

**Miami Township Trustees**  
Minutes of April 3, 2023

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Hollister present.

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

Antioch College students Izzi Lyons and Johnathan Telin were also present for part of the meeting.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **adopt the minutes** of March 20, 2023. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Payment of Accounts**

Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$82,244.98**:

- General Fund – \$16,883.13
- Fire Fund – \$54,161.45 (**corrected from agenda**)
- EMS Billing – \$204.50
- Cemetery – \$703.00
- Road and Bridge – \$10,292.90
  - 2021 – \$537.18
  - 2031 – \$6,487.71
  - 2231 – \$3,268.01

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Correspondence**

The Trustees received:

- U.S. Treasury – SLRFP reporting
- YSCA Lacey Fox camera switch to fit new microphone
- Ohio Auditor of State – Annual Financial Statement
- Greene County Engineers – Invitation 2023 Annual Twp Association meeting, May 5th
- Greene County Public Health – 2022 Annual Report
- BJG Law – Sample small solar facilities zoning regulations
- OTA Legislative Alerts
- OTA – Training opportunities
- GCRPC Agenda for the full Commission meeting in April
- Fund status, revenue status, and appropriation status for April 3rd

**Fire Department Report**

Chief Altman reported **33 EMS runs** and **8 fire calls** since last meeting.

Seven staff members participated in the OSHA-compliant **confined space rescue training** on March 26, and will take two additional days of training later this month to complete certification. This will add to the 9 staff members already certified. The training is free through Cleveland State University and a PUCO grant.

Asst. Chief Powell, Capt. Ayers, and Lt. Kline recently completed an **8-hour course in incident management** following the “Blue Card Command” system recently adopted by Fairborn and Beavercreek, and that will be adopted here over the next 2 years. This will update current systems.

Lt. Paoletti attended an 8-hour training session in March that covered **leadership for fire officers**, and **handling PTSD** in the fire service.

At Chief Altman’s request, Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** a motion to approve a **contract with the Greene County Public Safety Information Sharing Network (PSISN)** discussed at an earlier meeting. The new contract increases from a previous \$2,000 annually to \$3,000, but provides full (rather than limited) access to computer-aided dispatch and subordinate systems including up-to-date incident details, GPS, etc. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The **SAM number validation** Chief Altman has worked for has finally been approved, and the department is now eligible to apply for federal grant assistance and emergency funds as needed through March 29, 2024, with a much easier path to renewal.

At Chief Altman’s request, Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** a motion to meet in **Executive Session** to “consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.” The meeting recessed at 5:22 p.m., and reconvened at 5:33 p.m. with no action being taken at this time.

Trustee Mucher asked if **building maintenance** was up to date, specifically filters for the air handlers. Chief Altman said he believes so, as Nate is handling that, but he will check.

Trustee Mucher reported he had followed up with the contractor on the **cement apron deterioration**. The company will investigate.

In response to Trustee Mucher’s inquiry, Chief Altman said the **Glass Farm burn** has been delayed, probably until fall, while Tecumseh Land Trust obtains the necessary permits.

Trustee Moir has been waiting to hear back from Frank Cook on the contract for the approved **fire department assessment**. She will follow up.

After attending a recent local government conference, Trustee Mucher offered another option for **recruitment efforts**: providing rides to selected students to/from school in MTRF equipment as a reward. Chief Altman said they have done that in the past and will

see about resuming the program. Trustee Moir mentioned the possibility of some form of **tax relief for volunteers** as is done in other jurisdictions. Trustee Mucher said the Ohio Revised Code does not permit that, and Chief Altman added that was unlikely to change.

Trustee Mucher outlined his review of the 2023 appropriations, and, given the positive numbers and fire department needs, **moved to approved the purchase of specified high-priority items** listed in Chief Altman's proposal presented at the March 20th meeting, at an estimated total cost of \$50,000:

- 6 sets of turnout gear: \$22,000
- 28 lockers for turnout gear storage: \$15,000
- radio batteries: \$3,000
- an updated website and mobile data platform: \$10,000

Trustee Hollister **seconded**. Following a pointed discussion, the **motion carried unanimously**.

### **Public Comment**

Antioch College students Izzi Lyons and Johnathan Telin gave a brief presentation on the “**Antioch Victory Festival**” scheduled at the College on May 20th, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event will include arts and science displays, local vendors, food, a Glen Helen raptor exhibit, and activities for students and the community at large. Donations to the College will be accepted, but are optional. More information will be available soon, and details can be requested at [AntiochVictoryFestival@AntiochCollege.edu](mailto:AntiochVictoryFestival@AntiochCollege.edu). They will talk with Chief Altman about possibly having an MTR presence at the event.

### **Cemetery and Road Report**

#### **Cemetery:**

Dan Gochenouer reported **no recent burials**, although several internments of ashes are scheduled.

Trustee Hollister asked **how many burials take place annually** at Glen Forest; Mr. Gochenouer reported 30-35, with 14-15 at Clifton.

Mr. Gochenouer reported **flowers have been cleaned up** at the cemeteries, grass is growing at Oak Grove, and they're prepared to **mulch at the scattering ground** if the Trustees approved. They agreed.

**Mowing** will probably start next week.

Trustee Hollister reported Ohio Revised Code 961, from 1986, lays out requirements for pet cemeteries, of which there are 13 in the state. While he could find no rules regarding concurrent **burial of pets with humans**, it appears to be legal, but would have to be written into cemetery rules. A brief discussion ensued regarding possible opposition and various obstacles to the practice. Further review will be needed.

In a related matter, Trustee Moir noted that per current regulations, **dog walking** is not permitted in the cemeteries; this will be discussed further at the **Glen Forest Natural Burial** April 10th quarterly meeting.

#### **Roads:**

Mr. Gochenouer reported the **new bush hog has been received** and is ready for service, and the **backhoe has been repaired**.

The department will **berm Tobias Road** on Tuesday; other areas have already been done.

**Resolution 2023-23 Disposal of Obsolete Township Equipment** was presented for approval. Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The Resolution was **adopted unanimously**, with a noted \$10,000 reserve on the listed truck.

Trustee Mucher commended the department on the **good road condition** throughout the Township.

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

**Resolution 2023-22 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations** as enumerated. Trustee Hollister **moved to adopt** and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Mucher noted that, per information gleaned at the local government conference, the Fiscal Officer is **authorized to move monies within funds without Resolution**.

**Status of Fund 4901** noted on the agenda will be discussed at a later time.

#### **Zoning Inspectors Report**

Mr. Zopf reported **only a few permits** have been issued so far this year. The Zoning Commission continues its effort to revise **Temporary Use** permits.

He reported on the recent BZA hearing on the Chappelle Hyde Road **variance request**, noting that not only should such requests follow an appropriate interpretation of zoning laws, but should look to solve the underlying issues while serving all parties. He stressed again the changing rural nature of the Township.

Mr. Zopf advised he will monitor phone and email communication while he is out of town later this month, and that the **Fiscal Officer is authorized to sign** any necessary zoning paperwork in his absence.

#### **New Business**

Trustee Mucher reported on a discussion with Mr. Gochenouer regarding **an addition to the salt shed for large equipment storage**. However, the Ohio Revised Code does not permit funds from the Gas Tax or Permissive Motor Vehicle License Fund used by the

Road Department to be used for equipment storage. He noted the large balances in those funds, and **proposed moving the Road & Bridges salary line item 2031-330-190 and related expenses** to the **Gasoline Tax Fund as 2021-330-190, etc.** – which *is* permitted, thus freeing up Road & Bridges funds for other uses such as the proposed addition.

After lengthy discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved** to adjust said line items as detailed, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Old Business**

Extended discussion was held on the **recently-passed state law [SB 501] which allows townships regulate small solar facilities** (less than 50 MW). Trustee Mucher has forwarded the Zoning Commission a draft of same. Discussions both here and with the County Commissioners will continue; Trustee Hollister expressed his hope that a decision be made sooner rather than later, and that he prefers to see the Township make agricultural use a priority.

Trustee Moir raised again the issue of **BZA policies and procedures**. Mr. Zopf said it is an item to be discussed as the Board has time. Trustee Moir suggested providing them with a draft, stressing its importance. Mr. Zopf noted that has been tried in the past, but could be tried again.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 17, 2023**, at 5 p.m.

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

/clp