

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of August 21, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Hollister present.

Fire Chief Denny Powell and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News reporter Lauren Shows and resident Scott Osterholm were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Mucher **moved to adopt the minutes** of August 7, 2023, as presented – with subsequent **verification of one item** as discussed. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$44,077.55**:

- General Fund – \$1,722.59
- Fire Fund – \$36,522.18
- EMS Billing – \$144.82
- Cemetery – \$48.64
- Road and Bridge – \$5,639.32
 - 2011 – \$9.48
 - 2021 – \$4,237.96
 - 2031 – \$276.17
 - 2231 – \$1,115.71

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- Greene County Commissioners: Copy of Miami Township Solar and Wind Moratorium Resolution
- US Treasury: New SLFRF Rules (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds)
- Partners for Environment: Register for September 20th awards event
- RPCC Executive Committee Agenda
- Kate Habich/Marilan Moir: Requested copy of Resolution for 6-month moratorium and asked for updates about solar in the Township
- Ben Meer/Chris Mucher: Exchange regarding columbarium doors
- State Auditor: Notification of Filing
- MVECA: Invoice
- Medicount: Semi-annual report
- ClaimLinx: Invoice

- Richard Silliman: Notification of resignation of Barbara Krabec from BZA
- Patty Buddlemeyer: Watershed Conference September 7th and 8th

Trustee Mucher noted it's **not necessary to include regular bills and invoices** in the Correspondence list.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Yellow Springs resident Scott Osterholm reported on an August 10, 2023, meeting he had with Greene County Commissioner Rick Perales re: the **speed limit/signage on Polecat Road at the village limits**. New stop signs have now been installed on the bike trail at that location. Mr. Osterholm was advised to contact Greene County Engineer Stephanie Goff re: a speed limit change and signage, and he **asked the Trustees for a vote of support**, by letter if later necessary, when he makes that formal request.

After a brief discussion during which Trustee Hollister noted he had requested trimming at that intersection to improve visibility – which has since been done, he **moved** to add Trustee support for Mr. Osterholm's request to Engineer Goff, with later written support if requested/necessary. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Mr. Osterholm then expressed his **gratitude, as a Hawthorne Apartments resident, to Chief Powell and the MTFR officers** for their efficient response to the recent fire at the complex.

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **35 EMS runs, 6 fire calls, and 0 inspections** since last meeting. Anticipating questions from Trustee Mucher on historical call numbers, he noted that due to the type of vehicle(s) responding, **statistics for EMS runs versus fire calls** have shifted slightly.

He gave an update on the **injury status of several firefighters**, one of whom was injured during the Hawthorne blaze, noted two **scheduled staff shifts**, and advised the **software switch** discussed at last meeting is underway. After a successful and informative demo of the new program, the process is moving well and should be live in 3-4 weeks.

Chief Powell said that due to efforts to control payroll by reducing overtime hours, he would begin **advertising next week for several new part-time firefighter/paramedics and firefighter/EMTs**.

He reported at length and answered questions on the **Hawthorne Apartment fire response** from August 12, 2023. The investigation of a cause will likely continue at least through next week. He explained how the roof retrofitting from flat to peaked had made the fire more difficult to combat. The electric service at the complex is under repair, with Village inspectors involved.

At Chief Powell's request, Trustee Moir asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-35 Reclassification of MTFR Employee Brian Burnett** from part-time to full-time (non-

pensioned) firefighter/EMT effective Monday, August 21, 2023. Trustee Hollister so **moved**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister asked about **insurance reimbursement for ambulance runs**. Chief Powell said that is difficult to answer because of reporting methods from Medicount (ambulance and EMS billing service) versus the State Auditor, but that appears to be at about 98%. While MTFR could increase fees, insurance companies set the rates they will pay so that wouldn't make much difference. He plans to review the matter further in coming days.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Mucher reported the **first full columbarium burial** went well. The new process for designing/placing the doors approved at the last meeting is in process. He is creating a form for Mr. Gochenouer to provide at the time of sale. Half-a-dozen columbarium sites have been sold recently.

The cemeteries will be **mowed/trimmed prior to Labor Day**.

Mr. Gochenouer is **recovering from a shoulder injury** and is cleared for light duty. He is handling administrative tasks, but no strenuous activities yet.

Roads:

Trustee Mucher reported that **mowing/trimming** on Township roads continues as needed.

Mr. Gochenouer has requested permission to purchase a **new equipment trailer** to replace the old one which can barely handle the current necessary loads and is aging out. Trustee Mucher reported funds are available. He **moved to authorize the purchase at \$6,950**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Mr. Gochenouer is exploring the **purchase of a backhoe** to replace the current, 25+ year-old equipment. Trustee Mucher noted they hope to buy a good used backhoe before winter as one of its main uses is moving salt.

Trustee Moir asked about the **status of the approved equipment shed**. Trustee Mucher advised it's coming, just delayed.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Trustee Moir shared that **Fiscal Officer Silliman will be present at the September 6th meeting** to answer Trustee questions on financial matters.

Trustee Moir asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution 2023-34 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations**. Trustee Hollister **moved** to adopt the Resolution as enumerated, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Zoning Inspector's Report

Trustee Moir reported the BZA coordinator position and proposed forms are still **under review**.

BZA member **Barbara Krabec has resigned** for health reasons. An alternate is available to assume her seat. The Trustees are **recruiting new members/alternates** for both BZA and for the Zoning Commission.

A **BZA hearing has been scheduled for September 14, 2023**, on an agritourism request.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): No report
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (GCRPCC) – Executive Committee: Trustee Mucher reported they have approved section one of a proposed three-section **subdivision in Beavercreek Township on Trebein Road**. The originally planned roundabout inside the subdivision, which the Greene County Engineer denied and that was subsequently appealed to the Board of Commissioners, is apparently being reconsidered by the developer due to rising costs for water/sewer.

Trustee Mucher noted he has learned that **townships in Ohio, not the surrounding county, own their roads**, so any plans on township roads denied by the County Engineer cannot be appealed to county Boards of Commissioners. In follow-up, a brief discussion was held about a **“wish list” proposal** in the RPCC Long-range Transportation Plan for a **roundabout at Hyde Road and US 68** at the south edge of Yellow Springs. In response to *YSN* Reporter Shows' question, Chief Powell noted that by slowing traffic and eliminating potential sharp collision angles, roundabouts increase safety.

- Clifton-Union Cemetery: Trustee Hollister reported no meeting was held. The archives discussion is ongoing.
- YS Community Development Corporation (CDC): Trustee Hollister reported that as a follow-up to the recently awarded **solar grant**, CDC staff/Encore Miller Fellow Lisa Abel is planning a **village/township collaboration meeting/public discussion** on next steps.

Trustee Mucher asked how the solar grant, or an earlier reported focus on affordable housing, fit the **CDC's mission of economic development**. Trustee Hollister said the housing discussion reported in the *News* was inaccurate in that respect, and suggested the question would be good to address at the planned joint meeting.

- YS Environmental Commission: No report
- Greene County Township Association: No meeting planned; may be taking August off
- Greene County Solid Waste Management District, Policy Committee: Trustee Hollister reported they are discussing the **per-ton fees** levied (landfill versus recycling). While Greene County is meeting the necessary **20% recycling threshold**, individual townships lag. He is meeting with the director to explore the issue.

New Business

No items to discuss.

Old Business

Trustee Mucher complimented Trustee Moir on her efforts and vision for his **proposed cemetery fountain**. She is still exploring ideas.

Ideas/visions are also being solicited for an **enhanced entrance to Oak Grove**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**, at 5 p.m., due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

/clp