

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of December 18, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Hollister present.

Fire Chief Denny Powell, Fiscal Officer Margaret Silliman, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

WYSO reporter Adriana Martinez-Smiley and residents Jenifer Adams, Eric Johnson, Scott Fife, and Kate LeVesconte were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

After discussion, **approval of the minutes** of December 4, 2023, was **tabled** until next meeting to allow further review since the draft arrived later than usual.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Hollister **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$52,017.61**:

- General Fund – \$4,554.00
- Fire Fund – \$36,090.76
- EMS Billing – \$458.61
- Cemetery – \$3,846.48
- Road and Bridge – \$7,067.76
 - 2011 – \$55.80
 - 2021 – \$5,306.44
 - 2031 – \$1,153.27
 - 2231 – \$552.25

The motion carried unanimously. The Trustees thanked Chief Powell for his successful efforts to keep fire expenses down.

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- Eric Johnson: Advocated solar in the Township
- Kate LeVesconte: Public information request for the template that served as the starting point for the Zoning Commission in their endeavor to create guidelines for small solar
- Laura Curliss: Opposing commercial solar on farmland
- MVRPC: Received federal, state funding for Safe Streets and Roads for All
- Deandra Navratil: Greene RPC Executive Committee packet
- TruGreen Commercial Landscaping: Auto-renewal of services, 4% increase
- FEMA: Training for FEMA Go (Grants Outcomes software)
- Ohio Township Association: Winter Conference information
- Mike Kelly: Forms for Paving 2024, Chip Seal 2024, Pavement

- Mindi Watts, Greene County Treasury Office: Supplement to Certificate of Resources, balance of Township funds
- Adawale Adeyo, US Deputy Secretary of Treasury: Prioritizing unused ARPA funds for affordable housing and workplace development
- Robert Sprague, Treasurer, State of Ohio: Reminder to complete Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS) paperwork

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **31 EMS runs** and **3 fire calls** since last meeting, including **3 EMS mutual aid requests**.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of MTFR staff member Cassady Brewer, the ESO **assets/checklists software package configuration is ahead of schedule**, with an expected rollout in about two weeks.

Chief Powell provided an update on **staff medical leave**.

In response to information received by the Trustees re: **fire apparatus maintenance** from Bob Jones, FASR, Inc., Chief Powell noted that while the department had worked with Mr. Jones in the past, MTFR currently uses a different company for those services. He will review the new FASR information.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Trustee Mucher reported that Mr. Gochenouer is healing slowly from his shoulder issues. In his absence, Trustee Mucher is fulfilling cemetery sexton duties including sales, burial arrangements, and phone calls.

Roads:

Trustee Mucher reported the Greene County Engineer's **road repair commitment request** is due next Friday. After a brief discussion on current road conditions throughout the Township, Trustee Moir **moved** to request Mr. Gochenouer complete the form including overlay for Carol Drive and Lamont Road, and chip seal for North River Road. Trustee Hollister **seconded**. **The motion carried unanimously.**

In response to Trustee Moir's query, Trustee Mucher assured everyone that even in Mr. Gochenouer's absence, **the Township is prepared to deal with any potential snowfall.**

Fiscal Officer's Report

Resolution 2023-48 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations was presented. Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution as enumerated, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Moir took advantage of Fiscal Officer Silliman's presence to discuss pending **training for the new Township Fiscal Officer**, Jeanna GunderKline, who will take office April 1, 2024. Ms. Silliman said current plans are to get through the end-of-year chaos and then meet with Ms. GunderKline on the basics such as payroll and regular bills. Ms. GunderKline will also attend the UAN (Uniform Accounting Network) training conference.

In response to an informal request last meeting about **fees paid for legal representation regarding the Kingwood solar development**, Ms. Silliman advised she is working on compiling those figures.

Following extended discussion, Ms. Silliman presented **Resolution 2023-49 Temporary Appropriations for 2024**. She explained her process for arriving at those figures, noting they are not set in stone, but simply a starting point for the year while the budget is finalized. Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution as presented, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Zoning Inspector's Report

Trustee Moir reported that **Denise Swinger is filling in as Interim Zoning Inspector**, with no plans to make that a permanent situation.

As a follow-up to discussion last meeting on a **possible extension of the expired 6-month moratorium on small solar for the entire Township**, Trustee Hollister posited that such an extension is moot. As current Township zoning regulations stand, any solar proposal would need a variance, hence a BZA hearing, at which time any concerns could be addressed. Extended discussion was held on the difference, if any, between a moratorium versus variance from existing regulations, as opposing expert advice has been received. It was agreed to table the discussion until after the Zoning Commission meeting tomorrow (December 19th) when the proposed new solar regulations are expected to be announced.

Kate LeVesconte asked that the Trustees **clarify the legal options** (moratorium vs regulation) and seek public input before making any decisions.

In light of ongoing discussion re: the **Comprehensive Land Use Plan** and possible modifications to it, Trustee Mucher broached the possibility of a **survey of Township farmers to collect public input regarding solar development**. A lengthy discussion ensued as to who can and should be surveyed (farmers, rural landowners, all Township residents), what types of questions should be asked, and what the intended outcome/use of any results would be. Trustee Mucher will investigate the potential costs of such a survey and it will be discussed further.

Trustee Moir reported that because one **Zoning Commission** member will be out of state until March (after tomorrow’s meeting), a request has been made to **participate via video** conference. Discussion was held on Sunshine Law restrictions and current lack of equipment for video participation (the Township could handle audio only). After a query by Ms. Martinez-Smiley from WYSO, the Trustees reviewed a previous decision not to video record those meetings. The matter will be discussed further with Zoning Commission members.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): Trustee Moir reported the general meeting discussed a new grant
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPC): No meeting
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: No meeting
- Yellow Springs Community Development Corporation (YSCDC): Trustee Hollister reported the group is hoping to hold another public hearing re: the community solar grant, possibly in January. They continue to discuss regional plans in light of upcoming industrial growth in adjacent counties.
- Yellow Springs Environmental Commission: No report
- Greene County Township Association: Holiday party held
- Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee: No meeting

New Business

Nothing further

Old Business

After noting that more prime farmland is lost to residential development – which cannot be reclaimed – than to solar farms – which can, Ms. LeVesconte asked about Township regulations re: **subdivisions**. Trustee Mucher outlined current regulations for housing including frontage and setbacks, reiterating that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan states the Township is focused on agriculture. Jenifer Adams asked if a question on urban sprawl could be included in the proposed survey. The Trustees agreed it was too soon to decide on specific questions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled **Wednesday, January 3, 2024**, at 5 p.m., due to the New Year’s Day holiday on Monday.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

/clp