

Miami Township Trustees
Greene County, OH
Minutes of April 6, 2026
**see acronym glossary following minutes*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Askeland present.

Fire Chief James Cannell (arrived after Public Hearing noted below), Fiscal Officer Cyndi Pauwels, and Zoning Administrator Bryan Lucas were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News Editor Lauren Shows, RPCC representative Michelle Hudnell, and residents Dorothee Bouquet, Peter Buswinka, Fred Stockwell, Jane Sweet, and KellyAnn Tracy were also present.

Trustees Agenda Approval

Trustee Moir **moved** to reverse the order of the final two (2) items listed under New Business. Trustee Askeland **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Moir administered the **oath of office** for new Fiscal Officer Cynthia (Cyndi) Pauwels.

Adoption of Minutes

After requesting that meeting minutes **include the start time** for each session, Trustee Askeland **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of March 16, 2026, and of the special meeting held March 23, 2026, as presented. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

Correspondence

Trustee Mucher shared a letter received from residents Chris and Gina Lloyd re: **possible hazardous trees at Glen Forest Cemetery** near their home, requesting they be evaluated and possibly pruned/removed. The matter was referred to Mr. Gochenouer.

Citizen Concerns

Ms. Tracy asked the Trustees to **consider live-streaming their meetings** on Facebook or YouTube, as the Village does. She volunteered to donate a laptop if that would facilitate the matter.

Ms. Bouquet asked that, in line with Trustee Askeland's request re: start time on the minutes, the **meeting time also be noted on the agenda** distributed prior.

Trustee Moir then called for a motion to open **the public hearing re: proposed Zoning Resolution text amendments (phase 1)**. Trustee Mucher so **moved**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**. Trustee Moir asked that residents' questions be held until the end.

After noting the Trustees would **not be making any decisions until May 4, 2026, after all three (3) public hearing sessions on the fifteen (15) proposed amendments**, Mr. Lucas shared the RPCC Recommendations Letter. He then presented an overview of the first set of proposed changes to each of the following sections, noting some of them had been presented to the Trustees earlier in the grant process:

- Section 504 Architectural Projections (October 20, 2025)
- Section 505 Parking of Recreational Vehicles (October 20, 2025)
- Section 506 Swimming Pools (October 20, 2025)
- Section 519 Cemeteries (November 17, 2025)
- Section 520 Private Airports, Landing Strips, Helipads
- Article 6 Parking/Loading/Driveways
- Article 7 Signs

(Note there was a problem with the overhead projector, and the presentation was entirely vocal. All proposed text amendments are available online at miamitownship.net/zoning)

The Trustees asked for clarifications on different sections and made comments/suggestions to be considered at a later date. Ms. Hudnell and Mr. Lucas answered their questions in detail.

Public comment:

Mr. Stockwell pointed out **several typos** in the online text; Mr. Lucas thanked him for the input.

Ms. Bouquet asked for clarification on **Article 6 re: parking**. Mr. Lucas replied that the two-vehicle limit applied to RVs, boats, etc., not personal residential vehicles.

There being no further comments, Mr. Lucas advised that the public hearing should be recessed/tabled, not closed, so it can be reopened on April 20 and May 4 to complete the remaining proposals. Trustee Askeland so moved, and Trustee Mucher seconded. **The hearing was tabled/recessed at 6:03 p.m.**

Fire Department Report

Chief Cannell shared his written report (attached).

Trustee Mucher asked if any buyers had expressed interest in the rescue/equipment truck that is being disposed of. Chief said they have a company who will list it for the department, with a higher-than-anticipated asking price.

Trustee Moir shared congratulations on the new EMS quality assurance review/training program and accompanying documentation. Chief Cannell added that the MTRF medical director is also involved in the process.

Trustee Moir offered to assist in filing a claim for the fire alarm surge damage.

Chief Cannell and Trustee Moir will meet to review supplemental equipment appropriations for the incoming purchases.

He will meet with Trustee Askeland re: a resident issue.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Trustee Mucher said he would **table his border planting agenda item** as he is waiting for information from Siebenthaler's on plant cost and availability.

Trustee Moir asked that his future request also **include labor costs and maintenance plans.**

Roads:

Trustee Mucher noted that, given the next agenda item, his **requested Executive Session was not needed.**

Trustee Moir offered **Resolution 2026-08 To Approve Pay Increases for the Road Department Staff** and asked for a motion to adopt. Trustee Mucher so **moved**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

Trustee Mucher reported on his follow-up re: **the outstanding Harbison Road grant application.** The Small Township grant program it was moved to (see December 1, 2025, minutes) awarded funds in February; however, the Greene County Harbison Road proposal on the Township/Cedarville Township's behalf has been moved again, back to the OPW grant cycle which **should be decided May 6, 2026.** He spoke to the Greene County Engineer's Office and was told that because all plans are in place, the project could still proceed on that tight timeline, with construction occurring July through November if approved.

Fiscal Officer's Report

After noting the Township's **Permanent Appropriations were adopted by Resolution 2026-07** at the Special Meeting held March 23, 2026, and approved by the County Tax Commission on March 31, 2026, Trustee Moir offered **Resolution 2026-09 Amendment of Permanent Appropriations** and asked for a motion to adopt. Trustee Mucher so **moved**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

Trustee Mucher offered his **thanks to Trustee Moir for her diligent work on the Township's finances**, noting that Trustees now have good numbers with which to plan for the future. Trustee Askeland seconded those thanks, adding her **appreciation for Fiscal Consultants Deborah Watson**, who died recently, **and Tina Bonecutter** for their assistance in the process.

Ms. Pauwels **echoed those thanks**, noting that while the transition has been challenging, the training she received from Ms. Watson and Ms. Bonecutter, and from out-going Fiscal Officer GunderKline, has been invaluable.

Ms. Pauwels then presented the current payment listing showing **expenditures since the last meeting of \$89,423.67**. She also shared the new process of providing current financial reports to the Trustees regularly, with signed acknowledgment that is then filed for later auditor review, and noted **those additional documents are available for any resident to review upon request**.

In **housekeeping matters**, Ms. Pauwels asked for agreement from the Trustees to remove a large conference table that is no more than a catch-all and an old floor safe that doesn't lock in order to free up floor space in their shared small office. After Trustee Mucher provided some history on both pieces, the Trustees were in agreement with the changes.

Zoning Administrator's Report

Mr. Lucas presented his monthly report (attached). He noted specifically the RWE Clean Energy information session to the Zoning Commission was well received. The Commission has agreed to **review the possibility of adding a "Small Solar (Distribution)" section to the Zoning Resolution later this year**.

Old Business

Nothing noted.

New Business

Trustee Askeland noted her concerns on the **timing of public announcements for special meetings**. She acknowledged Ms. Pauwels' announcement/agenda distribution email practice, and **moved** that those be sent "at the soonest possible moment" during business hours. Trustee Mucher **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Ms. Tracy asked that **special meetings also be recorded**. Trustee Askeland said that should be possible. Ms. Bouquet noted any resident can record/live stream a public meeting as they see fit.

Ms. Pauwels reminded the public that anyone who wants **to be included in the Township email distribution list should contact her directly** (phone/email/in person).

Trustee Askeland presented **Resolution 2026-10 To Allow Donated Trees to be Planted on the Berm Between the Miami Township Fire Station Property and The Cascades**. She explained the discussions leading up to the planting and asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Trustee Moir so **moved**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. **The Resolution was adopted unanimously**.

Trustee Moir presented **Resolution 2026-11 To Discontinue Healthcare Reimbursements for Opt-out Plans**.

Trustee Mucher asked what the **effective date of the Resolution** would be. By statute, Resolutions take effect thirty (30) days after passage unless declared an emergency.

Trustee Moir said **she became aware in approximately November 2025 that the Township was likely out of compliance with Federal and State laws** with such reimbursement practice as it had never been enacted by a proper Resolution, nor were any parameters spelled out. As such, **the Township has no legal authority to reimburse anyone.**

Trustee Askeland **moved that the Resolution be read in its entirety**, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**, and Trustee Askeland read the full text aloud (attached).

Trustee Mucher then **asked if the Resolution had been approved by the County Prosecutor**; when Trustee Moir said it had not, he stated, “I don’t see how we can pass a Resolution that is codifying tremendous amounts of information and requirements and legal stuff without the approval of the County Prosecutor.”

Trustee Moir responded, **“This Resolution is not codifying anything. It’s stating that we’re not in compliance with State and Federal laws,”** given her understanding from previous discussions with the Prosecutor’s Office.

Extensive discussion ensued (see video/transcript for specifics beginning at timestamp **1:53:38**) which incorporated the next agenda item listed by Trustee Mucher: “Outstanding Medicare reimbursements – request for legal opinion” and included the current lack of parameters, premium limits, etc., as well as **whether or not opt-out reimbursement was offered to all employees and elected officials.**

When Trustee Mucher said **he believed it was in the personnel policy**, Ms. Pauwels located a copy of the manual and read aloud Article IX, 9.3 Insurance: “After successful completion of the probationary period, **all regular full-time employees are covered by the group medical and life insurance program provided for employees of the Township, unless the employee opts not to accept the coverage because of coverage under another policy.**”

After expressing concerns that his outstanding reimbursements would not be covered, Trustee Mucher **asked again when the Resolution would take effect**. Trustee Moir **responded, “It was never lawful to do this, so how could we retroactively put in a date? ...I wish we were not going through this. I’m not trying to get rid of [reimbursement]. I’m just realizing we’re not complying with the law.”**

Trustee Mucher said, “The last 20, 25 years that prior former trustee Lamar Spracklin and former trustee Mark Crockett, former trustee uh Don Hollister and myself have participated in this ...depending upon which person it was and ...their particular age. **You’re...saying you want to try and recover all of their contributions. Is that correct?”**

Trustee Moir replied, “I’m not the Attorney General. I don’t recover anything. **I don’t have the power nor the interest in recovering. That’s not the job of an elected official.**”

Trustee Mucher added, “Had I known in 2024, I could have made that change at least prior to May [Township open enrollment date]...I assumed all the other people in the Township were getting their insurance paid. And why wouldn’t I then?” Debate followed re: **open enrollment versus life-change enrollment options.**

Trustee Mucher then introduced his “point of the agenda,” sharing a discussion with Greene County Prosecutor David Hayes, who “offered to take on the project of seeing what options may be available.” ...“**His opinion that was issued a week or two ago...a nice seven-page opinion...[with] the very last line...‘please consult your tax professional and your benefits provider.’**”

Trustee Moir noted, “**We weren’t really supposed to discuss the legal opinion, but here it is. They said...stop reimbursement until we get this figured out. What they figured out is that we were not in compliance, and they suggested that we [reimburse].** But if we did want to go forward...we should consult both health professional compliance people and tax professionals. That’s where we are and that’s what I’m trying to do.”

Trustee Mucher said, “I’m referring to conversation with David Hayes...who made the **offer to personally look into what options might be available for reimbursement.**”

After further procedural discussion, **(at 2:09:48)** Trustee Moir called for a motion to adopt **Resolution 2026-11 To Discontinue Healthcare Reimbursements for Opt-out Plans.** Trustee Askeland so **moved**, and Trustee Moir **seconded.** The **Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

In response to Trustee Mucher’s repeated question, Ms. Pauwels said **Resolutions take effect in thirty (30) days unless passed as an emergency.**

Trustee Mucher then **moved to accept the offer of Prosecutor Hayes to research legal ways to reimburse outstanding Medicare healthcare premiums.** Trustee Moir **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously.** Trustee Mucher will forward the request.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 20, 2026,** at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

***Acronyms:**

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

/clp