

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of September 6, 2023

Call to Order

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

Fire Chief Denny Powell, Fiscal Officer Margaret Silliman, Zoning Inspector Richard Zopf, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News reporter Lauren Shows was also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Mucher **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of August 21, 2023, as presented. 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 **\$55,708.29***:

- General Fund – \$7,445.09
- Fire Fund – \$30,911.51
- EMS Billing – \$2,728.55
- Cemetery – \$4,557.50
- Road and Bridge – \$10,065.64*
 - 2021 – \$9,771.43*
 - 2031 – \$294.21

The motion carried unanimously. (*totals corrected from those presented on the agenda by Fiscal Officer Silliman after the meeting)

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- Sarah Courtwright: Sunflower event of Tecumseh Land Trust, t-shirt sales
- Mark Heise: Public information request
- Greene County Auditor Office: Estimated resources 2024
- Home, Inc: First phase of project is underway (next door to Township offices)
- Alex Price: Invitation to order Chamber t-shirts
- IGS Energy: Natural gas (electric?) aggregation supplier
- Stephanie Goff, Greene County Engineer: Recommended depth of fiber optic lines – **see New Business below**
- Kelli Leingang-Pitrone: Forwarded letters of support for agritourism hearing

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **28 EMS runs** and **10 fire calls** since last meeting including the rope rescue of a fallen hiker at Glen Helen and a tragic cardiac event.

Following a discussion with Trustee Mucher, Chief Powell has **pulled future paid advertising** for new firefighters/EMTs due to cost considerations.

Cassady Brewer and Georgia Goad have been **promoted to Acting Sergeant** for a six-month trial; after that time, and with good results, the final promotions will be presented to the Trustees for approval.

An overdue **Insurance Services Office (ISO) inspection** for the Township departments has been tentatively rescheduled for 2024.

Recall work has been completed on Medic 82 and on the “Chief-mobile” Unit 80.

Chief Powell requested approval to **purchase 1,500 ft. of supply line replacement** for the current 20+-year-old line, with an additional 1,500 ft. to be purchased next year, from **All-American Fire Equipment at a cost of \$11,730**. He obtained five quotes ranging from \$23,000 to \$35,000 for the full 3,000 ft. of line and decided it was better to buy the line in stages. Money is available in the funds set aside earlier for equipment purchases. Trustee Hollister **moved** to approve the purchase, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Powell requested permission to surplus out Tanker 81, which is past its normal expected lifecycle. Trustee Mucher **moved** to approve the purchase, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. **The motion carried unanimously.**

A September 7, 2023, **in-service has been set for the new scheduling software**, with expected transition to full service next month.

Trustee Mucher asked for an update on the **department assessment**. Chief Powell advised the final information needed from their office has been submitted, and the final report is pending.

Trustee Mucher reported on the **concrete spalling** issue. After inspection/assessment by experts, a 50-page report recommends applying a special sealant to prevent further damage (existing damage cannot be easily corrected). He **moved** to have Castle Cement Services begin the process at an **estimated \$3,500**. He hopes to have this done before snowfall. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously.**

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **1 full burial** at Glen Forest.

Ryan will be helping out on Mondays while Mr. Gochenouer recovers from shoulder surgery in late September/October, and Brandon has a list of necessary duties.

Roads:

Mr. Gochenouer outlined the **mowing/trimming** work planned for the next week. Trustee Mucher reviewed a list of Township roads that need attention, and commended Mr. Gochenouer on the “premier condition” of Larkins Road.

A brief discussion was held on **road fogging and upcoming paving**.

Fiscal Officer’s Report

Ms. Silliman presented **Resolution 2023-36 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations**. Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution as enumerated, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**. Note a **correction to the Fire Fund amount** from \$54,000 to \$4,000 as discussed after the meeting.

Zoning Inspector’s Report

Mr. Zopf reported **1 permit** issued which was actually a re-issue for an accessory building on Hilt Road that was permitted last year, but not built.

The Zoning Commission met recently with **continuing discussions on Temporary Use Permits and solar zoning**. Mr. Zopf reported that, at their request, he has conducted research through Regional Planning on solar issues.

The **BZA will meet September 14, 2023**, to hear two issues: the **Pitrone agritourism request** and the **YS Chamber of Commerce Temporary Use Permit to sell t-shirts at the sunflower field**. A brief discussion was held on the various costs and donations related to that annual event which reportedly attracted 20,000 visitors last year.

Mr. Zopf noted the BZA now has four members and one alternate, and that since David Neuhardt will recuse himself from the sunflower field vote, every member is needed.

Trustee Hollister **moved to appoint Alternate Eli Hurwitz** to fill the remaining term of Barbara Krabec, who resigned for health reasons. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Mucher read into the record **a letter from Township resident Zot Barazzotto in support of the Pitrone agritourism request**. Trustee Mucher then requested, due to what he felt was disrespect to the Township form of government based on a “sui juris affidavit” suggestion and other comments, that a standing agreement with Mr. Barazzotto re: his Internet equipment housed at the Township Road Department building be rescinded with 7 days’ notice to vacate.

Trustee Hollister said he would like to talk to Mr. Barazzotto before any action is taken. **Trustee Moir agreed**, saying such a notice to vacate could be considered “retribution” in light of his letter. She also noted this was the first time she had heard of the informal Internet business situation. **Trustee Mucher objected** to a suggestion to move the item to the agenda for next meeting, and **no action was taken**.

New Business

Trustee Moir presented an issue from the Greene County Engineer’s office re: the **required depth of underground fiber optic cable**. The Board of Commissioners disagrees with the Engineer’s suggestion of 42 inches. Since Greene County handles the Township’s permitting for fiber, a decision is needed. After a brief discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved** to follow the recommendation of the Greene County Engineering Department and hereby **require that underground fiber lines for broadband in the unincorporated areas of Miami Township be buried at a minimum of 42 inches**. Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Ms. Silliman and Trustee Moir presented **Resolution 2023-37 Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the [County] Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor**. After a brief discussion during which Trustee Hollister noted that in most cases millage goes down as property values go up, Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution as presented. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Old Business

Trustee Moir presented the results of a consensus reached with Trustee Mucher on a **water fixture for the Natural Burial area**. Trustee Mucher **moved** to have **Marvin Water Gardens begin the design and installation process** of the selected feature at an estimated cost of \$3,500. Trustee Moir **second**, and **the motion passed unanimously**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, September 18, 2023**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

/clp