

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of October 16, 2023

Call to Order

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

Fire Chief Denny Powell and Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer were in attendance.

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

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes unavailable due to staff absence on medical family leave.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$94,981.06**:

- General Fund – \$4,650.16
- Fire Fund – \$31,590.08
- EMS Billing – \$391.86
- Cemetery – \$525.52
- Road and Bridge – \$60,965.65
 - 2011 – \$953.45
 - 2021 – \$57,823.44
 - 2031 – \$2,188.76
- Grinnell Mill – \$12.48

After Mr. Gochenouer explained the Grinnell Mill expenditure was for a photo eye for a light at the site, **the motion carried unanimously.**

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- YSDC Minutes
- Pipelines – newsletter of Greene County Sanitation
- Nicole Hawk: Request tour of Oak Grove Cemetery
- Linda Bankston: Contract for Glen Forest Plot
- Lee Sloane: Confidential update on Kingwood Solar Development
- Greene County Township Association: Invitation to October dinner/meeting
- Ohio Dept of Treasury: Re: SLFRF (ARPA) funds – no action required
- Frank Hatfield: Report re: Township’s role in Indigent burials
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission: Annual Report
- M. Moir: Urging BZA and ZC members to attend Regional Planning trainings on planning topics
- Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor: Memorandum of Agreement for audit
- Home, Inc.: Public notification on launching of The Cascades Phase I

- Kelli Leingang-Pitrone: Questioning correspondence/delay of same, from Zoning Inspector Zopf re: her still-pending permit. **She was notified of the email issues being addressed.**
- Sherry Baird, Clermont County: Request for copy of the Township’s solar moratorium Resolution

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mark Heise reported that the **Yellow Springs Street Fair was rated #2** in a recent Best of Dayton poll. He offered the **Chamber’s thanks to the Township and MTRF** for their assistance with the event.

Mr. Heise then offered clarification on the discussion last meeting re: instigation for a **zoning permit for the sunflower field**. While acknowledging potential, shared, memory lapses, he reported that, contrary to Zoning Inspector Zopf’s recollection that Sarah called to ask about a permit this year, in fact Mr. Zopf contacted Michelle *last* year to inform her the Chamber would need a permit.

As a result, Mr. Heise continues to question why that was necessary after years (decades?) of previous un-permitted events at the sunflower field. Trustee Mucher reiterated that it was a question for Mr. Zopf, and while Mr. Heise agreed, he felt it was necessary to make the Trustees aware of the information in a timely manner.

A brief discussion was held on the permitting still needed from townships in light of the state’s agritourism ruling.

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **23 EMS runs and 3 fire calls, including 3 EMS mutual aid requests**, since last meeting. He noted only one call during Street Fair, and it was unrelated to the event. The weather may have contributed to a smaller-than-usual crowd and less need for MTRF services.

An **oil leak on M82** requires the vehicle be taken out of service and sent for repair.

Halloween candy is ready for Trick-or-Treat distribution. Chief Powell said they purchased about 30% less this year, down to \$450, but that it will still meet their community-service/interaction needs.

The **scheduling software** went live on October 7th as planned. After a few minor tweaks and an expected learning curve, it seems to be functioning well. Trustee Moir expressed her intent to check out the program; Chief Powell indicated it won’t be difficult to follow.

Trustee Hollister asked about **the lower number of EMS runs**, noting a general average of 30+ reported most meetings. Chief Powell said part of that can be attributed to the end-of-the-year lull and fewer visitors coming to town.

Trustee Mucher commented on the **much-fewer number of fire alarms at Antioch College** in recent months. Chief Powell explained several possible reasons. Trustee Mucher then asked about **fire and sprinkler system inspections at the college**. Chief Powell said MTFR inspects buildings, not sprinkler systems. The department is playing catch-up with inspections, but now that they have more staff able to perform them, they will be better positioned to meet the goal of inspecting each commercial building in the Township annually. Staff members on light-duty will be able to help with those as well.

Trustee Mucher asked for a progress report on **Hawthorne Place**. Chief Powell said he was checking with the Fire Marshall, but that legal/financial issues are still in play before any demolition can begin.

Trustee Moir asked if Frank Cook has said when the **department assessment** will be submitted. Given the original 90-day timeline, it should be ready in early November.

Trustee Mucher offered a detailed review of the **financial accounts for MTFR** – payroll expenditures so far this year (~\$800,00) and yet to spend (~\$176,000) plus other account balances. Trustee Moir noted several one-time payroll issues (retirement, medical) that have now been covered. Chief Powell advised the new medic will not be ready until summer '25, if not later, since the UAW strike may delay production, so that expenditure will be later. Given all those factors, plus the available ARPA funds and the Tax Commissioners pending transfer of 4901 funds, the Trustees remain “cautiously optimistic” about the department budget.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **1 burial** at Oak Grove on October 16th, with ashes scheduled in Clifton on Saturday, and a columbarium placement on October 26th. A spare door is ready to be engraved for that.

Starting October 17, work will begin on **14 bases** (headstone foundations).

Roads:

The **dump truck** is back in the *Yellow Springs News* for bids, with a November 6, 2023, deadline.

Mr. Gochenouer and Chief Powell will coordinate on a schedule for roadside burns.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Resolution 2023-43 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations was presented. Trustee Hollister **moved** to adopt the Resolution as enumerated, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. After Trustee Mucher questioned the Account 323 transfer, the **Resolution was adopted unanimously** (note the **corrected Resolution number** from the 2023-42 noted on the agenda).

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) – Executive Committee & Board of Directors: **no report**
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (GCRPCC): **Trustee Mucher reported the last meeting was very brief, with only 2 plats to be reviewed.**
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: **no meeting**
- YS Community Development Corporation (CDC): Trustee Hollister reported an **open meeting was held re: the community solar grant**, with ~20 residents in attendance.
- YS Environmental Commission: Trustee Moir reported they are considering installing a **prairie area at Bill Duncan Park.**
- Greene County Township Association: **no report**
- Natural Burial Committee: Trustee Moir reported they are looking at a spring “do-over,” **replanting the southwest corner** of the area.

New Business

Trustee Moir received informal, verbal notification from Vesper Energy that they are planning a **new, smaller footprint, “Aviation Solar Development”** launching soon. They’ve already met with Cedarville, and will likely share plans with the Township. The area has yet to be mapped out. Trustee Moir will notify Jennifer Adams.

In response to community comments re: the **cost of the firehouse levy**, in light of the upcoming election, Trustee Moir ran the numbers and determined the existing levy costs homeowners **\$33-34/\$100,000 valuation annually**. According to the Greene County Auditor, this lower-than-expected amount is due in part to the 2.4 mil levy currently being assessed at 1 mil; this may not last, however, but it’s good news for now.

Old Business

Trustee Hollister reported **Kingwood Solar has appealed** the Ohio Power Siting Board’s final rejection (based on overwhelming community opposition) to the Ohio Supreme Court. As projected at last meeting, **Citizens for Green Acres is also appealing** the rejection (based on environmental issues). Xenia and Cedarville townships have joined the CGA appeal, and Trustee Hollister **moved** for Miami Township to do the same. Trustee Mucher **seconded**. After a brief discussion, Trustee Mucher abstained, and **the motion passed 2-0.**

Executive Session:

Trustee Mucher **moved** for an **Executive Session** to discuss real estate acquisition. Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The meeting recessed at 5:51 p.m., and reconvened at **x p.m.** with **no action being taken at this time.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **x p.m.**

Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, November 6, 2023**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

/clp