

**Miami Township Trustees**  
Minutes of January 21, 2026  
*\*see acronym glossary following minutes*

### **Call to Order**

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

Fire Chief James Cannell, Road Department Supervisor Dan Gochenouer, and Recorder Cyndi Pauwels were in attendance.

*Yellow Springs News* Editor Lauren Shows, an MTFR staffer, and residents Peter Buswinka, Kate LeVesconte, Fred Stockwell, and KellyAnn Tracy were also present.

### **Trustees Agenda Approval**

Trustee Moir **clarified the intent of this agenda section**, with the noted name change. No changes/additions were requested to the items below.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Trustee Mucher **moved to adopt the minutes** of January 5, 2026, as presented. Trustee Askeland **seconded**. After Ms. Pauwels noted a spelling correction for Consultant **Deborah** Watson's name (per Ms. GunderKline), the **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Askeland **moved to adopt the minutes** of the January 7, 2026, Work Session as presented. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

### **Payment of Accounts**

Because the bill amounts were available last-minute and there were office printer issues, **no totals were presented** for vote at this time.

### **Correspondence**

Trustee Moir shared a request from Xenia Township to **share hosting duties for the March 10, 2026, GCTA meeting with them and Cedarville Township**, as has been done in the past. They have already made the arrangements; the Trustees simply need to approve sharing the cost and possibly help set up, etc. Trustee Mucher so **moved**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**. The February 10th meeting announcement has not yet been received.

Trustee Moir shared the current **Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) insurance renewal**, due February 10, 2026. She asked Trustee Mucher who has taken care of dividing the total premium between the various departments in past years. He stated that he handled it last year, and that someone else will need to deal with this one. She noted the **\$4,000 portion covering Grinnell Mill** and asked him if that comes out of the General Fund. He said yes, unless the earlier proposed line item for the Mill has been established for rent receipts. Trustee Moir noted the rent will not cover the insurance, and the matter will be reviewed further.

## Citizen Concerns

Ms. Tracy stated she had a **question for Chief Cannell**. The Trustees agreed that it could wait until after his report in case that would answer it.

### Fire Department Report

Chief Cannell shared **2025 run totals**: 1,038 total incidents, which included 688 medic runs and 216 fire runs.

Medicount **ambulance billing for 453 transports in 2025 was up 14.12%**, partly due to a long-overdue increase in fees that are now comparable to area departments. Trustee Mucher asked about payment rate (%); Chief Cannell reported they run ~90%, which is unusually good in his experience.

Two MTFR personnel have **exchanged shifts** to allow one of them to attend paramedic school during off-hours rather than shorting the department to leave.

The department has responded to **39 runs in January so far**, with **three-person coverage at 100%**, with 100% paramedic coverage. Chief Cannell noted that while MTFR responded to **two structure fires** in all of 2025, there have been two just a week apart in 2026, both of which were handled well.

A **significant auto accident** occurred at Wilberforce-Clifton Road which required LifeFlight helicopter response. The driver, who was thrown from the vehicle, survived.

Equipment/maintenance:

- The **new pick-up and Explorer have been ordered**, with an estimated 2-3 months needed for the necessary upgrades.
- The **Clifton Firehouse clear-out has been completed**, and the building is ready for turnover. Trustee Moir asked if Ms. GunderKline has been notified so utilities can be switched over. Since Chief Cannell was just notified last night, that has not happened yet, but will promptly. And **old fire engine stored there** is being considered for a historical display, and it may be turned over to Clifton eventually since the Township has no use for the ancient vehicle.

Chief Cannell reported Clifton plans to **fill one of the empty bays with the postal boxes** from the now-closed USPS post office building so residents can receive mail in town rather than having to come to Yellow Springs.

- **Engine 81 repair estimates** have been received, and they will move forward with brakes, but not suspension at this time. Chief Cannell is evaluating the high cost of repairs for the old, seldom-used vehicle and looking at the feasibility of a replacement.

Ms. Tracy asked what the department does in **preparation for significant snow events** such as that predicted for this weekend. Chief Cannell said they will up-staff by one, and

that “we’re ready for it.” He noted the biggest concern is the medic getting stuck since it’s not 4WD; they generally have a 4WD vehicle follow behind just in case.

In response to a question from Ms. Shows, Chief Cannell **explained the mutual aid response process** for structure fires including tanker support for rural fires that aren’t within hydrant range.

Trustee Mucher asked Chief Cannell if a **GPS issue with Central Dispatch** they had discussed earlier had been taken care of. He reported yes, the address has been clarified, with 3 locations (house, garage, land trust acreage), and the hydrants located.

## Cemetery and Road Report

### Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **no burials since last meeting**, but 2 scheduled in Oak Grove next week for which he will need to buy body boards. Trustee Moir assured him that, despite the moratorium on cemetery spending passed last meeting, expenditures for vital maintenance and burials had been exempted and he should make the purchase.

### Roads:

Mr. Gochenouer reported they are working on **spring cleaning the garage**. He also brought in **more road salt** so they’re ready for any snow this weekend.

In response to Chief Cannell’s earlier concern, Mr. Gochenouer said he should just give them a call and they would come right out to **help MTFR with any stuck vehicle**.

## Fiscal Officer’s Report

After explaining the lengthy process Ms. GunderKline and Consultant Deborah Watson have been through to reconcile bank statements for 2025, Trustee Moir presented a verbally-amended **Resolution 2026-02 to Authorize an Adjustment to the Bank Reconciliation for the Month of December 2025, retroactive to January 1, 2026**, and asked for a motion to adopt. Trustee Mucher so **moved**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustees Moir and Askeland discussed the unused but **required process of Trustees signing off on each month’s reconciliation**. Trustee Moir asked Trustee Mucher if that had been practice in past years; he said that few reconciliations had been presented for signature. It was agreed that **monthly approval will be the standard going forward**.

Trustee Moir **clarified a statement** from Ms. GunderKline in the January 5th minutes re: **blanket certificates** having been issued for 2026, noting she was “disappointed” they have, in fact, not been completed (*a later check of the video show the statement made on the record was ambiguous*). Trustee Askeland noted those forms are “vital,” as **the Township cannot pay bills until the blanket certificates are issued** each year.

Trustee Moir added they should be issued soon, **along with the closing of 2025 accounts**. Ms. Watson has assured her that will allow the 2026 accounts to start with a “clean slate,” with accurate carry-overs and records that can then be maintained with due diligence.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): Trustee Moir reported there has been **no meeting**; membership renewal is in progress.
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission (RPCC): Trustee Mucher reported the Commission **reviewed zoning text amendments from Bath and Silvercreek Townships** that are under the same grant program as Miami Township. He added they spent “an inordinate amount of time” discussing the staffing issues with no Executive Director and only one regular planner. The Commission will **interview a County-vetted ED applicant** (only one of nine) **Thursday morning**.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery Board: **no meeting**
- YS Development Corporation (YSDC): Trustee Moir reported on the **recent purchase of the hardware/toy store building**, noting on-going efforts to “secure the safety” of the residents.
- Greene County Township Association (GCTA): **see action taken under Correspondence**
- YS Active Transportation Committee: Trustee Moir reported today’s planned **meeting had been canceled**.

### **Old Business**

Trustee Moir re-introduced **Resolution 2026-01 Employing Township Attorneys Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC, on an annual basis for the year 2026** which had been tabled last meeting. She added that in contrast to last year’s difficulties that required extensive legal counsel, she hopes 2026 will be “drama-free” and that they will not exceed the \$6,000 cap set in the contract. Greene County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Brian Gravunder, the Township’s local, free, attorney provides “very good service.”

Trustee Moir then asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-01. Trustee Askeland so **moved**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

### **New Business**

Trustee Moir introduced a **draft purchasing policy** for the Township, noting the Township currently does not have one and it is needed. She set a **public Work Session for Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9 a.m.**, to meet with Consultants Kauser and Watson to review it. Trustee Mucher asked if department heads were to be included in the meeting. Trustee Moir said that was a good idea; Chief Cannell and Mr. Gochenouer both said they would attend with all the Trustees and Ms. GunderKline.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, February 2, 2026**, at 5 p.m.

**Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attest** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Acronyms:**

- MTFR: Miami Township Fire & Rescue
- MVRPC: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- OTA: Ohio Township Association
- RPCC: Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission
- YSDC: Yellow Springs Development Corporation

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