

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of March 20, 2023

Call to Order

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

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

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Hollister **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **adopt the minutes** of the **special meeting** held February 22, 2023. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Hollister **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **adopt the minutes** of the meeting held March 6, 2023. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Hollister **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$48,961.78:**

- General Fund – \$770.14
- Fire Fund – \$34,002.47
- EMS Billing – \$4,986.90
- Cemetery – \$3,470.58
- Road and Bridge – \$5,731.69
 - 2011 – \$968.72
 - 2021 – \$3,181.15
 - 2031 – \$1,581.82

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received:

- Family Violence Prevention Center “Spring Fling” invite
- Greene County Annual Report to the Community May 5th
- MVRPC news release re: approval of \$49.7 million in Fed Transportation Funds; invite to Watershed Network informative session from Ohio EPA
- OTA’s reminder re: March Education options; March 17th Legislative Alert
- Letter from Hyde Road residents re: request to attend March 16th BZA meeting
- New project manager for Kingwood Solar in Greene County; second application to OPSB for rehearing
- Letters from TLT Director and County Engineer Burns re: road rights
- YS Chamber’s online portal and phone app
- Fund status, revenue status, and appropriation status for March 20th

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Chief Altman reported **15 EMS runs** and **3 fire calls** since last meeting, and **32 EMS runs** and **10 fire calls** during the prior period.

Chief Altman offered the Trustees his formal **intent to retire** as of August 1, 2023, through the pay period ending August 11, 2023.

Chief Altman presented **Resolution 2023-18 Authorizing Hourly Increase to MTFR Employee** (Captain Nathaniel Ayers) who has attained Ohio Fire Instructor certification. Trustee Hollister **moved** to approve the Resolution; Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was approved unanimously**.

Chief Altman presented **Resolution 2023-19 Authorizing Base Increase to MTFR BLS Staff** (EMTs not paramedics). Trustee Hollister **moved** to approve the Resolution; Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was approved unanimously**.

Chief Altman presented the **fire department's budget priorities for FY '23-'24**, not including day-to-day/regular expenses. Trustee Mucher asked which item was number one on the list. Chief Altman ranked them at 1: turnout gear (6 sets in '23, 6 sets in '24) for approximately \$22,000 each year; 2: turnout gear storage (28 sets/lockers at approximately \$15,000); 3: radio batteries at approximately \$3,000; and an updated website and mobile data platform at approximately \$10,000. Several other big-ticket items will be addressed with grant funding. **No action was taken** at this time, with further discussion planned.

Trustee Mucher reported on a conference presentation he'd attended re: **early fire department recruitment efforts**. He suggested MTFR officers consider attending local school events, sports, etc., to establish more connection with young people, showing them fire fighting is a viable career choice. Chief Altman agreed with the intent, and said the department is working on reinvigorating its lapsed **Explorer program**. Trustee Hollister mentioned **first aid classes** presented to students in past years, and Chief Altman explained their history and funding issues. More work will be done in this area.

Trustee Mucher asked about the **Ohio Police & Fire Pension (OPFP)** and the benefits to **retention** efforts if pension is offered. Chief Altman said the department is looking into the possibility of adjusting their current FT hours from 36 to 37 so officers can qualify for pension. He'll report findings at the next meeting.

In response to a question from Trustee Mucher about a statehouse proposal re: the Ohio **Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARC)** and user fees, Chief Altman explained the Governor's proposal to eliminate those fees is pending. The department's current system will be paid in full after 2-3 more quarterly payments.

Trustee Mucher asked the Chief and the Board to consider a moratorium on future COLA raises in lieu of seeking employee contribution to offset the potential **27% increase in Anthem insurance premiums**. The matter will be discussed further.

Trustee Mucher presented **Resolution 2023-19 to Contract with the Ohio Fire Chief's Association for an Organizational Assessment of Miami Township Fire & Rescue Department** (not to exceed \$24,953.00). After a brief discussion, Trustee Hollister **moved** to approve the Resolution; Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was approved unanimously**.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Dan Gochenouer reported **1 burial** at Clifton.

They are **seeding** Oak Grove, and **water service to the frost-proof spigots** will be taken care of Wednesday.

Trustee Mucher shared remarks from a citizen re: **using Round-up at the gravestones**. They asked if possibly an inhibitor could be used instead because of concerns over the spread and toxicity of Round-up. Mr. Gochenouer will look into the matter.

After a brief discussion re: the tree plots and other minor cemetery issues, Trustee Mucher recognized the department's good work done in **leveling and seeding lots** now instead of rushing to meet Memorial Day.

Roads:

Trustee Mucher reported his **road inspection tour** showed all to be in good shape.

Trustee Mucher reported on the progress made to **organize the Quonset hut** with shelves and the creation of an **inventory of regularly needed equipment** (batteries, wipers, etc.). Mr. Gochenouer said the process is continuing.

After a brief discussion. Trustee Hollister **moved** to accept a bid for a **new bush hog** in the amount of \$3,830.22. Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**. Mr. Gochenouer will see if the county will list the old bush hog as well as the dump trunk already in the process of being listed for sale.

Mr. Gochenouer reported that, in conjunction with Xenia Township, **berming** will be taken care of on Thursday and Friday at select locations.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Resolution 2023-21 Adopt Permanent Appropriations. Trustee Hollister **moved to adopt** and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Standing Committee Reports

- MVRPC – Executive Committee & Board of Directors
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission: **The latest meeting focused on township solar zoning regulations. The discussion will continue.**
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: **Meeting pending**
- YS Community Development Corporation: **The interim ED is tasked with the job search for a permanent director, and to participate in discussions with Greene County re: economic development efforts.**
- CASP (Climate Action & Sustainability Project)
- Natural Burial Committee – Quarterly Meeting April 10th

New Business

Trustee Mucher reported on a conference presentation he attended re: **official Board policies for meetings, etc.** After a brief discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved** to contract with Township legal counsel to develop same; Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Old Business

Trustee Hollister will share his findings on **pet burials** at a future meeting.

Adjournment

A **motion** was made by Trustee Hollister and **seconded** by Trustee Mucher to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. **Motion carried by acclamation.**

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 3, 2023**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

/clp