

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of October 21, 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, Fiscal Officer Jeanna GunderKline, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Resident Fred Stockwell was also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Mucher **moved to adopt the minutes** of October 7, 2024, as presented. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Mucher **moved** and Trustee Moir **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$101,176.81**:

- General Fund – \$11,984.04
- Cemetery – \$1,803.88
- Fire Fund – \$32,523.22
- Road – \$54,865.67
 - 2021 – \$53,099.12
 - 2031 – \$1,766.55

After noting the larger-than-usual Road expenditure was for the **paving contract**, the **motion carried unanimously**.

In response to Trustee Moir’s question in light of recent MTFR hires, Ms. GunderKline assured her the **pension accounts are caught up**.

Correspondence

The Trustees received no correspondence that needed further discussion.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments.

Fire Department Report

Chief Powell reported **40 EMS runs, 10 fire calls, and 2 inspections** since last meeting. This included **requesting mutual aid** for 8 EMS run and 2 fire calls (largely due to back-to-back runs), and **mutual aid response** for 3 fire calls. Those call numbers include 2 fire runs for car accidents, 9 EMS runs (1 with transport) for **Street Fair**. MTFR also conducted Street Fair **food truck inspections** which occupied 2-3 staff members for about 2 hours.

Medic 81 remains out of service for repair. Anticipated return for today did not happen.

Greene County **computer-aided dispatch (CAD) software transition to the cloud is scheduled for November 19, 2024**. Numerous checks and redundancies are in place to handle the switch.

Chief Powell met with consultant Fred Kauser to **prioritize the proposed MTFR action items**.

Township **building carpets have been cleaned**. A **donated couch** replaces the old set in MTFR, which will now be moved to the mezzanine for training use.

The medic **cot safety inspections have been completed** for this six-month cycle. Trustee Hollister asked that while one new cot has been ordered, when will the second one be replaced? Chief Powell said that cot will not be replaced until after the new medic arrives.

Chief Powell has been **elected secretary-treasurer of the Greene County Fire Chiefs Association**. The two-year term begins in December. The Trustees offered their congratulations.

In response to Mr. Stockwell's query, Chief Powell detailed the MTFR **food truck inspection** process for Street Fair, noting the Health Department does a separate inspection.

Trustee Moir asked about the on-going discussion with the **YS Chamber of Commerce** about **Street Fair expenses**. Chief Powell said he is working on that now.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **1 burial** at Clifton, with 2 of ashes set for this Saturday.

The **old wire fence at the back of Oak Grove will be removed** tomorrow, per Trustee Mucher's request. A problem with the wooden fence by the rock at the entry will be taken care of as well.

Roads:

Mr. Gochenouer reported a **tree on Hyde Road that was damaged** in the hurricane-related storm is a hazard and **will be taken down** later this week.

Road crews are planning a final pass on **ditch mowing** for the season.

Trustee Mucher said the roads look great. He recommended **replacing 4 back tires on the old dump truck** before winter weather hits. Mr. Gochenouer agreed.

Trustee Mucher asked that the **lines on the backhoe behind the bucket be checked**; they appeared to be coated with oil/dirt. Mr. Gochenouer will do so.

A brief discussion was held on **Road Department debris disposal** from the storm as well as the burned cars used by MTRF for training. Mr. Gochenouer will talk to Chief Powell about the cars.

The various **repairs at Grinnell Mill** discussed at the September 16th meeting are on the list.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Ms. GunderKline reported the **USB signatories** have been updated.

Fund corrections from the Resolutions passed last meeting have been completed.

She will meet with consultant Fred Kauser next week. One of the items on his proposal has been completed: **all new-employee documents are together** now so nothing is overlooked. Trustee Mucher asked if that included Social Security; she will check.

Most outstanding items have been cleared; exceptions:

- **retrieving Township records from the Ohio Auditor** for the past 2 years
- setting up a **credit card payment system**

Auditor reports have been submitted. Trustee Moir cleared one item (overpayment settlement) with a phone call, so the anticipated meeting is not needed.

Trustee Moir suggested a better **system for informing Ms. GunderKline of financial Resolutions passed during regular meetings**. Trustee Hollister said that, as Chair, he would flag those and relay the information.

Trustee Hollister noted **Greene County Auditor David Graham is stepping down at the end of October** to take a position in Beavercreek. The Greene County GOP will select his replacement since the term is not up.

Trustee Mucher reviewed the **extensive efforts Trustee Moir put into correcting a payroll discrepancy** she discovered last year, and thanked her for her diligence in resolving the matter.

US Bank checking balance 9/30/24: \$1,021, 648.53
StarOhio investment acc balance 9/30/2024: \$1,385,234.45

Zoning Administrator's Report

Trustee Mucher reported newly-hired **Zoning Administrator Bryan Lucas is on the job**, and has met with Carrie Smith. She has offered to be available to assist with the transition.

Trustee Moir will **update the website** accordingly.

As discussed last meeting, Trustee Moir has invited **Ohio Farm Bureau solar expert Dale Arnold to present at a public meeting set for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7 p.m., in the Township building.** He will review mid/medium-sized (under 50MW) solar arrays. Zoning Commission members, the BZA, and the public will be invited. Notices will be posted on the website and in the *Yellow Springs News*.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): no report
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPC): Trustee Mucher attended both the regular meeting and the Executive Committee. Most of the items concerned new/revised **Bath Township zoning regulations.**
- Clifton-Union Cemetery:
 - Trustee Hollister reported the committee **replaced Clerk and former Township Fiscal Officer Margaret Silliman with Linda Parsons;** Ms. GunderKline is welcome to assume the role if she so chooses when her office is running smoothly.
 - He is continuing to review **cemetery records** with Ms. Silliman, relocating them to the Township offices.
 - Trustee Moir noted changes to be made to **bonding insurance** with the new officers.
 - Mr. Gochenouer asked if the committee had made a decision on **grave groomers.** Trustee Hollister said they would be contacted next year.
- YS Development Corporation (YSDC): Trustee Moir reported **the newly-hired Executive Director resigned before starting her duties.** The committee plans to redefine the position and post it again for new applications. Previous applicants are welcome to apply.

Ms. GunderKline asked **how committee assignments are made.** Trustee Hollister noted that at least one (Clifton-Union Cemetery) is statutory; the remainder are voluntary, and are made at the January organizational meeting. Active committees “ebb and flow”; per Trustee Moir’s request, Ms. GunderKline will **add Yellow Springs Active Transportation Committee to the agenda** list.

- YS Active Transportation Committee: Trustee Moir reported they will hold an expanded **walking downtown audit;** she will confirm date and time (note: **Friday, November 15, 2024, 3-5:30 p.m.**).

New Business

Trustee Mucher suggested that, in light of Mr. Kauser’s proposals on transitioning MTRF from volunteer to professional, it would be helpful for the Trustees to have **community input on public perception of the department.** After some discussion, it was agreed Trustee Hollister, with Mr. Kauser’s input, will prepare a Letter to the Editor of the *Yellow Springs News* that could also be shared on social media requesting public

comment. The Trustees will all review a draft before it is published. Trustee Hollister will discuss the matter with Mr. Kauser during the scheduled weekly Tuesday check-in.

Old Business

Trustee Mucher presented a concept drawing of his earlier proposal to consider a **pine forest walkway for cremains-only interment/constrained scattering** (similar to Spring Grove Cemetery’s “Woodland Walkway” in Cincinnati), to be placed behind the existing cemeteries/Prairie.

After an extended discussion of current cemetery history and availability, usage, and costs, he **moved to retain landscape architects McGill Smith Punshon** to begin surveying the land, marking the gravel walkway, and flagging the anticipated ~235 plots, **at a cost not to exceed \$15,000**. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**. Mr. Gochenour and crew will begin clearing the existing pine forest of excess branches, etc.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, November 4, 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