

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 1, 2023

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Thursday, June 1, 2023, at the Administration Building, 6032 Morris Road, Fairfield Township, OH 45011, for conducting Township business. Meeting was called to order by Mr. Berding at 8:30 AM.

ROLL CALL

Trustee Chairperson, Michael Berding	Present
Trustee Vice Chairperson, Shannon Hartkemeyer	Present
Trustee, Joe McAbee	Present

INVOCATION: Decon Rick Reder

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Letter opposing state tax increases of 42%– Trustees
- B. CIC Meeting – 6/13/23 (next meeting scheduled 9/12/23) – Trustees
CANCELED
- C. Fire Chief hiring process – Trustees

Official retirement letter from Chief Thomas. He will be retiring April 1, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to accept resignation for retirement of Chief Thomas April 1, 2024.

All in favor.

Mr. Berding – I think Chief Thomas has been an amazing public servant for this Township for many years. He will be missed. I look forward to seeing what a new chief can do for our community.

Mr. McAbee - I think it is time to get serious about what our process is going to be.

Assistant Law Director Lawrence E. Barbieri - Usually there is going to be 2 – 3 rounds of interviews. Those take probably over a couple months to have someone picked out by the end of the year. You should probably start in October or November. I would say, with my experience, hiring someone that is able to do this for you doesn't seem to work that well. You're better off advertising. Everybody you want is going to get news of the job just by advertising or getting the word out.

Mr. Berding - Let's get something together for our July meeting and then start advertising.

- D. Strategic Plan - Community Survey – Trustees – we can push back to our July meeting.

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COMMUNICATION

Robert Gadd, 6140 Morris Road – Huge shed in middle of my neighbor’s yard.
Mr. Berding - Mrs. Vonderhaar and Mr. Goins can follow up with.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. TID – Trustee McAbee – No business for June meeting. North Hamilton Crossing meeting has been changed to July 26th 5:30 – 7:30 at Miami Hamilton.
- B. EMA – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Meeting scheduled in another week or two.
- C. OKI – Trustee Hartkemeyer - \$20 Million has been allocated in carbon reduction plans for EV stations.
- D. CLOUT – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Nothing to report.
- E. OTHER – Trustees

FISCAL OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

Fiscal Officer’s Report – **Shelly Schultz** - RID money came in the amount of \$182,000. The budget will be coming to you next week for approval at the July meeting. We did get reimbursement from Federal Government, Capitol Fund for the veteran’s expenses of \$49,000. There is still more to come that we haven’t submitted yet. It will be \$97,000 when we’re done.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to set Public Meeting July 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM
All in favor.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to suspend reading of the minutes of the following meeting:

- 1. Regular Trustee Meeting, May 9, 2023

All in favor.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to approve the minutes.

- 1. Regular Trustee Meeting, May 9, 2023

All in favor.

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

All in favor

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Julie Vonderhaar – Annual report is done, and we’ve mailed them out. House Bill 501 regarding use of TIF and Pilot payments has been passed. This will expand the possibilities for townships’ use of TIF and Pilot

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incentives. We're getting ready for Saturdays big event.

MOTIONS

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to accept resignation of Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Schumann.

Mr. Berding - We wish Mr. Schumann well.

Mr. McAbee - We certainly do. He has been an excellent employee for a very long time.

Vote: YES: Mr. Berding, Mrs. Hartkemeyer

Vote: NO: Mr. McAbee

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPEN PURCHASE ORDER BALANCES #23-80

Resolution to approve open purchase order balances.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-80.

Vote: All in favor

****SECOND READ****

RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE OF 2024 FORD F-550 FROM VALLEY TRUCK CENTERS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,298.00 #23-71

Resolution approving purchase of 2024 Ford F-550 from Valley Truck Centers for the Fire Department in the amount of \$96,298.00.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by McAbee to adopt Resolution #23-71.

Mr. McAbee - Have you changed your thoughts from the last time?

Mr. Berding – I've had a lot of apprehension about the purchase of this vehicle. This is the one I felt we needed the least. I feel like we have equipment already in place to haul around what Chief Thomas wants to haul around. Why can't we ask the EMA to come together and buy a vehicle? Why does Fairfield Township have to provide the vehicle to pull the EMA trailer? I don't feel its our obligation to absorb all that money to have a vehicle set here to pull a county-wide trailer around.

Mr. McAbee - Is there another truck we have to use for this?

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - We can ask EMA. I asked to gather the weights of the vehicles and the equipment that we would need to pull. I also asked the staff to gather the capacity of various vehicles and based on that we have the capacity to currently haul the equipment with our current vehicles.

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Mr. Berding – I just made the motion to adopt so we could have an open discussion on this. I do intend to vote no on this. I don't think we need this at the moment. If the EMA later comes back and would like to purchase a vehicle then I think that's a discussion that the EMA has.

Vote: NO - Mr. Berding, Mrs. Hartkemeyer, Mr. McAbee

****TABLED****

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE PER STATE CONTRACT, A NEW 2024 AMBULANCE FROM HORTON FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$368,721.24 #23-81

Resolution authorizing purchase per state contract, a new 2024 ambulance from Horton for the Fire Department in the total amount of \$368,721.24

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt #23-81.

Mr. Berding – I felt most confident about this purchase back when we were discussing it. I am curious if we need that large of an ambulance. Is it possible we could find a smaller ambulance and maybe set our next fire chief up for the ability to purchase a second ambulance at almost the cost of this. I don't think it's something we can live without. We need one if we're adding more employees. But at the same time is this the right ambulance for us at this time.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I've heard of other departments that use smaller vehicles. Would that be a good option for us. I'm not convinced that we need one this large.

Mr. McAbee - I usually rely on the professional recommendations.

Mrs. Vonderhaar – Chief is just looking at the timing of how long the medics are in production and planning ahead knowing that we will need to replace. We run the medics the hardest out of all our vehicles. That's why I'm not strongly in favor of used. We've had the smaller ones come out and the Chief is not really in favor of them. The new chief could possibly be. I know the City of Cincinnati uses them.

Mr. Berding - I know that some of the firefighters prefer them because it's closer to driving a vehicle that they drive. We have a lot of cul de sacs with people parking on both sides of the street and to get a small vehicle down those streets might be beneficial. I wonder if the next chief might want one because of those reasons.

Assistant Law Director Lawrence E. Barbieri – I don't know if this makes any difference to the discussion or not, but I would note on the proposal, it states "if canceled before final bill there would be no penalty. Final bill would be 4 months prior to bill estimated January 2025." If in fact you were to pass this, and I'm not speaking in favor of that, I just wanted to bring to your attention that you would have over a year to get the fire chief here and make a decision whether or not to cancel order.

Ms. Schultz - Last ambulance was \$246,000 for a 550.

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Mrs. Hartkemeyer - So we could move ahead with this and then revisit after new fire chief comes on board. At least we could get in the pipeline. I think we are going to need one either way.

Assistant Law Director Lawrence E. Barbieri – Before you decide I think someone could talk to Horton. It says final build is 4 months prior to build which is estimated at January 2025.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I would like to get the answer to that if we could modify that to a smaller one if needed. We need to ask Horton if we can change the model without going to the back of the line.

Mr. McAbee - Maybe we should find out before we vote.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to table Resolution #23-81.
Vote: All in favor

****TABLED****

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE PER STATE CONTRACT, A NEW
2026 E-ONE LADDER TRUCK FROM VOGELPOHL FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC.
FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,546,668.00

#23-82

Resolution authorizing purchase per state contract, a new 2026 E-One ladder truck from Vogelpohl Fire Equipment, Inc. for the Fire Department in the total amount of \$1,546,668.00.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to adopt Resolution #23-82.

Mr. Berding - This is another purchase I was struggling with. We are getting a new fire chief next spring and is this an engine we're going to saddle the chief with the next 20-25 years. I realized some of my concerns were answered with the ambulance. I struggle to spend that amount of money when we have mutual aid – 3 miles from this fire house now. I don't want to saddle the new chief with equipment that was bought prior to that person arriving. I'm not totally comfortable with this purchase at this time.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I think Liberty Township has a ladder. I believe West Chester does and I'm sure Hamilton does. I'm not sure about Fairfield. I would be interested in learning more about what they have capacity wise. I'm also interested in knowing how often these vehicles are deployed for that specific purpose. That's a lot of money that we're going to tie up in that capitol asset. The other thing I'd like to gather data on is buying a used vehicle. I also agree the new chief may have a different mindset for this. I don't know if I'm comfortable allocating that \$1.5 million in capitol assets for this purpose if they may have some other thoughts what that investment could go to.

Mr. Berding - We have hired 6 more full time firefighters and that has kind of eaten into that \$1.5 million.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I want to make sure we safeguard our financial situation. We're going into some difficult times in the next year or two and I want to make sure Fairfield

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Township is protected financially.

Mr. McAbee - I usually defer to the professionals leading the department to suggest. I have a little hesitation not having the best equipment available.

Motion made by McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to table Resolution #23-82

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THEN AND NOW PURCHASE ORDER FOR JUNK KING, CINCINNATI AT A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$5,525.00 #23-83
Resolution authorizing a Then and Now Purchase Order for Junk King, Cincinnati at a price not to exceed \$5,525.00

Mrs. Vonderhaar - This is for 13 dumpsters used at Spring Clean Up.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-83.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER/EMT DYLAN BAILEY TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$18.50 PER HOUR, WITH A 12-MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD #23-84

Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Dylan Bailey to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-84.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER/EMT TYLER FRITZ TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$18.50 PER HOUR, WITH A 12-MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD #23-85

Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Tyler Fritz to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-85.

Vote: All in favor

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME
FIREFIGHTER/EMT ANDREW VOLZ TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE
DEPARTMENT, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$18.50 PER HOUR, WITH A 12-
MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD #23-86

Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Andrew Volz to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-86.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME
FIREFIGHTER/EMT TYLER FRIEND TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE
DEPARTMENT, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$18.50 PER HOUR, WITH A 12-
MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD #23-87

Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Tyler Friend to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-87.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME
FIREFIGHTER/EMT EVAN SMITH TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE
DEPARTMENT, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$18.50 PER HOUR, WITH A 12-
MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD #23-88

Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Evan Smith to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-88.

Vote: All in favor

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME
FIREFIGHTER/EMT JOSHUA MORROW TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE
DEPARTMENT, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$18.50 PER HOUR, WITH A 12-
MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD #23-89

Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Joshua Morrow to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$18.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-89.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRUSTEES TO SIGN LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR
THE BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' CHALLENGE OF THE
STATE TAX COMMISSIONER 2023 TRIENNIAL REAPPRAISAL #23-90

Resolution authorizing trustees to sign letter of support for the Butler County Board of Commissioners' challenge of the state tax commissioner 2023 triennial reappraisal.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-90.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN RENEWAL
CONTRACTS WITH HUMANA FOR HEALTHCARE BENEFITS #23-91

Resolution authorizing the Administrator to sign renewal contracts with Humana for healthcare benefits.

Mrs. Vonderhaar – Humana has offered an additional year. They are going to be terminating benefits and working with government entities. They offered us 1 more year with no increase in benefits. We've had our best year yet with Go365.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I would encourage staff to continue using Go365.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-91.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JACKSON SIZEMORE
AS PART-TIME SEASONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE AT AN HOURLY
RATE OF \$15.00/HOUR #23-92

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Jackson Sizemore as part-time seasonal Fire Department employee at an hourly rate of \$15.00/hour.

Mrs. Vonderhaar - As in prior years the Chief and Public Works Director asked if we could consider some additional help. The fire chief wants to continue hydrant painting.

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The public works will be using summer help with all the grass cutting, keeping the parks clean, trash pickup, etc.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I also like to see some data on where we are on the fire hydrants. I'd like to see some data too on the labor that we've allocated if they think it provides enough capacity to complete the project based on 20-25 hours per week.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-92.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LANDON SIZEMORE AS PART-TIME SEASONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$15.00/HOUR #23-93

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Landon Sizemore as part-time seasonal Fire Department employee at an hourly rate of \$15.00/hour.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-93.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LINDSEY DAMERON AS PART-TIME SEASONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$15.00/HOUR #23-94

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Lindsey Dameron as part-time seasonal Fire Department employee at an hourly rate of \$15.00/hour.

Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-94.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ANNA CLAIRE AS PART-TIME SEASONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$15.00/HOUR. #23-95

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Anna Claire as part-time seasonal Fire Department employee at an hourly rate of \$15.00/hour.

Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-95.

Vote: All in favor

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF GARRETT BERTER AS PART-TIME SEASONAL PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$15.00 PER HOUR #23-96

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Garrett Berter as part-time seasonal Public Works employee at an hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-96.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE OF THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA FROM FIRST IN-LAST OUT FIRE EQUIPMENT & TRAINING LLC FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,999.00 #23-97

Resolution approving purchase of thermal imaging camera from First In-Last Out Fire Equipment & Training LLC for the Fire Department in the amount of \$7,999.00.

Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-97.

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTION DECLARING NUISANCE AND ORDERING ABATEMENT ON THE PROPERTIES LISTED BELOW AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR TO INITIATE COMPLAINT #23-98

Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement on the properties listed below and further authorizing the zoning administrator to initiate complaint.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-98.

Vote: All in favor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Summer Concert – Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 6 – 8 PM at Bridgewater Falls
- Offices closed for Juneteenth Holiday – Monday, June 19, 2023
- Offices closed for Independence Day Holiday – Tuesday, July 4, 2023
- Fairfield Township Board of Trustee Meeting – Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 7 PM

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Berding – Veterans Memorial – I want to thank the two trustees: Mrs. Hartkemeyer and Mr. McAbee for spearheading this. Making sure it was started and moving forward.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I'd like to extend gratitude to Trustee John McGinnis this was one

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of the things he felt very strongly about.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion, made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to go into Executive Session, in accordance with:

1. **ORC 121.22 G (1)** to consider the employment, or compensation of a public employee or official.

All in favor.

Adjourned into executive session at 9:44 AM

Reconvened at 10:41 PM

ROLL CALL

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

No action followed executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adjourn at 10:42 AM.
All in favor.

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Minutes submitted by:

Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

Michael Berding, Trustee Chairperson

Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

Joe McAbee, Trustee

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