

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of February 19, 2025
**see acronym glossary following minutes*

Call to Order

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

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Nate Ayers, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Residents Fred Stockwell and Kay LeVesconte were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Hollister **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of February 3, 2025, as presented. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Moir **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$38,403.24**:

- General Fund – \$1,966.34
- Cemetery – \$4,686.72
- Fire Fund – \$28,025.35
- Road – \$3,724.83
 - 2021 – \$1,057.06
 - 2031 – \$2,667.77

After Trustee Moir noted the Fire Fund amount included payroll with overtime, **the motion carried unanimously**.

Correspondence

Trustee Mucher read into the record a letter received from **Xenia Township Fire Department thanking MTR for their mutual aid response** to a February 17, 2025, house fire on Enon Road.

Trustee Mucher shared a letter he will send to **Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) re: a requested extension** until March 1, 2025, for the Township's annual premium of \$45,369.

Trustee Moir noted she has received a **response to her query to tech advisors about a Township computer issue**. The matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers reported **23 EMS runs** and **6 fire calls** since last meeting. This included **requesting mutual aid** for **1 call** and **mutual aid response** for **3 calls**, including the Xenia Township residence fire noted earlier.

He will be working with Lt. Goad to **review the hiring process for part-time MTRF applicants** including a questionnaire, personal and professional references, and a possibly reformatted application.

He has sent out **part-time job postings** to Soin and Greene Memorial hospitals and the Premier Health network. Pending are postings at Springfield Regional Hospital, Sinclair Community College, and Clark State.

Lt. Kline will assume responsibility for **scheduling** while Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers is in his temporary position. Together they will review staffing levels to determine if any changes could be made within existing budget constraints.

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers has **emailed current volunteers to determine scheduling availability**, and is working to re-establish the volunteer program while determining pay rates and working hours. He returned former volunteer David Meister to the roster with Trustee approval.

He has submitted the required **paperwork to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Board (OP&F)** for three recent hires.

A **self-serve portal** through Galls (uniform supplier) may be established depending on the uniform allowance and budget. This does not include turn-out gear.

The **MTRF drug license** expires March 31, 2025. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers will contact the department's medical director for signature/final approval.

He will be working on a **vacation hours and sick leave audit for 2022-24** (covering URN (sp?), StaffWorks, and the old ESL) in order to update the current system. Trustee Moir said she has already started an audit and would be able to assist.

Equipment maintenance:

- Waiting for **pump 2** to be returned from service, at which time the other pump will be sent out
- The **air compressor** needs repair/maintenance – to be scheduled/handled in-house
- **Tanker 82** water pump system repair is waiting for parts
- The Chief's vehicle (**Ford Explorer**), scheduled for an oil change, also now has a "check engine" light

The department will conduct an **audit of assets and preventive maintenance** schedules.

MTFR staffer **Nicholas Miller-Jacobson** requested through Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers that **the record reflect he was not selected for the full-time firefighter/paramedic sergeant position, not that he declined it.**

At the request of Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers, Trustee Moir **moved** to correct an apparent oversight of pay rate when the new classifications went into effect and **set Nicholas Miller-Jacobson to top-tier FF/EMT at \$17.58, effective December 28, 2024.** Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously.** He will retain his current vacation hours, to be used within calendar year 2025, with no further accrual, and rollover his 2024 hours.

Trustee Mucher shared an email from Consultant Fred Kauser with an **updated Firefighter/EMT 2025 Pay and Benefits Compensation Schedule** and asked for a motion to approve it. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers reported the changes were largely in clarified wording, specifically noting the temporary assignment to a 40-hour schedule. Trustee Moir so **moved**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded.** The **motion carried unanimously.** A brief discussion was held as to how to ensure this is recorded appropriately so it can be followed, and Trustee Mucher said it would be included in the Township handbook.

Trustee Mucher asked Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers if a **pay adjustment had been made based on his temporary assignment.** He said it went into effect January 28, 2025.

Trustee Mucher asked about the **volunteer schedule and pay rates** review referenced earlier, questioning what the current rates have been. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers said much of that is uncertain, with Trustee Moir noting he will likely be starting from scratch.

Trustee Mucher noted an **MTFR staffer has applied for permanent disability**, and asked about the status. Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers said he has the paperwork, but has yet to review it. Trustee Moir reported she has talked to the employee in question, and while past Bureau of Worker's Comp correspondence, if scanned quickly, might have led to such a conclusion, **that was untrue; he is not seeking permanent disability.** She will explain the details further in an email to Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers and the Trustees.

Trustee Mucher reported he has responded to an **information request for a wages-paid breakdown on a specific employee.** He questioned Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers on the totals on record, who noted he did not run those payrolls in question. After some discussion, it seems reflected overtime amounts were due to the 212-hours-in-28-days threshold.

Trustee Mucher reintroduced a deferred request from last meeting to **move MTFR staffer Casady Brewer to "Step 2" Sergeant Firefighter/Paramedic with commensurate pay** based on Chief Powell's promise and recommendation, and Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers' agreement. Trustee Mucher then **asked for a motion** to

approve same. After stating they would defer to senior department heads for the recommendation, Trustee Hollister so **moved**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. Trustee Moir detailed her **objections**, including that Chief Powell was not authorized to promise any pay change without Trustee approval, and that such an increase was an immediate exception to the pay schedule just approved. The **motion carried 2-1**.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **no recent burials**, with one scheduled next week for Clifton.

Roads:

Road crews have been dealing with the **snow**, with more predicted for the evening. They will also address **potholes** in the next few days.

Mr. Gochenouer said **spring cleaning** has begun in the shop. **Vehicle maintenance** plans are underway, utilizing the list Trustee Mucher pointed out that Brandon Morris prepared last year during Mr. Gochenouer's leave.

Trustee Mucher asked about the **salt supply**. Mr. Gochenouer said ~50 ton remain, which should be sufficient. He also noted a **car abandoned in a snow drift** on Snypp Road. He contacted the Greene County Sheriff's Office, and the car was removed.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Finance reports were distributed.

US Bank checking balance 1/31/25: \$134,150.09

StarOhio investment account balance 12/31/24: \$1,402,284.83

After noting the above listed account balances, Trustee Mucher said the Township is "**sorely behind**" in **paying invoices** (see OTARMA letter under Correspondence), but that it **should be corrected soon**. A brief discussion was held as to whether there has been/will be an uncovered period of time with OTARMA, with no consensus reached.

Zoning Administrator's Report

Resident Jenifer Adams had requested discussion re: the **temporary exclusion zone in place for utility-scale solar**. Said exemption expires this the summer, and she would like to make it permanent; however, she was not present to participate at this time.

The Trustees discussed the matter briefly, with Trustee Mucher reporting the exemption does expire in June 2025, and Trustee Hollister noting he would like to see it extended. Trustee Moir said there would **need to be a public hearing** before such action could be taken. The matter will be reviewed further.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): Trustee Mucher reported the Commission reviewed “12 pages” of new **Bath Township signage code that was not approved** because of inconsistencies in the language.
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPC): Trustee Moir reported an **economic development staffer has been hired** through the Village offices.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery Board: no report
- YS Development Corporation (YSDC): Trustee Moir reported the Township’s second representative on the YSDC, **Corrie Van Ausdal, is stepping down** and will need to be replaced.
- Greene County Township Association (GCTA): Trustee Hollister reported **the Township will co-host the March meeting** with Xenia, Cedarville, and Bath townships at the Athletes in Action facility. The May meeting will be hosted by State legislators, possibly in conjunction with the Greene County Commissioners.
- Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee (GFNB): Trustee Moir reported they will continue to **work on the fountain area**.
- YS Active Transportation Committee: no report

Executive Session:

Trustee Moir **moved** for an **Executive Session** to discuss “details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or public office.” Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The meeting recessed at 5:57, and reconvened at 6:17 p.m. with **no action being taken at this time**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, March 3, 2025**, 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
- OTARMA: Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority

/clp