firefighter's Association from Lowe's in Xenia.

Trustee Moir raised the **road safety sign grant** discussed at a previous meeting and presented a map of the locations proposed by Greene County, who is strongly encouraging the Township to apply. After discussion, where it was noted previous applications have been denied, Trustee Moir stated she would attend one of the upcoming trainings to gather more information.

### **Cemetery and Road Report**

#### **Cemetery:**

Dan Gochenouer reported **2 interments of ashes**, with **2 more scheduled** June 4th, at Oak Grove.

There was an extended discussion on the **burial process in Oak Grove**: how the body/ashes are presented, where/how the trees are planted, etc. Discussion and clarification will continue.

Trustee Moir reported the Natural Burial Committee had questions at their recent meeting as to what **materials are provided to individuals who purchase lots**. Mr. Gochenouer stated he gives them a Certificate of Interment (not a deed, as first stated), a map, and the rules and regulations of the cemetery. The Fiscal Officer also sends a specific map and copies of the regulations. The Committee is requesting contact information and a sign-off on the regulations to forestall future problems. The procedures will continue to be developed.

A brief discussion was held on the **Prairie figure-eight mowing details**.

#### **Roads:**

Mr. Gochenouer will assist Bath Township with **culvert work** on Thursday.

**Mowing** is underway as needed.

Trustee Moir reported the **fiber optic permits** from Greene County have been sent to Zoning Commissioner Zopf for review and asked if Mr. Gochenouer needed them as well. It was agreed that would be helpful, for informational purposes only.

Greene County is planning several (maybe four in total?) **roundabouts**, possibly at Dayton-Yellow Springs Road and Trebein Road, and at 235 and 68; and a **turn lane** at 235 and Byron Road.

In response to Trustee Mucher's question, Mr. Gochenouer reported **no bids have been received on the dump truck** yet.

#### **Fiscal Officer's Report**

**Resolution 2023-24 Amendment of Temporary Appropriations** as enumerated.

Trustee Hollister **moved to adopt** and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Mucher gave a detailed report on the **resolution of issues with Fund 4901** from the sale of the old firehouse, referencing an explanatory email from Tyler Butler (auditor) and discussions with Greene County Auditor Graham. Included in the lengthy ensuing discussion were ARPA funds and the eventual purchase of a new rescue squad/medic. Trustee Moir thanked him for his efforts.

#### **Zoning Inspector's Report**

No report scheduled this meeting. Mr. Zopf is still on vacation.

Trustee Moir asked if arrangements had been made to take **minutes at the next Board of Zoning Appeals meeting**. Trustee Mucher said that was up to Mr. Zopf.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

- MVRPC – Executive Committee & Board of Directors: Trustee Moir reported no meeting has been held; however, the Township building is eligible for an **energy audit** if the Trustees are interested.
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPCC): Trustee Mucher reported recent meetings focused on the Greene County Commissioners’ decision to **transfer final authority from the County Engineer to the Commissioners for requested development**, with an appeals process put in place to move any Engineer’s denial to the Commissioners. They also reviewed the **scope and limitations of RPC authority**.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: Trustee Hollister reported that an **auditor has recommended an examination of processes to determine the risk of fraud**, etc. Also, Linda Parsons, from Clifton, has found a **book of early burial records** for the cemetery, and checked with an archivist on how best to preserve it. Chamber of Commerce President Heise noted the Greene County Archives is available for that service. A brief discussion ensued concerning the current **procedures, retention schedule, and storage locations for Township records**.
- YS Development Corporation: Trustee Hollister noted their **first-Tuesday-of-each-month meetings in the Township building are open to the public**. At the most recent meeting, he was asked about a perceived “anti-growth” sentiment on the part of the Trustees. The current Comprehensive Land Use Plan was discussed. Because the YSDC’s interim executive director is planning the job search for a **permanent ED**, they **may be asking for additional funds** to pay the expected salary for the position.
- Climate Action & Sustainability Project (CASP)
- Natural Burial Committee

### **Old Business**

Trustee Moir reintroduced the ongoing discussion re: updating the Township’s **Comprehensive Land Use Plan**. Trustee Mucher noted that it is the job of the Zoning Committee members (who are appointed by the Trustees), not the Trustees’.

Trustee Mucher reintroduced the proposed **six-month moratorium on small-scale solar** plans to allow the Zoning Committee to review the matter, and to **ask the County for the same or greater moratorium on large-scale solar**. Trustee Moir asked if those should not be separate issues. Extensive discussion ensued, with no consensus. They will discuss specific Resolution(s) at the next meeting.

Trustee Moir proposed moving forward on previous discussions re: **updating/compiling procedure manuals** for various Townships offices. Trustee Mucher said that his discussion with Attorney Jen Huber discovered **no such manual is needed for public meetings**, as those should be handled on an individual basis. He directed Trustee Moir to an **existing Township procedures manual prepared by Miami University** for general

Trustee matters. Trustee Hollister noted that a recent state conference encouraged specific **Fiscal Officer procedures** for each Township in case of emergency. Trustee Mucher said such a **compilation would not be necessary**, as an interim Fiscal Officer would be brought in should the need arise, and they would follow regulations laid down by the State of Ohio.

**New Business**

Trustee Moir presented her findings re: renewing the **Township’s health insurance plan**, and recommended a change because of an expected large increase in premiums. Trustee Hollister asked what the impact would be to Township firefighters; she said that with the secondary insurance, any change would be minimal. After further discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved to change the Township’s health insurance plan to Option 3** as presented (summary available), and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Following a brief explanation, Trustee Moir asked for a motion to **rescind the previous contract with iPanda LLC for a new Township website**. After discussion, Trustee Hollister **moved to rescind**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**. Trustee Moir is working with the current website manager to correct specific issues.

Trustee Mucher expressed his **concerns regarding an April 9th email** from Trustee Moir re: the discussion from last meeting about building a storage area for large equipment adjacent to the salt shed. Trustee Moir clarified her concerns and shared her preference for a dollar limit on Trustee expenditures without a vote. Following a lengthy discussion, the Trustees moved on with **no action taken**.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, May 1, 2023**, at 5 p.m.

**Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attest** \_\_\_\_\_

/clp