

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of July 15, 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.

Fire Chief Denny Powell, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Residents Fred Stockwell, Kate LeVesconte, and Scott Fife; YSDC representative Corrie VanAusdal; and Vesper Energy representatives Lindsay Workman and Hannah Larkin were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Mucher **moved to adopt the minutes** of July 1, 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 **\$29,865.21**:

- General Fund – \$4,400.14
- Cemetery – \$1,980.39
- Fire Fund – \$19,553.01
- Road – \$3,931.67
 - 2021 – \$2,201.58
 - 2031 – \$1,730.09

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received correspondence as follows:

- Molly Vagle, Clean Grid Alliance: Public information request re: funds spent on opposition to solar
- Deandra Navratil: RPCC Executive Committee agenda
- Carrie Smith, Zoning Inspector: Resignation
- MVRPC: Executive Director update

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Nothing added – *see YSDC and Vesper discussions under New Business*

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **25 EMS runs** and **12 fire calls** since last meeting. This included **requesting mutual aid** for 1 fire call, and **mutual aid response** for 3 EMS runs and 1 fire call.

An MTRF part-time **firefighter working at another department was injured during a call** during the July 14 storm and is hospitalized.

Both **Medicots** have been out of service recently. One has been returned to the manufacturer for repair, the other was repaired on site; however, it took 2 weeks for an authorized repair company to respond. A pending \$40,000 grant from the Bureau of Workers' Comp will help replace one of the **\$67,000 cots**.

Of the 2 department **Lifepak defibrillators**, one is 18 years old and, while still functional, can no longer be serviced/maintained. The second will reach that stage in about 6 months. Stryker offers financing at \$19,000/year for the **\$55,000 units**. Chief Powell will continue researching options.

Building maintenance update: Overhead Door will work on the bay doors within the next 2 weeks. AC Service took care of a capacitor issue and a leak at the water heater.

The weather-delayed Fourth of July **fireworks will be held August 3**, along with the rescheduled parade and Touch-a-Truck event. Details to come.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported there have been **no recent burials**; however, two ash interments are scheduled for Friday.

Glen Forest paving will be completed this week. **Oak Grove gravel** is in, with another layer scheduled.

Roads:

Carol Drive and Lamont Road have been **paved**. North River and Harbison will be **chip-sealed** soon.

Mr. Gochenouer noted there is often a **car parked on Carol Drive that interferes with mowing, plowing, etc.**, and asked if something could be done. Trustee Hollister will look into it.

The **new mower** has arrived and the borrowed unit returned to Bath Township, with thanks.

In connection to the pending NE Broadband contract (*see Old Business*), Trustee Moir asked Mr. Gochenouer if there are **architectural drawings of the Township Road Department building** available that would show utility lines. Company reps will be referred to Mr. Gochenouer and Johnnie Burns.

In response to Trustee Mucher query, Mr. Gochenouer said **mowing and trimming** along the roads is in progress and should be completed soon.

Fiscal Officer's Report

US Bank checking balance 6/30/24: **\$603,133.67**

StarOhio investment account balance 6/28/24: **\$1,366,615.18**

Trustee Hollister presented **Resolution 2024-27 Resolved that the Attached Budget for 2025 be Adopted** and requested a motion. Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt the Resolution, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Mr. Stockwell was **provided with a copy of the budget**, at his request, and Trustees noted the public can ask for a copy at any time.

Zoning Inspector's Report

Zoning Inspector Carrie Smith has resigned to take a full-time position in Clinton County. She will make herself available during the transition to a new hire; interviews are scheduled.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): No report
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPC): Trustee Mucher reported that, while he was unable to attend the meeting, they are dealing with a **personnel issue** that he can't discuss at this time.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: Trustee Hollister reported the committee is researching **investment options for the recent endowment funds**.
- Greene County Township Association (GCTA): No report
- YS Community Development Corporation (YS CDC): See **Old Business** below
- Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee: No report

New Business

Vesper Energy representatives Hannah Larkin, Development Manager for the Kingwood and Aviation Center projects, and Lindsay Workman, Community Affairs Manager provided an update on the **tentative plans for the proposed solar development called "Aviation"** (*see minutes/video of December 4, 2023, for original presentation*). A copy of Ms. Workman's slide deck will be shared with the Trustees for dissemination as requested (note the slides were not viewed at the meeting).

Ms. Workman reported on the several **public engagement sessions and meet-and-greet opportunities held since December 2023**. During that time, they have gathered extensive data from community input and worked to address any concerns in the planning phase, including:

- Maintain rural aesthetics with 300-500 foot setbacks from roads, residences, rivers, parks, and all public lands
- Maintain soil quality

In response to comments during those sessions that Aviation is "too conceptual" at this point so it is hard to ask questions, Vesper is working to provide more specificity. Ms. Larkin and Ms. Workman will also be holding **weekly in-person or virtual one-on-one**

meetings with concerned citizens to answer questions directly. A link will be shared on the Vesper website and with the Trustees for scheduling.

After collecting data via “stickers on a map” indicating where citizens felt a solar array could be viable, Vesper is looking at an area straddling Clark and Greene Counties in Miami and Green Townships, northeast of SR 68 and 343. The identified 10,000 acre **“area of interest”** (3,500 of which is in Miami Township) allows them to begin technical surveys, etc., before the final ~2,000 acres needed (with 1,000 acres “in the fence”) would be identified. Part of this area is industrial (near the Springfield Airport) and other areas have been identified as “less prime” farmland.

Ms. Workman stressed that while initial contact has been made with some landowners, **no lease agreements have been signed.**

Since the passage of SB 52, each city/township affected by any solar plans is entitled to a **joint ad hoc voting member on the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB)**. Residents are encouraged to share their concerns via letter with the OPSB as well.

Additional **technical discussions and answers to residents’ questions**, including decommissioning concerns and tax benefits/PILOT funds are available on the **meeting video.**

In addition, Ms. Larkin highlighted Vesper’s goal to be a contributing member of the community, noting they have made **\$49,000 in grants in the past year to local groups** including:

- Camp Clifton 4-H Camp
- John Bryan State Park amenities
- Glen Helen
- Caesar’s Creek
- Antioch School
- Little Art Theater
- YSCF Equity Fund
- and others

Finally, in response to Trustee Mucher’s question re: the previous outpouring of **opposition to the Kingwood project**, asking if stated non-toxicity, etc., could be verified by independent third-parties, Ms. Workman assured him such evidence is available. She and Ms. Larkin noted the **extensive disinformation campaign funded by oil and gas** companies as part of the driving force behind that opposition.

Old Business

Corrie VanAusdal, Miami Township representative on the YSDC and its current treasurer, was present to answer questions re: **the YSDC request for staff funding**. She reported Lisa Abel is working on Trustee Mucher’s document request, and it should be available for the August 5th meeting.

An extended discussion was held reiterating much of what was said last meeting with Lisa Abel (*see video and minutes*), including:

- Previous Miami Township donations/financial support
- Questions about proportional donations/financial support from the Village
- Questions about past and future return on investment (ROI)
- Solid plans/goals from YSDC

After that discussion and a review of a **YSDC timeline** presented by Ms. VanAusdal, the matter was **tabled** until next meeting after the requested documents have been received.

Trustee Moir presented the **proposed agreement from NE Broadband**, noting that because of their planned move into fiberoptics, they are now requesting a three-year commitment from the Township. In exchange the Township buildings will receive broadband access and hourly paid tech support if requested.

Trustee Moir then **moved** to accept the proposed agreement, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. With Trustee Mucher’s continued recusal on the matter noted, **the motion carried**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, August 5, 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
- GCTA: Greene County Township Association

/clp