

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of April 7, 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, Fiscal Officer Jeanna GunderKline, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Residents Jenifer Adams, Alex Klug, Kate LeVesconte, JT McMullen, and Fred Stockwell were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Hollister **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of March 17, 2025, as presented. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Moir **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of the special meeting held March 24, 2025, as presented. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Hollister **moved** and Trustee Moir **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$87,638.98**:

- General Fund – \$10,128.65
- Cemetery – \$7,425.01
- Fire Fund – \$64,639.07
- Road – \$5,446.25
 - 2021 – \$2,175.95
 - 2031 – \$3,270.30

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Trustee Mucher shared correspondence received from Wright State University re: **Township archives**. In 2001/2, the Township went through a review/application process with the State re: records retention and destruction. After that, with State approval, 8-10 boxes of documents from ~1880-1964 were sent to the WSU archives for storage. This included items from the schools and Township administration including the Justice of the Peace.

WSU has notified the Township that their **archives are full**, and items must 1) be picked up for storage elsewhere; or 2) allow WSU to cull the Township documents and send those of historical significance to the Ohio History collection in Columbus. A **decision is needed by April 23, 2025**.

After a brief discussion, it was decided Trustees will **review the list** of items and **vote on their disposition at the next meeting on April 21, 2025.**

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers reported **45 EMS runs** and **12 fire calls** since last meeting, plus **mutual aid request for 3 calls**, and **mutual aid response for 2 calls.**

Onboarding for the **Greater Miami Valley EMS Council membership** discussed last meeting is complete. Full integration is expected by mid-May.

Acting Assistant Chief Ayers is researching a **trade-in program for larger, unused EMS equipment through Bound Tree.** This will free up space and offer store/trade-in credit for future equipment needs. A trade-in program for two IO drivers (~\$600 each, needed for IVs into the bone) would cost ~\$1K, plus ~\$1K for a supply of the needles required, but include free trade-ins for two new, more advanced (rechargeable, extended battery, etc.) drivers.

Equipment maintenance:

- **Tanker 81** has been moved to Station 82 in Clifton; lettering will be removed at a later date.
- **Medic 81** is out for repair for the next several weeks.

The **gym roof at MTRF is leaking**; repairs are pending.

At Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers's request, Trustee Moir **moved to appoint FF/PM Justin Turner as interim lieutenant.** Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the motion passed unanimously.**

At Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers's request, Trustee Hollister **moved to hire Joseph Kelly as part-time FF/EMT.** Trustee Moir **seconded**, and **the motion passed unanimously.**

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers also noted the **reclassification of volunteer Evan Frantz to part-time.**

Trustee Hollister **moved** for an **Executive Session** to discuss a legal matter. Trustee Moir **seconded.** The meeting recessed at 5:21 p.m., and reconvened at 5:26 p.m.

Trustee Moir reviewed the **internal investigation** conducted by a neutral, outside law firm **into complaints filed against MTRF Fire Chief Dennis Powell.** The investigator has returned recommended disciplinary charges for which a hearing must now be set.

Trustee Moir read into the record **Resolution 2025-11 Setting Disciplinary Hearing for Monday, April 21, 2025, at 5 p.m.** Trustee Hollister **moved** to adopt the Resolution, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister **moved** for an **Executive Session** to discuss a legal matter, with Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers included. Trustee Moir **seconded**. The meeting recessed at 5:31 p.m., and reconvened at 5:38 p.m.

After outlining the situation, Trustee Mucher asked for a **motion to approve a settlement offer re: an employee discrimination complaint filed against MTFR** and therefore against the Township. Trustee Moir so **moved**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion passed unanimously**.

Trustee Mucher then asked for a **motion, in the instance said settlement offer was refused, to refer the matter to mediation**. He noted that if mediation fails, the matter would move to a civil rights hearing. Trustee Moir so **moved**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion passed unanimously**.

Mr. Stockwell asked **if the disciplinary hearing would be public**. Trustee Mucher said that would be up to the defendant.

Mr. Stockwell asked **if the charges in the second situation would be made public**. Trustee Mucher said that was possible at their resolution.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **1 burial of ashes** at Glen Forest.

Mowing has started, and Clifton has been rolled.

Trustee Moir asked for an **update on the approved \$15,000 expenditure for the new Pine Forest** portion of the cemetery. Trustee Mucher said approximately \$10,000 has been spent. He reviewed the plans including boulder headstones, and Trustees discussed potential maintenance issues. Trustee Mucher said he was confident the income from the Pine Forest would cover mowing and maintenance.

Roads:

Mr. Gochenouer reported the **downed tree on Hyde Road** was removed by the County and the guardrail repaired.

Mowing has begun, and he hopes to get to the Township building grounds this week, weather permitting.

Trustee Mucher asked the outcome of the Greene County **bid opening for road repair**. Mr. Gochenouer said the bid was awarded to Jurgensen's, with the Township portion at \$46-49,000 for paving and ~\$13,000 for sealing.

A brief discussion was held re: **ownership of a short section of Larkin Road** at the edge of the Township, and maintenance of that piece and other Township border areas.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Ms. GunderKline reported that with primary tasks now running smoothly, she is focusing on her **"secondary" list of tasks** including the storage of minutes and Resolutions with more digital production.

Trustee Moir expressed appreciation at seeing all the **YTD spending reports current**.

Trustee Mucher reported his in-house accountant noticed the **Trustees received 13 paychecks in 2024**. Ms. GunderKline noted it may just be a payroll date overlap issue. The first several pays would have been before she took office, but she'll look into it.

US Bank checking balance 04/07/25: \$714,568.32

StarOhio investment account balance 3/31/2025: \$1,417,885.08

Zoning Administrator's Report

Mr. Lucas is out of town; his report was filed with the Trustees in advance.

Trustee Hollister revisited the discussion from last meeting about a **hearing on the solar exclusion zone Resolution which expires July 27, 2025**. He suggested a "co-sponsored" public meeting with the Village and YSDC to discuss the "status of solar in the Township."

Further discussion was held, during which **each Trustee restated their current position on the matter**: Trustee Hollister would like to see the exclusion made permanent, Trustee Moir would prefer to let it expire, and Trustee Mucher does not feel they should pass any "permanent" regulation.

After a reminder that a hearing had already been approved at the last meeting, Trustee Hollister said he would arrange and publicize a **public hearing on the matter for Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Township building**.

Audience comments:

Ms. Adams reiterated her preference that the exclusion be made permanent, noting she would accept temporary if that's all Trustees would approve.

Mr. Stockwell asked about discussion boundaries for the hearing. Trustee Hollister said they would be focused on the Resolution as much as possible.

Ms. LeVesconte expressed her hope that the hearing would focus on evidence-based rationale and not just opinions.

After asking **Ms. Adams** for a statement of her qualifications, Trustee Mucher asked for a **motion to appoint her as an alternate for the Zoning Commission**. Trustee Hollister so **moved**, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

After sharing the written application submitted by **Jane Sweet**, and noting Mr. Lucas' recommendation, Trustee Mucher asked for a **motion to appoint her as an alternate for the Zoning Commission**. Trustee Moir so **moved**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

New Business

Trustee Moir outlined concerns from the GFNB Committee re: **planned mowing and roads in the Glen Forest Natural Burial prairie section** (GFNB Phase 2). Among other issues, they feel such actions could accelerate a loss of diversity in the area. She referenced maps and pictures which Ms. Klug asked to see after the meeting. They will be made available.

After further discussion, Trustee Moir **moved to require a full vote by the Board of Trustees before any such action in the Prairie** (GFNB Phase 2) **would be taken**. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister reported the **Yellow Springs Girl Scout Troop has asked for permission to plant a tree they will purchase** at the Township building as part of the Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2025. He shared a location map and a list of recommended tree varieties from the 2023 Tree Committee.

Trustee Mucher said his only concern would be **site lines for fire equipment** leaving the station.

Mr. Stockwell suggested **MTFR personnel be involved** in choosing the site.

In light of those recommendations, Trustee Moir **moved to allow the YS Girl Scout Troop to plant a tree** at an acceptable site, with Trustee Hollister overseeing the process. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**. Trustee Hollister will meet with the Troop on April 10th to determine the location and variety.

Old Business

Trustee Moir reviewed the proposal from **Tech Advisors to provide cyber security services**. After a discussion in which Trustee Hollister shared information from his meeting with MVECA and stated their fee would likely be much lower given their non-profit status, Trustee Mucher – with Trustee Moir's concurrence – noted the breadth of service would probably be different.

Trustee Moir then **moved to enter into a one-year contract for cyber security services as specified in the proposal from Tech Advisors**. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 21, 2025**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

***Acronyms:**

- MTFR: Miami Township Fire & Rescue
- MVC: motor vehicle collision
- 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