

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 25, 2021**

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at the Administration Building, 6032 Morris Road, Fairfield Township, OH 45011, for conducting Township business. Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Berding, Trustee Chairperson, at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Berding	Present
Mrs. Hartkemeyer	Present
Mr. McAbee	Present

**INVOCATION:** Deacon Rick Reder

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

Fire Hydrant Painting

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – Chief Thomas stated 330 hydrants were painted this summer. There were 3 explorers from Butler Tech that worked and did a great job. There are 1,600 hydrants in the Township and Chief has asked if the Board would like that work continued and if so, we would need for the Board to authorize new positions.

**Mrs. Berding** – How often does the Chief recommend they be painted.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – In my time here we have not done that before.

**Mr. McAbee** - I think the program has been good for the summer and we can plan for next summer.

**Mrs. Berding** - I would even be in favor of authorizing positions into the Fall to see if we can make a bigger dent. Then when we open those positions up again, we can let them know it might go into September – October.

**Mr. McAbee** – What has it cost us?

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – I don't have that number. We were paying them \$10/hour. They didn't work full weeks. No one was full time; just part time.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - I like the idea of continuing it until the weather gets to where its not possible. Then we can cycle it through till next summer.

**Mrs. Berding** – Let's do a motion tonight and get the cost.

**Motion** made by Mrs. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to extend fire hydrant painting into Fall as long as weather permits.

YES – Mrs. Hartkemeyer, Mrs. Berding

NO - Mr. McAbee

**Mr. McAbee** - I'd still like to get cost and the number of hours worked. It would have been nice to have that before the vote.

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**Mrs. Berding** – Mrs. Vonderhaar will get that to you.

### ODOT Grant Program

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - This is a township stimulus program. It's a one-time program that will provide federal funds to townships. This is 100% funded up front. A maximum of \$250,000 is allowed for a project. The money has to be spent by December 2024. Is there any interest in the Princeton Road sidewalks? The grant must be submitted by November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mrs. Berding** – Yes, I would be interested in that. The Princeton Road sidewalks has been a topic of discussion for years.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - I'd like to see some proposals for what we could go for.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - The project has to be scoped and submitted to the County for approval.

**Mrs. Berding** - I think if you could come up with a couple of projects and we can discuss at a future meeting.

### Zoning Final PUD Process – MI ready to submit to the Board

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - The target that MI wanted was September 8<sup>th</sup> but we're not there yet with the County and Bayer Becker. Bayer Becker asked the Board if they would consider hearing MI on the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Mr. Barbieri, Law Director** - This is not a public hearing. So, there is not a notice requirement in the zoning resolution. I know that you have all wanted to give notice to people. So that is certainly something you could do if you wanted to do it that way if you wanted people to come and speak if they wanted. I think this is the only issue you need to decide.

**Mrs. Berding** – I think we should notify the residents that are interested.

**Mr. McAbee** - This is for the Timberhill section. We could do signs, Facebook and website. I don't know if letters are necessary.

**Mr. McAbee** - With Covid I think we should get back to zoom meetings. I think this is a good idea until further notice.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - The problem is we all can't be here at the same time due to feedback issues.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - The issues are worked out.

### COMMUNICATION

- **Mr. George Bryans & Fred Fitzsimmons** - Golf outing update.
- **Michael Berding** – Touch a Truck was a tremendous success. Wanted to thank everyone that was there. The Zoning Focus Group meet last night. Would love to see more residents come out.
- **Donald Wells** – I'm here because I heard someone is wanting to start a needle exchange on Tylersville Road. My concern is that is a bus stop for children.

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**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - Yes, there was a health company that reached out and I actually spoke to that person and spoke to the law director about needles and exposure. Nothing has been committed at this time.

**Mr. McAbee** - Thanks for coming. This is the first we've heard about it.

- **Mrs. Drew** – I spoke to two people about the needle exchange. They didn't say who they were.

**Mr. McAbee** - Has the Township been contacted about this?

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – I've only talked to one woman.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - What did you tell them when you talked to them.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - I told them I was concerned about safety. The woman I spoke with was from Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative (RHRC). It looks like the police department might have suggested it to have a positive impact on the community.

**Mrs. Berding** - I think there is a need for needle exchange program. But there is a right place and a wrong place. Putting it in a neighborhood is not good practice. There is one in Fairfield at the hospital.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - I'm concerned about it being next to a school bus stop.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - I stopped it.

**Mr. McAbee** - The public hearings don't seem to be adequate. I would like to see more comments added.

**Mrs. Berding** – I recently was made aware that there is some misinformation being shared that this Board approved the property in front of Indian Meadows would allow rental property. This is opposite of the truth. I would like to see this reflected in the minutes per Paul Coor's comments, under oath, at July 28, 2021 meeting. All three of us are opposed to no rental property. This Board continues to make decisions based on facts and sworn testimony. I know we can't control what others say but we need to do what we can do correct the misinformation especially when it relates to action of this board.

**Motion**, made by Mrs. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to table the reading of the minutes for the following meetings:

1. Trustee Regular Meeting, July 28, 2021
2. Public Hearing NVR, July 28, 2021
3. Public Hearing MI Homes July 28, 2021

YES – Mrs. Hartkemeyer, Mr. McAbee, Mrs. Berding

**Motion** made by Mrs. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Officer.

YES – Mrs. Hartkemeyer, Mr. McAbee, Mrs. Berding

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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPEN PURCHASE ORDER BALANCES #21-124

Resolution to approve open purchase order balances.

**Motion**, made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mrs. Berding to adopt Resolution #21-124.

**Mr. McAbee** – I brought this up before about paying the black mat using the Resolution 21-125 and PO I understand there was a purchase order opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August the day after our meeting. Its not on this list. Its not on last list. So, we have not approved that PO. The resolution that we did approve was accepting the estimate from the engineer’s office. That is all that we’ve done. I’ve asked that a resolution be prepared. Its not on the agenda.

**Ms. Schultz** - We wrote the PO for \$700,000 when the resolution was approved in January. The reason this PO is not on here is because its just a reduction to a regular PO and will be closed as soon as it was paid. This was open and closed right away to pay the bill. The \$700,000 was on the list in January that was approved. The PO was written against the resolution and reduced by the amount that the bill came in from Strawser for the back mat and then a PO was written to Strawser. This was just a clerical PO.

**Mr. McAbee** - Aren’t we supposed to approve purchase orders over \$3000?

**Mrs. Berding** - This is historically what we have done in the past. The purchase order is made to Butler County Engineering for total payment not to exceed since we don’t know the vendor that Butler County will be using. Then when we get the invoice in for the black mat or paving, we reduce the purchase order to Butler County and make a new purchase order to the vendor. This is what we’ve done every year.

**Ms. Schultz** - I called our auditor and he informed me that this is fine if it was approved by resolution. Technically its my job to write the PO’s based on what was budgeted. If we have a policy that you have to approve the PO’s then that’s the policy. Technically if its in the budget its ok to write a PO. Obviously, that isn’t our policy. In 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020 we approved one PO for paving and there were no other resolutions. The auditor suggested that if I wanted to get around the problem just write a super blanket with no vendor and then I can use that PO. This seems no different to me than reducing the PO and writing PO to the correct vendor to pay. I like this way better because its more of a paper trail. Butler County asks us to submit the check to the vendor. In the future if you’d like me to write a super blanket with no vendor, I can use that. I didn’t write a resolution because I didn’t know I needed a resolution. And, I already have a PO that’s been approved.

**Mr. McAbee** - If we’ve done this for 4 or 5 years in a row doesn’t mean it’s the best process.

**Ms. Schultz** - This is the way it’s been done, and I’m satisfied with it.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** – Mr. Barbieri do you see a legal issue here?

**Mr. Barbieri, Law Director** – No, I think it’s a process issue. Its not a legal issue. If your auditor oks it as far as I’m concerned, its legal. My understanding was we needed to give a resolution to Butler County to authorize up to a certain amount of money and in

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that same resolution we referenced the streets. Butler County then takes care of the bidding and selects the contractors that are going to do the work and then they enter into contracts with those vendors and manage those contracts. I was told that Strawser did black matting for a number of different townships; not just us. I'm not giving an opinion on the process I'm giving an opinion that I think the money was legally spent.

**Mr. McAbee** - Based on history that we've been doing the wrong streets for cement and things like that I would like us to have a more clear path as to what we are agreeing to and the record to show what we're going to pay. This resolution for black mat totals \$174,483. I would think we would open a PO for that instead of doing one for \$700,000. But that's not what the bill came in for. What streets have we done. What streets are lacking. Where are we in the payment process. To me these are obvious things we should know before we send out \$70,000.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - Is that your issue that you just want to understand the process; to follow up to make sure the roads are completed. What do you want to include in this process?

**Mr. McAbee** - We've accepted their estimates. Are you saying its ok to just pay the bill to whomever when they come in.? I'm asking for resolutions to help us track the money. This is my concern.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - We have not and will not spend more than you have authorized.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - I think what we can do is do a follow up report and talk about the roads that have been done and completed.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - We don't know the vendor until Butler County notifies us and this is after the work has been done.

**Mrs. Berding** - As we go through this next year lets talk about what the Board would like to see.

**Mr. McAbee** - What about the PO that we didn't get to approve.

**Ms. Schultz** - We can add this to next meeting.

YES - Mrs. Berding, Mr. McAbee, Mrs. Hartkemeyer

RESOLUTION APPROVING REPAIRS TO BE COMPLETED ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MEDIC 212 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,971.13 FROM IMPACT FLEET SERVICE #21-125

Resolution approving repairs to be completed on the Fire Department Medic 212 in the amount of \$6,971.13 from Impact Fleet Service.

**Motion**, made by Mrs. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #21-125.

YES - Mrs. Berding, Mr. McAbee, Mrs. Hartkemeyer

RESOLUTION DECLARING NUISANCE AND ORDERING ABATEMENT ON THE PROPERTIES LISTED BELOW AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR TO INITIATE COMPLAINT #21-126

Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement on the properties listed below and

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further authorizing the zoning administrator to initiate complaint.

**Motion**, made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #21-126.

YES – Mrs. Berding, Mr. McAbee, Mrs. Hartkemeyer

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Fairfield Township Board of Trustees Meeting – Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 7 PM
- Police ribbon cutting September 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM.
- CIC meeting/Public Records Policy at 6:30 September 8, 2021.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Mr. McAbee** - The public participation on the Millikin Way Interchange is very close to happening.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - I wanted to thank all the residents who came out last night for the Zoning Focus Group. It was very productive. We passed that information onto our Zoning Department. We have 3 more sessions coming up and they are at different times and dates. The dates are on the website. I attended the opening ceremony for Fairfield City Schools, and it was outstanding. Mr. Berding spoke and gave a very moving speech. It was extremely inspirational. I'm very proud of our Township and our community.

**Mrs. Berding** - I also attend the Touch a Truck event and it was the best we've ever had. It was a great turnout. I wanted to thank the staff for being there on Saturday.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** made by Mrs. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to enter Executive Session, in accordance with; ORC 121.22 G (1) To consider the employment and compensation of public employees.

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Hartkemeyer	Yes
Mr. McAbee	Yes
Mrs. Berding	Yes

President convenes executive session at 8:03 PM

President resumes regular meeting at 8:16 PM

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**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Hartkemeyer	Yes
Mr. McAbee	Yes
Mrs. Berding	Yes

There will be no action as a result of Executive Session.

**Motion** made by Mrs. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to adjourn at 8:17 P.M.  
YES – Mrs. Berding, Mr. McAbee, Mrs. Hartkemeyer

Minutes submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

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Susan Berding, Trustee Chairperson

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Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice Chairperson

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Joe McAbee, Trustee

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