

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of October 7, 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 and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News Editor Lauren Shows and resident Fred Stockwell were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Moir **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of September 16, 2024, **as corrected**. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Moir **moved** and Trustee Mucher **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$72,391.62**:

- General Fund – \$8,766.12
- Cemetery – \$2,188.79
- Fire Fund – \$52,267.55
- Road – \$9,169.16
 - 2021 – \$5,687.02
 - 2031 – \$3,482.14

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received no correspondence that needed further discussion.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **36 EMS runs** and **17 fire calls** since last meeting. This included **requesting mutual aid** for 6 EMS runs and 8 fire calls, and **mutual aid response** for 1 EMS run and 2 fire calls.

Now that the \$40,000 Bureau of Workers' Compensation grant has been received, the **Stryker cot has been purchased** for a total cost of \$67,549.85. Delivery is expected within 30 days. The cot will be transferred to the new medic when it arrives.

MTFR responded to a **tree fire at Glen Helen** that was fortunately within reach of the hose line and didn't require a bucket brigade. A suspect was arrested for starting the fire.

Medic 81 has been out of service in Springboro for nearly 3 weeks – hoping for return prior to this weekend’s Street Fair.

Required **pump and ladder testing** is underway.

The new **LifePak 35 defibrillator is now in service**, with all staff trained in its use.

The department will **replace their current Spectrum cable service with an Apple TV box and YouTube subscription** for a cost savings.

Ms. Shows asked how the burn ban might affect the traditional **Halloween neighborhood bonfires**. Chief Powell said because they are controlled recreational burns, they should be fine barring any further drought.

Trustee Moir reported community questions over the **“fun-size” candy bars distributed by MTRF for Halloween last year** versus their traditional full-size bars. Chief Powell said the change was due to cost concerns, and that he would look into it.

Chief Powell said he would continue working with the Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce to better plan **Street Fair expenses**.

Trustee Mucher asked about **repairs to the flagpole**. Chief Powell and Trustee Moir will work on that, and possibly order a new, larger flag.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

In Mr. Gochenouer’s absence, Trustee Mucher reported **1 burial of ashes** at the Prairie, and 2 plots sold in Oak Grove.

New **grass has been mowed**. When asked about billing, Trustee Mucher said the Township pays a lump sum, billed quarterly, not contingent on how often mowing is needed.

Trustee Moir noted the **cemeteries were affected by the recent storm from Hurricane Helene**. Trustee Mucher said all the damage has been cleared.

Roads:

Trustee Hollister reported a call on **storm debris on Glen Road**. Brandon Morris cleared it, and Trustee Mucher noted all Township roads were clear as of Saturday morning.

Fiscal Officer’s Report

No fiscal reports were available; however, Fiscal Officer GunderKline notified the Trustees that **new reports next meeting** should more accurately reflect Township current finances as she completes updating accounts.

Trustee Moir presented **Resolution 2024-29 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations** (to cover the Township donation to Yellow Springs Development Corporation for director's salary). Trustee Mucher **moved** to approve the Resolution and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

US Bank checking balance 8/31/24: \$1,084, 632.73

StarOhio investment account balance 8/31/2024: \$1,379,239.23

Zoning Inspector's Report

Trustee Moir **moved** to **hire Bryan Lucas as the new Township Zoning Administrator**, (noting the new title to more accurately reflect the duties of the position) at \$25/hour, not to exceed 20 hours per week, effective immediately. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

In response to a question from Mr. Stockwell, Trustee Moir said Mr. Lucas comes highly recommended, and that Trustees interviewed him twice before making the offer. She outlined Mr. Lucas' **qualifications for the position**, noting his work on the Bath Township Zoning Commission, and his interest in learning more about zoning.

New Business

After a brief summary of the consultant work already provided by Fred Kauser, Trustee Hollister presented **Resolution 2024-30 To Contract with Intelliprax, LLC, Frederick Kauser** for implementation of his recommendations. Trustee Mucher noted the \$4,000/month fee is not open-ended; work is anticipated for the next 12 months or so.

In response to questions from Ms. Shows and Mr. Stockwell, the Trustees outlined the **items Mr. Kauser will focus on** in his work with Chief Powell and Ms. GunderKline, in particular a step salary schedule, HR compliance and staff training, and policies and procedures to help MTRF better transition from volunteer to a professional department.

Chief Powell said his experience working with Mr. Kauser thus far has been "exceptionally positive," and that he is "100% on board" with hiring Mr. Kauser for the work.

Trustee Moir **moved to adopt Resolution 2024-30**, Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**

Trustee Moir **moved** to add the previously-approved **~\$113,000 conservation easement set-aside** (August 5, 2024, meeting) **to a 2025 budget item**. A brief discussion reviewed its original passage, the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds designated to cover it, and the need to have said ARPA funds transferred and appropriated by December 31, 2024. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister presented the lengthy **Resolution 2024-31 Amendment of Resolution 2022-16 (ARPA Final Rule – Use of Standard Allowance)**. Trustee Moir summarized it in light of the just-passed motion. She then **moved to adopt** Resolution 2024-31, and

Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**. Trustee Hollister thanked Trustee Moir for her diligence in keeping the funding streams in order.

Old Business

Trustee Mucher reminded the Trustees of his earlier proposal to consider a **pine forest walkway behind the existing cemeteries**. He will be attending a Zoom presentation on the subject and report back.

Trustee Moir reported on the status of the part-time **Prairie caretaker** hired by the Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee. He is eager to continue the work.

Trustee Moir asked that, in light of the Zoning Commission’s difficulty with the proposed **commercial/medium-sized solar regulations**, the Trustees **invite Ohio Farm Bureau solar expert Dale Arnold to present at a joint meeting**. He has done the same for several area groups in the recent past. A brief discussion was held on several recent Ohio House bills, including one which gives **siting authority on <50MW projects to local Boards of Zoning Appeals (BZA)**. The Trustees agreed expert input would be helpful. Trustee Moir will arrange a **public meeting to include Trustees, the Zoning Commission, and BZA, as well as members of the public, for mid-November**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, October 21, 2024**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ Attest _____

***Acronyms:**

- MTFR: Miami Township Fire & Rescue
- MVRPC: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- OTA: Ohio Township Association
- GCTA: Greene County Township Association
- RPC: Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission
- YSDC: Yellow Springs Development Corporation
- GFNB: Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee

/clp