

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of May 20, 2024
**see acronym glossary following minutes*

Call to Order

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

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

Yellow Springs News Associate Editor Lauren Shows, Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce Vice-chair Ryan Carpe, and several MTFR staffers were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

After a brief discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of May 6, 2024, as amended. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Moir **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$40,121.17**:

- General Fund – \$9,847.23
- Fire Fund – \$22, 322.08
- Cemetery – \$3,853.25
- Road and Bridge – \$4,098.61
 - 2021 – \$77.55
 - 2031 – \$4,021.06

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- Frank Cook: Draft report of Fire and EMS Organization Assessment. Chief and elected officials are urged to proofread for accuracy and respond by Friday, May 24, with comments. – ***Draft with no recommendations. Trustees will forward notes to Chief Powell by noon Friday; he will compile and forward them to Mr. Cook.***
- Deandra Navratil: RPCC Executive Committee agenda
- YS Chamber of Commerce: Invitation to obtain ad space in visitor guide
- Jon Hudson: Urging Trustees to take climate change seriously and to take full advantage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, habitats, building and energy technology
- US ODOT: Funding opportunities
- Hope Taft: Invitation to join Leadership Float on June 21; RSVP by June 14 – ***Trustee Hollister will attend***
- Stephanie Goff, Greene County Engineer: Invitation to information session on products for roadway rehab
- GIS mapping sessions available for streamlining stormwater

- Partners for the Environment: Invitation to summer meeting at Learning Tree Farms; RSVP by June 16

Trustee Mucher noted that **past practice of physically printing/copying all correspondence and distributing to each Trustee has become “antiquated,”** and proposed only relevant paper correspondence be handled in that manner since all Trustees receive the emails. Trustees Hollister and Moir agreed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce Vice-chair Ryan Carpe reiterated the Chamber’s earlier written request for **changes to Street Fair financing re: MTRF services.** Mr. Carpe explained that the Chamber’s intent is to formalize agreements with the Village and with the Township to make long-term financial planning easier. If the **proposed \$5,000 in-kind donation for each Street Fair** (June and October) is approved, the Township could also be included in Street Fair promotional materials.

An extended discussion ensued over previous services provided and partial remuneration received (*see July 5, 2023, Trustees’ minutes for breakdown*). Mr. Carpe said any services provided over the proposed \$5,000 amount could be billed to the Chamber by the Township as in the past. It was agreed that while **the Township remains committed to staffing the June 8, 2024, Street Fair**, Chief Powell will provide updated numbers/cost to the Trustees at the June 3rd meeting for a final financial decision.

In light of that discussion, Trustee Moir introduced **a second Chamber request re: Fourth of July fireworks**, which they took over from the Oddfellows in 2023. Mr. Carpe noted that while the Oddfellows had always accepted donations – including from the Township, the ~\$10,000 show was largely self-funded and ran at an ~\$3,000 annual deficit. Now that the Chamber is in charge, and again in consideration of long-range planning, they are hoping to stabilize on-going, mutual funding from the Village, the Township, and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation for the fireworks show as well. The Township donated \$500 in 2023.

Various scenarios were considered including a smaller show versus a larger, revenue-producing show – neither of which is what the Chamber hopes to accomplish. After further discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved to donate \$1,000 for the 2024 Fourth of July fireworks.** Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Carpe thanked them for the increased support.

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **36 EMS runs** and **8 fire calls** since last meeting. This included **requesting mutual aid** for 1 fire call, and **mutual aid response** for 3 EMS runs and 2 fire calls.

He provided an **update on vehicle repair**; Brush 81 is expected to be back in service by mid-June.

A “massive” initial meeting was held by stakeholders including the YS School Board, the Village, utilities, construction, Village Police, and MTFR for the **pending school construction project**. Chief Powell said the 3-hour meeting was highly productive, and future sessions are planned.

Chief Powell will conduct a home inspection on Wednesday for a **possible live-fire training**.

The department has purchased a **new power washer** to deal with the many windows in the station.

Trustee Mucher presented **Resolution 2024-21 to Appoint Fire Chief** (Interim Chief Denny Powell to Fire Chief of the Miami Township Fire Department) effective immediately, and **moved** for its adoption. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Moir presented **Resolution 2024-22 Reclassification of Three Full-time Positions** (full-time, non-pensioned to full-time, pensioned) effective immediately, and **moved** for its adoption. Trustee Mucher **seconded**. Trustee Moir noted that the **due diligence on financial outlook and staffing needs had been accomplished** in the past week by an outside consultant, and that the Trustees could now move forward on the matter with confidence. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister presented **Resolution 2024-23 Appointment of Firefighters/EMTs** (Cassady Brewer and Gavin Van Meter to fill two of the newly-created full-time, pensioned positions) effective May 21, 2024, and **moved** for its adoption. **Each appointee will be required to obtain Paramedic (EMT-P) certification** in the State of Ohio within two years of appointment. Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

With further explanation of the services provided and available by the outside consultant, Trustee Mucher **moved** to offer a **further temporary consulting contract with Frederick Kauser to handle additional personnel matters**, scope and cost to be determined. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Trustee Hollister reported that while Mr. Gochenouer is back at work, he was unable to attend the meeting as he is busy **mowing and weeding the cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day**.

Two burials and **one cremation interment** were reported in the past few days. Trustee Moir noted crews have placed **11 new foundations for headstones**.

Roads:

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Mucher reported crews have been **mowing berms**, and while the job isn't finished, the grass is not terribly high.

After a brief explanation of **Road Department fund sources** including inside millage, Trustee Mucher referenced a motion from last meeting approving \$21,500-\$22,000 to chip-seal **North River Road** and fog-seal **Harbison Road**. He noted that after further discussion with Mr. Gochenouer and the contractor, it would be more cost-effective to **chip-seal both roads, for a total cost of ~\$31,000-\$32,000** and **moved** to approve same (*note an intervening discussion in the meeting video*). Trustee Moir seconded, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Mucher reported that the cost to repair the **damaged 72-inch, 4WD mower** reported last meeting is nearing the cost of a new mower. After some discussion, Trustee Hollister agreed he would **ask the Clifton-Union Cemetery Board to donate toward the purchase of a new mower** as that piece of equipment is used almost exclusively on their property. Trustee Mucher **moved** to approve the **purchase of a new mower at an estimated \$42,000**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Mucher added they would try to recoup some monies by selling the old mower for parts.

Fiscal Officer's Report

No report.

Standing Committee Reports

- Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee (GFNB): No report from Trustee Moir. Trustee Hollister asked if the Committee had hired the **prairie expert** approved last meeting; they have not. Trustee Hollister recommended they **contact David Nolan, retired Conservation Director from Five Rivers MetroParks**, for assistance. Mr. Nolan spoke recently on prairie history and maintenance, and is quite knowledgeable.
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) – General meeting: Trustee Moir reported further discussion on **transportation grants**. A presentation was given on area rainfall (up 5 inches annually) and the **Arthur Morgan dams**. While the dams function as intended, those responsible for their upkeep are exploring a new funding model for maintenance.
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (GCRPCC): Trustee Mucher referred the Trustees to the report presented by Zoning Inspector Carrie Smith last meeting re: proposed Township zoning changes.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: No meeting held due to planting season. Trustee Hollister asked Trustee Mucher if he knows whether the cemetery board is allowed to use **Star Fund Investment**. Trustee Mucher referred him to the State Auditor.

- YS Community Development Corporation (YS CDC): Trustee Moir said the group is “**practicing their pitch**” to **prospective businesses** who may consider coming to the area.
- Greene County Township Association: Trustee Hollister reported a presentation on an alternative to OTARMA (Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority): the Ohio Plan. He has resigned from his seat on the **Solid Waste Policy Committee**.

New Business

Nothing further.

Old Business

Nothing further.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, June 3, 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

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