

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of March 4, 2024
**see acronym glossary following minutes*

Call to Order

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

Fire Chief Denny Powell, Interim Zoning Inspector Denise Swinger, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Residents Fred Stockwell and Bruce Ayers, and MTRF staffers Nate Ayers, Georgia Goad, Chris Kline, TJ Fries, and Nick Miller-Jacobson were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Moir **moved to adopt the minutes** of February 21, 2024, as presented. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Moir **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$41,315.38**:

- General Fund – \$6,853.38
- EMS Billing – \$23,571.10
- Cemetery – \$4,853.25
- Road and Bridge – \$6,098.61
 - 2021 – \$60.96
 - 2031 – \$6,037.65

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- Medicount (EMS billing): **2023 Annual Report**
- Michele Burns: Address confusion on **EMT call**
- Zander Neve, Syncarpha Solar LLC: Inquiry about **permit process for a 40-acre solar project** in the Township; also requested to know when the Zoning Commission will be discussing the topic
- US Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of NY: Information on case concerning **bankruptcy procedure**
- Margaret Silliman: Request for assistance in obtaining 2 specific **documents for upcoming audit**
- Kassie Lest, GCTA: **Meeting schedule** for the year and **invoice for Webinar** subscription (see minutes of February 21st)
- Mark Willis: **Interest in serving as an alternate** on the Miami Township Zoning Commission

- Stephanie Goff, Greene County Engineer: Invitation to **herbicide training** for rural roads, with opportunity to also learn more about what herbicides the county uses on county roads in the Township
- Stephanie Goff, Greene County Engineer: Invitation to April 20th **seminar on drainage issues**

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Fred Stockwell reported the dates on recent Township **meeting videos** posted on the website are incorrect. The typos will be corrected.

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **32 EMS runs** and **19 fire calls** since last meeting – 18 on the day of the storm (February 28th). This included **requesting mutual aid** for 2 fire calls, and **mutual aid response** for 2 fire calls.

He reviewed the department's **response on storm day**, and noted an **after-action review** meeting is set for March 5th.

The **annual Medicare/Medicaid renewal** has been completed.

Chief Powell updated the Trustees on the **pending/applied for grants** (see minutes of February 5th for details). He noted the FEMA application for cot replacement, due March 8, is very involved and highly competitive. Trustee Mucher thanked him and the department for their efforts.

He then presented the **updated dispatch agreement** from Public Safety Information Sharing Network (PSISN). Dispatch is moving shared data from their servers to Amazon Web Services which requires MTFR to utilize a cloud VPN for appropriate firewalls to securely access the data. The final initial outlay is \$7,000 for hardware, with an annual fee of \$62.50 for years 2-5 of the agreement.

At Chief Powell's request, Trustee Mucher **moved to appoint Yellow Springs resident Kent Wordec** (sp), a retired Dayton firefighter, **as an MTFR volunteer**. Trustee Moir seconded, and **motion carried unanimously**.

In light of no response from the Greene County Engineer to his request, Chief Powell asked the Trustees to write a **letter requesting 55 mph signs be posted on Dayton-Yellow Springs Road leaving the village**. Trustee Hollister said he would write the letter.

Trustee Moir advised Chief Powell and the Trustees of a citizen call she fielded re: a **requested prairie burn**. Chief Powell detailed the safety and staffing difficulties in such a burn, adding that with the brush truck out of service for another 3-4 weeks, by that time it would be too late for a burn anyway since the field would be in bloom.

Trustee Hollister asked if the State of Ohio isn't **currently under a burn ban**, and Chief Powell said yes, while that is the case, exceptions may be made for a controlled prairie burn. Trustee Mucher reported that when a prairie expert visited Yellow Springs last month, they said **burns are unnecessary and do not accomplish the intent**.

After a lengthy discussion on safety concerns and environmental issues including the small animal population, **Chief Powell said he would call the citizen** to explain in detail. A small, contained-area burn may be possible.

At Trustee Mucher's inquiry, Chief Powell explained a **broken halyard on the MTRF building flag pole has prevented the department from flying a flag**. Because replacing the halyard requires the use of the Village bucket truck – and the ground is too soft to allow that – repairs have been delayed but are planned.

When Trustee Mucher noted the **muted tornado siren** sound during the monthly first-Monday test, Chief Powell reminded everyone the **sirens are designed to warn people who are outside, not those inside a building/residence**. He added the Clifton siren will be replaced with grant monies, but there is a lengthy backlog at Motorola.

In response to a citizen reporting **no one answered the lobby phone**, Chief Powell said a sign would be added noting that if the MTRF staff is out on a call, there is likely no one to answer.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Mucher reported **2 burials** in the Natural Cemetery, and **2 plots were sold** in the new section.

A **new, powder-coated, entrance** is finished at **Oak Grove**.

Roads:

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Mucher reported storm damage in the Township was minimal; however, several **large branches/tree parts fell at the south side of Glen Forest East Cemetery**. Brandon Morris spent most of that day clearing them off to the side. A tree company will be brought in to take care of the remains as well as some additional trimming.

Mr. Morris then responded to a late-afternoon citizen call of a **tree blocking Kyle Road**. He took the bobcat out, but had to cut up the tree with a chainsaw to get it off the road because of the size.

Trustee Mucher reported that on his latest road inspection tour, he noticed **Harbison Road needs attention due to aging**. He suggests a fog seal rather than blacktop or chip seal at this point. Because the road was not included in the Greene County bid list, Mr. Gochenouer has contacted Hensley, Inc., of

Springfield, who agreed to do the work at the same cost. When that dollar amount is established, the Trustees will vote to authorize the work.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Resolution 2024-12 Amendment of Temporary Appropriations was presented. Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution as enumerated, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Zoning Inspector's Report

Ms. Swinger presented a **detailed report of her activities** since she took over on December 4, 2023, including 18 phone calls received, 76 emails, 3 permits issued, 2 BZA cases filed and scheduled for March 12th, and 16 meetings attended/conducted in her official capacity.

She noted that, while she **anticipated working ~4 hours/week** when she accepted the interim position, last week alone she worked 15 hours. There are record-keeping issues, lack of hard-copy minutes for Zoning Commission/BZA meetings, etc., that necessitate extra time.

Ms. Swinger also noted the **Zoning regulations on the website** need to be revamped as the numbering is off. Trustee Mucher advised that file was originally created from scanning an original, which created numerous problems. Trustee Moir assured her there is an accurate digital copy available in the Township files.

After further discussion, Ms. Swinger agreed to **draw up a detailed "ideal" job description** for the Zoning Commissioner and related administrative duties. Trustees can then pare down/revise as needed.

New Business

At Trustee Hollister's request, Trustee Moir described a request from Fiscal Officer Silliman to stay on after the April 1st transfer date, with pay, to **assist incoming FO Jeanna GunderKline with further training**. It was decided that request should come from Ms. GunderKline, if necessary; Trustee Hollister will discuss the matter with her.

Two additional **items noted on the agenda** were discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Old Business

No discussion.

Executive Session:

Trustee Mucher **moved** for an **Executive Session** to "consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee." Trustee Moir **seconded**. The meeting recessed at 6:22 p.m., and reconvened at 7:10 p.m. with **no action being taken at this time**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, March 18, 2024**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

***Acronyms:**

- MTFR: Miami Township Fire & Rescue
- MVRPC: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- OTA: Ohio Township Association
- RPC: Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission
- YS CDC: Yellow Springs Community Development Corporation

/clp