

**Miami Township Trustees**  
Minutes of May 6, 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, Zoning Inspector Carrie Smith, Fiscal Officer Jeanna GunderKline, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

*Yellow Springs News* Associate Editor Lauren Shows; residents Fred Stockwell, Jerome Borchers, Tom Seibold, and Alex Price; and six MTRF staffers: Mark Murphy, Nate Ayers, Payton Cooper, Cassady Brewer, Chris Kline, and Brian Burnett were also present.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Trustee Mucher **moved to adopt the minutes** of April 15, 2024, as presented. 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 **\$55,000.94**:

- General Fund – \$8,030.26
- Fire Fund – \$35,782.23
- Cemetery – \$7,629.50
- Roads – \$3,558.95

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Mucher asked Fiscal Officer GunderKline for a **more detailed account breakdown** for the Roads account as has been done in the past. She said she would see to it on future agendas.

**Correspondence**

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- MVRPC: Director update
- FEMA: FEMA Go survey (re: grants)
- Partners for the Environment: Invitation to summer meeting June 26; RSVP by June 19th – Trustee Hollister plans to attend
- Auditor of State: Bulletin
- Hope Taft: Invitation to Leadership Float
- Rebekkah Brewer-Klontz, Fiscal Support Specialist, Greene County Auditor: Instructions for preparing tax budget due July 20, with public meeting required (in June?)
- Brian Housh: Request for letter of support to Congressman Mike Turner re: YS-Clifton connector (renewal of grant application)

- Medicount Management: Quarterly report, annual performance analysis
- Mary Cargan: Request for a meeting with Trustees concerning waterfall fountain in the cemetery
- Casey Brewer: Letter of resignation from MTFR, request for a meeting with Trustees

### Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

### Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **53 EMS runs** and **10 fire calls** since last meeting, noting the three-week time period. This included **requesting mutual aid** for 1 fire call (tanker for a brush fire), and **mutual aid response** for 1 EMS run and 3 fire calls.

Equipment updates:

- Brush 81 needed repairs are waiting for parts to arrive.
- Engine 82 has returned to service.
- Engine 81 is out of service for repair in Springboro, with an estimated 3-week timeframe.

Lieutenants Kline and Goad will be attending the **Ohio Fire Chief's Conference** in the coming months.

Chief Powell requested the Trustees authorize **purchase of the VPN equipment** discussed in previous meetings. He noted the **\$6,000 cost** for 2 items from Amazon Web Services is a lifetime expenditure; any repairs/updates will be handled by Amazon. Trustee Mucher **moved** to approve the expenditure, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. **The motion carried unanimously**. The coordinating team for this project continues to meet via conference call every two weeks and will continue to do so for what is expected to a lengthy process.

At Chief Powell's request, Lt. Kline produced an analysis of the number of shifts when the department was **below-minimum staffing**:

- January: 12
- February: 13
- March: 18
- April: 15

Trustee Moir asked about the **ESO updates** discussed previously. Chief Powell said he's waiting on vendor(s) for specific figures, but that it will be done. She asked if that process would provide **an annual expenditure for each vehicle which can then be used to determine when it's time for replacements**. He said yes, and that he is searching for a misplaced binder created by a previous MTFR staffer that would fill in some of the blanks.

Trustee Moir asked about the **staff survey reports** the Trustees have been promised. Chief Powell said he'd simply forgot, but that he will produce them.

Trustee Moir asked for identification of the **medical director** for MTFR who has been mentioned. Chief Powell said it is **Lynn Bailey from Premier Health**.

At Chief Powell's request, Trustee Hollister introduced **Emergency Resolution 2024-20 Hiring of MTFR Part-time Employee**, effective May 6, 2024. This would be a part-time firefighter/EMS 36-hour position filled by Shane Broock. Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution as presented, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

## **Cemetery and Road Report**

### **Cemetery:**

Mr. Gochenouer is back on part-time duty, but unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Trustee Mucher reported **2 natural burials**, one in the Prairie and one in Oak Grove.

The department has begun laying out the **gravel drive/exit at Oak Grove**.

Jerome Borchers and Trustee Moir reported on the **Natural Burial Committee's quarterly meeting**. The Committee **cleared honey locust and poison hemlock** from the garden center side of the Prairie. The **drive needs** to be returned to **its original 10-12-foot width**, which will require solarization and reseeding.

Mr. Borchers outlined the **process** the Township needs to go through **each time a natural burial** is completed, and **recommended that the process be changed** to match what is done in Oak Grove (remove/replace soil rather than scrape clear). In response to Trustee Hollister query about talking to Mr. Gochenouer about the matter, Mr. Borchers said they have spoken, and will continue to do so.

Noting "Prairies take management," Mr. Borchers presented the Committee's request for a 10 hour/month employee to do so. Trustee Mucher **moved to authorize the Natural Burial Committee to find and hire an expert to manage the natural burial areas** with the Committee's oversight. Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

The Committee requests that burial fees at Oak Grove be increased to those in the Prairie in order to begin and maintain an **endowment for all the cemeteries**. Trustee Mucher noted that as a member of the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, the majority of cases they hear are about the lack of maintenance in a cemetery, the reason being that they are "old and sold and they no longer have a source of income or a well-established endowment." He stated that Miami Township is fortunately in a different position. Being a township that is a political subdivision of the state of Ohio, we are backed by the full faith and credit of the treasury of the state of Ohio and therefore **we do not need an endowment**.

Trustee Hollister also noted that some townships have a property tax to cover cemetery expenses.

### **Roads:**

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Mucher reported the **demise of the department's mower**. The cost to fix/replace the transmission is nearly the cost of new equipment. Mr. Gochenouer is checking on a possible loaner.

Trustee Mucher reported on the previously-discussed **chip sealing for North River Road** now estimated to cost \$16,095. He also recommends **fog seal for Harbison Road** since the edges are beginning to crack. He then **moved** to approve a **\$21,500-22,000 expenditure to cover both projects**. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

### **Fiscal Officer's Report**

Fiscal Officer GunderKline presented **Resolution 2024-19 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations**. Trustee Moir **moved** to adopt the Resolution as enumerated, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. After some discussion, the **Resolution was adopted unanimously**, with needed clarification on the account numbers listed.

Ms. GunderKline reported her ongoing **training** with Ms. Silliman is going well, and she thanked the Trustees for their patience.

### **Zoning Inspector's Report**

Zoning Inspector Smith asked for Trustee approval to contract with Greene County, at no cost, to list the **Township's zoning on the County GIS system**. Trustee Mucher **moved** to accept her recommendation, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Ms. Smith presented recommendations for **changes in zoning fees**. After a detailed discussion, Trustee Mucher **moved** to accept her recommendations (\$50 for basics – pool, accessory buildings, fences, additions, etc.; \$100 for new home construction), and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

In discussions with Zoning Commission Chair Corey, Ms. Smith learned the **RPC accepted their personal solar zoning changes**, and **tabled the Temporary Use Permit**. The RPC would like clarifications in the TUP wording, addressing conditional use, etc. The Zoning Commission will take up that matter at the June meeting (no meeting in May).

The **Zoning Commission** member who has been taking **minutes** has gratefully ceded that duty to Ms. Smith.

Ms. Smith asked for clarification on how/where **public hearing notices** are posted for the Township. She was introduced to *Yellow Springs News* Associate Editor Lauren "Chuck" Shows; they will discuss the procedures.

Ms. Smith will be in the office for additional hours in June to **locate/organize files**.

Trustee Hollister asked for details on Ms. Smith’s comment that **she has been busy since taking office**. She reported that while she has issued only one permit (fence), she has also fielded a number of calls/emails and requests for information, including a possible BZA matter re: a property split.

**New/Old Business**

Trustee Hollister noted **two matters that will require Executive Session**: one new matter (personnel issue) and one carried forward from last meeting (personnel compensation – Resolution 2024-17).

Trustee Mucher **moved** for an **Executive Session** to “consider the compensation of a public employee” (Resolution 2024-17) with Interim Chief Powell in attendance. Trustee Moir **seconded**. The meeting **recessed** at 6:20 p.m.

Trustee Mucher left the building prior to the meeting **reconvening** at 7:18 p.m.

Trustee Hollister informed the assembled MTFR staffers that while the Executive Session had been productive, **a decision on pending Resolution 2024-17 would be made in two weeks**, as further issues need to be resolved.

A **contentious discussion ensued** between the remaining two Trustees and the MTFR staffers (see the meeting video for details). After 14 minutes, Trustee Moir left the room. Trustee Hollister thanked the staffers for their input and repeated the decision that no vote would be taken on Resolution 2024-17 at this time.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Hollister adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, May 20, 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