

Miami Township Trustees
Minutes of October 6, 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.

Fire Chief James Cannell, Zoning Administrator Bryan Lucas, Road Department employee Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News Editor Lauren Shows and residents Lori Askeland, Jed Hanna, Brian Housh, Fred Stockwell, and KellyAnn Tracy were also present.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Hollister **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of September 15, 2025, as presented. Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Moir **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of a Special Meeting held September 17, 2025, as presented. Trustee Hollister **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Hollister noted the **October 1, 2025, Special Meeting minutes** listed on the agenda will be presented next meeting.

Payment of Accounts

Trustee Moir **moved** and Trustee Hollister **seconded** to **pay bills** in the amount of **\$67,598.13**:

- General Fund – \$6,927.34
- Cemetery – \$8,190.04
- Fire Fund – \$44,268.22
- Road – \$8,212.53
 - 2021 – \$3,544.12
 - 2031 – \$4,668.41

The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Mucher welcomed **Yellow Springs Village Councilman Brian Housh** and gave him the floor. Mr. Housh reported on the MVRPC-supported AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities program. Yellow Springs was the first **certified livable/age-friendly community** in the Miami Valley; now there are twelve. He referenced eight domains which make up the criteria for certification including transportation, social inclusion and participation, and housing.

The core action team at **Livable/Equitable/Age Friendly Yellow Springs (LEAFYS)**, working with the YS Senior Center, has applied for a **Delmar Fellow** through the Dayton Foundation to help fund a “**Cycle Without Age**” program offering trishaw (pedal-driven rickshaw-type vehicle) transportation in the village.

Mr. Housh would like Miami Township to partner in this age-friendly community initiative. He stressed a lot of the groundwork has been completed (needs assessment, etc.).

Trustee Moir noted that while the initiative is a worthy goal, two Trustee seats are open in the November election, as is Mr. Housh's Council seat, adding it would be unfair to possible new Trustees, and to the program, to take on that commitment for them. She added the **Greene County RPCC 2040 Plan** is addressing the issue through zoning, such as **accessory dwelling regulations**. Mr. Lucas reported the Miami Township Zoning Commission will be discussing that next month (November 6th).

Extended discussion showed **all Trustees in agreement in theory**, with Trustee Mucher reiterating the "**timing is bad.**" Trustee Hollister volunteered to speak with LEAFYS Project Director Tony Dosik.

Mr. Housh, in response to Trustee Moir's query, pointed residents to the **YS Active Transportation Committee survey online until November 15, 2025**, which addresses walk-ability/transportation issues.

Correspondence

Trustee Moir shared information received re: **Ohio HB96 Cybersecurity regulations**. Local governments are required to be in compliance by September 30, 2025, but legal review is needed before Trustees can sign off. Since that review is now in process, the deadline is not an issue. The Township will need to **designate a point person** to handle the **mandated incident reporting**.

Trustee Mucher shared information from OTA re: **property tax rollbacks**, referencing 20 "recommendations" addressed in a State study (**also see Greene County Commissioner's letter under New Business**). Trustee Moir said she had not received that information. He explained the plan would **"empower the County Budget Committee to review non-voted levies for proper usage,"** adding he thought they already did that for inside millage.

Trustee Moir noted that the **issue came up at the special meeting last week**, when Trustees approved the process for a joint grant application (**Harbison Road – see Road Report below**). She wondered why the Township portion of matching funds would take the funds from the Gasoline Tax Fund when there is an excess in the Road and Bridge Fund.

Trustee Moir said those funds have been earmarked for a new dump truck snowplow in a couple of years, and "within the next snow cycle," possibly a front-end loader. He outlined the process for establishing a **"dedicated legal capital fund" for such purchases**, adding "You cannot touch that money until you're ready to spend it." Trustee Moir asked if the funds for the new medic on order were in a capital fund; he said no, not a "legal" one.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Fire Department Report

Chief Cannell shared the MTR run report, noting **775 calls for the year so far, with full staffing at 65%** due to vacation time, etc.

After reporting on a **recent equipment inventory**, he asked to **table** the requested lease-purchase of a **Ford Explorer Command/Chief vehicle for the moment** in light of critically needed equipment updates (turn-out gear and SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus)) that take priority for safety reasons. He is also looking into **combining some purchases using new financing options with a different lender**.

Chief Cannell, in response to Trustee Mucher's earlier request to "look into" the purchase of a **new fire truck**, noted that there is a **~4-year delay from order to delivery, at a current estimated cost of \$1-1.5 million**.

He is working with Consultant Kauser on **capital expense priorities for the next budget** which includes the requested lease-purchase of a **Ford F250 utility vehicle** (see **September 15th meeting for detailed usage**).

Trustee Mucher said, "For the longest time, **this Board has had one priority – replacing a fire engine**. We never talked about replacing anything else except for the medic that's taken four years to show up. ...Bottom line, **I'd like to know if we can afford a new frontline fire truck pumper, finance it over 20 years for \$80-90,000 a year** if we can get our budget stabilized...looks like we're about to do that in 2025."

Trustee Moir pointed out that during the discussions about "wanting to suddenly **promote three people to full-time**, doubling the full-time staff," Trustee Mucher said then that he "**prioritized that [staffing change] way over getting a new fire truck. We could always keep repairing a fire truck.**"

A detailed discussion was held on the department's **equipment needs**, and on **financing versus savings versus levy funding** (*see the meeting video for the full discussion*).

Chief Cannell added, "I really think we need a plan a little better than 'let it break and then we'll fix it.' ...**We've had all our apparatus gone over very closely here recently**. ...We sent the backup medic back to get the air conditioning fixed right this time after we put a ton of money into this year. **It's unfortunate, but these things just don't last forever**. ...I came in today and the ambulance was out of service because the \$60,000 cot broke. ...It's fixed now, but that's where we're at."

Trustee Moir said, “It’s going to take more than sitting in a...Board meeting such as this. It’s going to take people in a room really understanding what we’re facing.”

Chief Cannell presented a revised staffing/wage scale, adding **three new part-time positions** within MTFR, and asked for its adoption:

1. Single-role part-time Paramedic at \$18.54/hour
2. Single-role part-time EMT at \$17.10/hour
3. FF/EMT Apprentice part time at \$17.10/hour

He explained that it’s becoming **common for paramedics to choose not to be firefighters** as well, hence the “single-role” hirings from a tight candidate pool.

After further discussion, Trustee Moir **moved** to adopt the revised staffing/wage scale model, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Chief Cannell then asked for approval to **hire three MTFR staffers**:

1. Steffinie Brewer as part-time single-role Paramedic
2. Jason Foss as part-time FF/EMT
3. Luke Hrynkow as part-time FF/EMT Apprentice

He outlined Ms. Brewer’s credentials as a “**community paramedic**” and the additional services she would be able to provide for residents, including home visits and hospitalization follow-up. Trustee Hollister asked about funding from the hospitals for the visits. Chief said discussions are ongoing.

Trustee Moir **moved** to approve hiring the new personnel as described, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Chief Cannell presented the new **Paramedic Training Reimbursement** Contract created in coordination with Consultant Frederick Kauser. Given the **48-month window for possible reimbursement if a paramedic were to leave MTFR**, Trustee Mucher said he agrees “in theory,” but can see problems in practice. Trustee Moir pointed out the contract had been vetted by legal staff, and adjustments can be made. Chief added that, as written, it now “opens the door” to keeping those personnel as part-timers if they chose to join another department.

Trustee Moir **moved** to adopt the new **Paramedic Training Reimbursement** Contract, and Trustee Hollister **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Chief Cannell reported that he and department officers have **reviewed the specs for the new medic**, and after contacting the company, have found an 8-week window in which MTFR may be able to submit changes. He is investigating further.

In response to Trustee Mucher's, "**Are you ready for Street Fair?**", Chief Cannell said, "Yes, we are. ...I'm proud to say we have a full Miami Township staff. We're not requiring help from our neighbors...and we're ready for anything."

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **1 burial at Glen Forest**, with a cremation tomorrow and 2 full burials on Friday. Staff is in place to handle them, plus prepping for Street Fair.

They will be **laying headstone bases** in the next week or so.

Trustee Mucher introduced a lengthy discussion **(1:11)**: "I have to say again, I'm so concerned about financial vulnerability of Miami Township about the non-conforming [**Glen Forest Natural Burial Committee**] that's out there right now" (see **Agenda Item #11 – under Standing Committees below**).

Trustee Moir asked, "Is that on the agenda right now? I thought—"

Trustee Mucher responded, "Well...I've got two things that have to do with cemeteries and I'm kind of squishing them together." He went on to say he doesn't want to have someone from the public to "scroll through little townships and their minutes" and **file suit for lack of compliance with Open Meeting laws**.

In summary, Trustee Mucher stated he believes Trustee Moir **formed the committee improperly and that it meets improperly**. Trustee Moir asked **what procedures Trustees should follow to create a Board committee**, stating that as a new Trustee she had never been given any rules to follow. Residents came to her with concerns, and she welcomed them in **an advisory capacity for the natural burial cemetery**. No members were ever appointed to any kind of committee. Trustee Mucher said they should **seek legal advice**.

Trustee Moir stated that if such advice determined the committee which "We've never had a procedure or policy...and now suddenly you're very worried" about was improper, **the Board-passed motion to "not start to dig a new road, a new path"** in the natural burial cemetery without a vote of the Board **remains in effect**.

No further consensus was reached; no action was taken (*see the meeting video for the full discussion, including parameters of the prairie*).

Trustee Mucher introduced a **second item (not on the agenda)** which resulted in another lengthy discussion **(1:27)** regarding "**how [Trustee Moir] voted against finishing the new Pine Forest walkway section as a result of me being a**

couple of thousand dollars over budget.” He wondered “why it was such a big deal” when “[**Trustee Moir**] **hired a consultant for...the fire department.**”

Trustee Moir interrupted to clarify, “No, **we hired a consultant.**”

The **debate continued** over who hired/directed the hire of Consultant Frederick Kauser, how the **\$35,000 contract** was used, when it is to end, and at what **potential additional cost versus the evident benefits** (*see the meeting video for the full discussion*).

No consensus was reached; no action was taken.

Trustee Mucher introduced a **third item (Agenda Item #12 under New Business below)** which resulted in another lengthy discussion (**1:33**) regarding a Special Meeting in February that he did not attend in which the **Trustees approved \$5,000 in legal fees to handle potential disciplinary proceedings for then-Fire Chief Powell.**

Trustee Moir **outlined the services provided** under that expenditure, and noted the services of outside legal counsel originally suggested for general Board purposes by Trustee Mucher were allocated a \$5,000 retainer each January (**Resolution 2025-01 Employing Township Attorneys Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC, on an annual basis for the year 2025**).

Debate continued over **who spent what when**. Trustee Mucher noted, “We still had the whole process to go through (with Chief Powell)...but nobody came back to the Board and said, ‘We need another \$20,000.’ He added, “We’re at about \$17,000 in legal fees.”

Trustee Moir **moved to increase the retainer to a total of \$18,000 for 2025**, and Trustee Hollister **seconded** (*the motion was unofficially tabled during the remaining discussion – see below*).

Trustee Mucher said **he felt Trustee Moir’s issue with the cemetery expenditure was “personal thing...about me spending a few thousand dollars more on the new section.”**

Trustee Moir said, “This has been a casual township for a long time, but **we can’t even get a handle on what you spent so far,**” referencing Amazon purchases, local store runs and mileage, credit card purchases, and Road Department labor hours.

After further discussion, Trustee Mucher said (**1:40**), “I’m in total agreement. ...I’m not going to suggest we institute this tonight, but...” he suggested that if a Trustee presents a **project with a projected budget, when it is approved by the Board, that amount should be set aside by**

the Fiscal Officer in a special fund, with all receipted purchases taken from that fund.

Trustee Moir said, “I don’t know if that’s the best system because I’m not an accountant, but **it would resemble that.. ...We need to do better budget planning at the beginning of the year.**” She added, “I will **take exception to the fact that you’re comparing your cemetery expansion to legal fees.** I don’t think I should have created a fund somehow knowing that we were about to have a crisis. ...Marilan Moir did not spend \$15,000 in legal fees for this crisis. The Miami Township Board of Trustees spent it.”

Roads:

Trustee Mucher asked Trustee Moir to report on the **Harbison Road project grant** approved at the October 1, 2025, Special Meeting since she had worked with the Greene County Engineer on the application information and submission.

After noting she would have preferred knowing about this sooner, Trustee Moir outlined what she learned about the project. The Township is applying for **\$535,000 in grant monies in conjunction with Cedarville Township to rebuild Harbison Road.** She stated she received a call while on vacation asking if the Township had fund’s for its expected ~\$88,000 share. The **grant application has been submitted.**

Mr. Gochenouer reported his crew will be **helping Bath Township with culvert work** this week in return for their previous assistance with our ditches.

Fiscal Officer’s Report

A brief discussion was held re: problems accessing the Township **Amazon business account** by Ms. GunderKline and Trustee Moir. Trustee Mucher said he could log in from home, but not from the office computer. Tech Advisors may be able to help.

US Bank checking balance as of 10/2/25: \$734,054.68
StarOhio investment account balance not received yet

Zoning Administrator’s Report

Mr. Lucas offered a brief summary from his written report, noting the last half will be addressed at the next meeting:

- **3 permits** have been issued recently
- **BZA** met for **one variance** and for administrative purposes
- **Zoning Commission** has **8 text amendments in draft form**; he requested permission to report on that process at the second meeting of October, November, and December and it was approved
- First-quarter **grant process report** was submitted to the State
- First-quarter **grant reimbursement** has been requested; most of it will go to RPCC with the Township as pass-through and retaining \$200

Separate item: After first restating her motion from earlier to **increase the outside-legal firm retainer to a total of \$18,000 for 2025**, Trustee Moir withdrew the motion until she could determine the exact amount spent so far due to **necessary discussions she had with them on wording for the fire levy submission.**

Standing Committee Reports

- Discussion to remove legally non-conforming committee from report (Mucher – **see previous discussion under Cemetery Report above**)

New Business

- Substantial cost overrun for legal services (Mucher – **see previous discussion under Cemetery Report above**)
- Age-friendly grant opportunity (Mucher – **see Mr. Housh’s presentation** at the beginning of the meeting)
- Greene County Commissioner’s letter re: inside levy .5 mill rollback (Mucher) – **see discussion under Correspondence**) Trustee Mucher noted he “applauded” the Commissioners for “taking this opportunity to review their finances” and make an adjustment. **No Board action was taken.**

Old Business

Trustee Mucher introduced the pending **Resolution to Update Travel Reimbursement** (title from previous draft, on the agenda in error) offered by Trustee Moir, noting, “I’m personally a little disappointed that the Board has decided to not take my advice and follow my decision not to accept reimbursement anymore.”

Trustee Moir **moved to adopt Resolution 2025-31 Reimbursement of Travel Expenses for Elected Officials**, noting one adjustment on the last page, substituting “must” for “may” to now read: “...and for which there was no department employee available to complete the necessary trip, **must** be submitted on a mileage reimbursement form to be approved or denied....” Trustee Hollister **seconded.**

After a brief discussion in which Trustee Moir stated the Greene County Prosecutor asked the Board to update this policy and “strongly suggested that we update our travel reimbursement form,” Trustee Mucher said he feels it will only lead to “infighting,” **the Resolution was adopted 2-1, with Trustee Mucher abstaining.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, October 20, 2025**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

***Acronyms:**

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

/clp