

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of April 21, 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, Zoning Administrator Bryan Lucas, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News Editor Lauren Shows; MTFR staff members Payton Cooper, Charles Kline, and Mark Murphy; and residents Fred Stockwell and Kate LeVesconte were also present.

Moment of Silence for MTFR Chief Denny Powell

Trustee Mucher offered **personal remembrances** of Chief Powell and his ~23 years of service with MTFR, noting “he did it all” – training, equipment, input to the building design, IT, communication set-up, etc.

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers said Denny’s “wisdom and laughter will be missed.”

Following those remarks, a **moment of silence** was observed.

Trustee Mucher reported **final arrangements** for Chief Powell who died April 15, 2025, are pending.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Hollister **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of April 7, 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 **\$53,628.39**:

- General Fund – \$6,122.55
- Cemetery – \$2,489.35
- Fire Fund – \$39,642.02
- Road – \$5,374.47
 - 2021 – \$2,264.85
 - 2031 – \$3109.62

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The Trustees received no correspondence that needed further discussion.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Stockwell asked if **copies of correspondence** received by the Trustees are available to the public. Trustee Mucher assured him they were available on request.

Fire Department Report

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers reported **23 EMS runs** and **14 fire calls** since last meeting. This included **requesting mutual aid for 3 calls**, and providing **mutual aid response for 2 calls**.

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers said he is in the process of getting **ACLS (advanced cardiac life support) recertification** for the department's 4 paramedics at a cost of \$44 each. He would like to see this become an annual requirement.

Maintenance:

- Two **new batteries were installed in Rescue 81**; they are investigating the power drain that necessitated the replacement.
- Medic 81 is still out for **coolant repair**. At Trustee Mucher's request, Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers will check on a time frame for its return to service.
- Maxim Roofing patched **holes in the roof**. Leaks may continue until the water trapped between layers on the flat roof has evaporated.
- Silco will be in April 22, 2025, to check the building's **fire alarm system**.
- The **tornado siren** has been repaired at Station 82 in Clifton.

Trustee Mucher presented Consultant Frederick Kauser's three **recommendations for staffing and policy changes for MTFR** that are designed to:

1. Reduce runaway OT costs due to insufficient staffing levels
2. Prevent firefighter fatigue from backfilling minimum staffing levels
3. Address key operational policies that place an undue strain on mutual-aid partners
4. Clarify the path for filling current Fire Chief, Fire Officer, and career Firefighter positions

An extended discussion was held on the first recommendation, **re: staffing levels – to temporarily reduce minimum staffing to 2 firefighters/24-hour shift when more than 8 hours of overtime would be required to maintain 3 firefighters**, and to backfill the officer (paramedic) positions first. It was noted that **many departments the size of MTFR operate on a standard 2 firefighters/24-hour shift as the norm**. Trustee Moir assured Acting Assistant Fire Chief Ayers that this recommendation is a **guideline only**, and not a steadfast rule to be followed as we move into summer vacation season. She encouraged him to talk with Mr. Kauser for guidance as needed.

After Trustee Mucher noted the remaining recommendations are more internal policy matters, Trustee Hollister **moved to adopt Mr. Kauser's recommendations as presented**. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister reminded everyone **the full proposal is available for review** if requested.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

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

Progress continues in the **Pine Forest**.

Mr. Gochenouer will begin **laying bases for 12 waiting monuments** this week.

Roads:

Mowing is in progress. Trustee Hollister explained a requested **“no-mow” zone** outside the Township building. He will be documenting any flowers growing there with photographs, and plans to ask the Girl Scout troop to assist.

Mr. Gochenouer will attend the **Greene County “pre-con” meeting** next week re: upcoming **fogging for Hardison and North River Roads**.

Fiscal Officer’s Report

US Bank checking balance 04/21/25: \$673,346.95

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

Zoning Administrator’s Report

Mr. Lucas noted he had been on vacation for the scheduled April 7th, and thanked the Trustees for allowing him to attend this meeting instead. He will resume first-meeting-of-the-month reporting in May.

He asked the Trustees for a **letter in support of a Housing & Technical Assistance grant** application being prepared by Greene County RPC that would help offset costs to upgrade zoning resolutions. Trustee Moir **moved** to provide said letter, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

While Mr. Lucas has been **taking minutes at the Zoning Commission meetings** since he was hired, they have **asked an individual be hired** to take over that task so he is free to participate in their discussions. Trustee Hollister asked if Cyndi Pauwels might be interested; she stated she would be happy to discuss the possibility with Mr. Lucas after the meeting.

At Mr. Lucas’ request, Trustee Mucher opened a **public hearing re: Text amendment {25-002-T} Reformat Zoning Resolution** from the Zoning Commission at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Lucas provided a brief presentation on the matter, noting that **no regulation would be changed**, but that the current Resolution would be reformatted to match the other 11 townships in the County, making it easier to use and more understandable.

Greene County RPC has reviewed 25-002-T. They recommend a review by the Prosecutor’s Office after revisions.

The Zoning Commission offered a **unanimous recommendation to the Trustees** for the adoption of 25-002-T after a public hearing and support.

Mr. Stockwell asked for **clarification** on the process to be followed in the reformatting, which Mr. Lucas provided. He further explained that over the next 12-18 months, the Zoning Commission would review each section of the Zoning Resolution; **any proposed changes (versus the proposed reformatting) would be presented separately for a vote.**

After further discussion during which Trustee Hollister expressed his desire for more time to review the full amendment provided to them last week, Trustee Moir **moved to adopt Text Amendment 25-002-T Reformat Zoning Resolution** as presented. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and Trustee Hollister **abstained**. The **motion was adopted**, and the **reformatted zoning resolution will take effect in 30 days.**

The public hearing was then **closed**.

A brief discussion was held on the **need/requirement/methods of advertising public hearings** given the recent law change dropping the newspaper ads requirement. It was agreed the Township would **continue to publicize in the *Yellow Springs News*** and on the **website** until further notice.

Trustee Hollister asked if the Township could create an **email list for residents to sign up for notices**. Trustee Mucher said such a process is **already in place**, although neither Trustee Hollister nor Trustee Moir were aware of it.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): **no report**
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPC): Trustee Mucher provide a **summary of the numerous topics** – subdivisions, final plans, preliminary plans, text amendments, and public announcements (*see Zoning topic above*) – covered at the last meeting.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery Board: **no report**
- YS Development Corporation (YSDC): Trustee Moir reported they have an “energetic” **new president, Will Foster**, who is making it a point to “spotlight” area businesses with introductions at each meeting.
- Greene County Township Association (GCTA): **no report**
- Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee (GFNB): Trustee Moir reported they will be **focusing efforts on the scattering grounds and water feature.**
- YS Active Transportation Committee: Trustee Moir reported the group is working on a **grant application**, a second **walking audit** – this one on the area around Antioch College, and a **biking event on May 14**, the last bike-to-school day. MTRF will be assisting.

New Business

No items to discuss

Old Business

Trustee Hollister reported the **Girl Scouts will plant a tree on Township grounds**, at Xenia and Marshall, on Earth Day, April 22nd, at approximately 3 p.m.

Trustee Mucher asked for a decision on the **Township documents held at Wright State Archives** that he presented last meeting. Trustee Moir **moved to** allow WSU Archives to **transfer appropriate documents to the Ohio History Connection** in Columbus for storage, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, May 5, 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