

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 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 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Andrew Hancock, Allison Avenue Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION**

- **AMBULANCE PURCHASE – Chief Thomas**

At the request of the Administrator, I had them update the quote and provided this quote.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - This was brought up again since it's the end of the year and the EMS fund is doing very well. It makes sense to lock in a better price this year.

**Mr. Berding** - I know that I had concerns back when we first discussed this. Now that we know the EMS Fund could sustain that purchase I'm comfortable with getting in the system and in the rotation. The incoming chief could make adjustments to the purchase to fit the department's needs.

**Mr. McAbee** - We're close to hiring a chief but I think we can wait 30 days.

**Mr. Berding** - We could have a resolution ready for the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- **GENESIS RESCUE EQUIPMENT – Chief Thomas**

The current equipment we have is hydraulic and they are suggesting we switch over to the new battery-operated system. This would be completely compatible with what we have at the other station.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to add to the agenda Resolution #23-148 to approve the purchase of new Genesis Rescue Equipment from Howell Rescue Systems, per state contract, for the Fire Department, in the total amount of \$44,360.00.

All in favor.

- **CURB REPLACEMENT FOR 2024 – Jeff Bennett**

The curb repair request packet was given to you. It's broken down by street. The total curb is 3739 feet and total of 53 handicap ramps. We would like to try to get this put out for bid as quickly as possible.

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- **2024 PROPERTY TAX RATES – Shelly Schultz**

At the last meeting we passed a resolution to reduce our property tax rates. Shortly after Mr. Stein, Auditors' Office, came back and said that House Bill 187 was likely to pass and therefore appreciated our efforts to reduce the rates, but this was no longer necessary. At the last meeting we passed a resolution to accept the rates. Those rates were the higher rates. We have 2 contradictory resolutions; 1 to approve rates that are higher and a resolution to accept lower rates. Mr. McAbee said we need to stick to the lower rates. I just need a Board decision. Mr. Stein is giving us until tonight to make a decision, but I need to let him know of the Boards decision.

**Mr. McAbee** - My support is for the original resolution for the lower rates.

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - I'm concerned that if we go down this path it might impact our income for years. I'm really not hoping to go for a levy anytime soon. I'm fine if this is only for one year.

**Ms. Schultz** - The total amount is \$254,000.

**Mr. Berding** - I'm ok with the way that we passed it. I don't think the legislation will pass.

**Mr. McAbee** - We want the 1<sup>st</sup> resolution accepting the lower amount.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**TID** – Trustee McAbee – No meeting this week and light attendance. December meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> week in December.

**EMA** – Trustee Hartkemeyer –

**OKI** – Trustee Hartkemeyer – There are some additional grants that are available. There is up to \$1 million available in Ohio; three applications per jurisdiction. If you do submit a grant you get credit if you have an up-to-date comprehensive plan. How old is our comprehensive plan? I think it would be a good idea to take a look at our plan and get it up to speed.

**CLOUT** – Trustee Hartkemeyer –

**OTHER** – **Mr. Berding** – I believe our comprehensive plan was done by a committee for trustee approval. If you need that to be brought back out we need to ask staff to look at this. Let's take a look at our comprehensive plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in February.

### FISCAL OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

**Shelly Schultz** –

- Budget – I'm working on the budget and hope to have it to you by this weekend.
- ARPA Project – Last meeting I mentioned that Butler County gave us \$150,000 for underserved communities. They would like the projects by end of December. Possibly we could come up with a project at the next meeting to submit to them.
- Retention bonus – Went well and reported to EMA
- Last week the County paid \$307,000 in paving on our behalf.

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Recommend motion to suspend reading of the minutes of the following meetings:

- Trustee Regular Meeting, October 10, 2023
- Trustee Special Meeting, October 16, 2023
- Trustee Special Meeting, October 17, 2023
- Trustee Special Meeting, October 26, 2023

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee to suspend the reading of the minutes, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer.

All in favor.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee to approve the minutes, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer.

All in favor.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to approve the minutes.

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**

- Retrace resolution - There is a retrace resolution and this is required by the County.
- Congratulations on re-election of Trustee McAbee and Ms. Schultz.
- Veterans Day observance congratulations to the Board on a very good Veterans Day.
- Holiday events – We’re working on Holiday Day Lights.
- Looking to 2024, annual report 2023 and the 2024 calendar, we’re just getting started and excited for 2024.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to allow Administrator to bid for curb and gutter work as needed for year 2024.

All in favor.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPEN PURCHASE ORDER BALANCES**

#23-138

Resolution to approve open purchase order balances.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-138.

All in favor.

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RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP ROADS FOR BID ON THE ATTACHED RETRACE ESTIMATE LIST (ATTACHMENT “A”), TO BE CERTIFIED FOR FUNDING UPON THE AWARDING OF CONTRACT, AS DETERMINED BY THE BUTLER COUNTY ENGINEERS OFFICE, WITH A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$460.25 #23-139

Resolution designating Fairfield Township roads for bid on the attached retrace estimate list (attachment “a”), to be certified for funding upon the awarding of contract, as determined by the Butler County Engineers office, with a cost not to exceed \$460.25.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – This is for Georgetown Road.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-139.  
All in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT OF \$380,481.25 TO THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON #23-140

Resolution authorizing debt service payment of \$380,481.25 to The Bank of New York Mellon.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** - This is for the West side of Princeton Road and TIF 1 Project.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-140.  
All in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT OF \$270,075.00 TO US BANK #23-141

Resolution authorizing debt service payment of \$270,075.00 to US Bank.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – This is related to the Butler County Transportation Improvement District Highway Improvement Bond for the East side of Princeton Road.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-141.  
All in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT OF \$393,472.40 TO PNC BANK #23-142

Resolution authorizing debt service payment of \$393,472.40 to PNC Bank.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – This is related to the Butler County Transportation Improvement District Highway Improvement Bond for the State Route Bypass 4.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-142.

All in favor.

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEBT SERVICE PAYMENT OF \$527,496.99 TO HUNTINGTON BANK FOR REPAYMENT OF \$5 MILLION DOLLAR GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND THAT WAS USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS IMPROVEMENTS TO GILMORE ROAD #23-143

Resolution authorizing debt service payment of \$527,496.99 to Huntington Bank for repayment of \$5 million-dollar general obligation bond that was used for construction of public works improvements to Gilmore Road.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – This is related to the construction of Public Works Building, remodel of the Police Station and improvements to Gilmore Road.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-143.

All in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUTLER COUNTY ENGINEERS OFFICE TO PERFORM A SPEED EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT JOURNALIZED SPEED ZONE ON REIGART ROAD #23-144

Resolution authorizing Butler County Engineers office to perform a speed evaluation of the current journalized speed zone on Reigart Road.

**Mrs. Vonderhaar** – Journalized speed limit of 35 mph is unrealistic.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-144.

All in favor.

RESOLUTION TO RE-APPOINT JOE MCABEE AS A MEMBER OF THE BUTLER COUNTY TID BOARD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2025 #23-145

Resolution to re-appoint Joe McAbee as a member of the Butler County TID Board effective January 1, 2024, and expiring December 31, 2025.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-145.

All in favor.

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RESOLUTION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AS THE  
APPLICANT'S AGENT FOR FUNDS APPROVED FOR FAIRFIELD  
TOWNSHIP THROUGH THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

#23-146

Resolution for the designation of the Administrator as the applicant's agent for funds approved for Fairfield Township through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

**Mr. Goins** - We have finally been awarded the funds. The next requirement from the state is for the Board to designate an agent to sign some of the agreements for the Board. Once we do this step we'll be able to start accessing funds for appraisal and potentially an offer for the property. The grant amount that was awarded was \$440,740.08. The Board previously passed a resolution that we would match at 10%.

**Mr. Berding** - This is the property on Canal Road. There is multiple family residents on a single family lot that are falling apart and a health hazard and in a flood plain.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-146. All in favor.

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

#23-147

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 Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #23-147. All in favor.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF NEW GENESIS RESCUE  
EQUIPMENT FROM HOWELL RESCUE SYSTEMS, PER STATE CONTRACT,  
FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$44,360.00

#23-148

Resolution approving the purchase of new Genesis Rescue Equipment from Howell Rescue Systems, per state contract, for the Fire Department, in the total amount of \$44,360.00.

**Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #23-148.

All in favor.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Offices closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Thursday, November 23 & Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Holiday Lights at Bridgewater Falls – Friday, November 23, 2023, 5 – 7 PM.
- Fairfield East Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair, Saturday, December 2, 2023, 9 AM – 2 PM.
- CIC Meeting – Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:30 PM

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Mrs. Hartkemeyer** - Butler County Township Association reappointed me for another term on the OKI Board.

**Mr. McAbee** - I'd like to thank all the voters that reelected me. I appreciate the support.

**Mr. Berding** – Congratulations Joe and Shelly. I want to thank the veterans committee for all their work. The Veteran's Memorial has been officially completed per Fred Valerius. Mr. Dale Hodge will be taking over the Veterans Committee. I'd like to wish my father a happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. I use his gavel at these meetings.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion**, made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. McAbee 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.

There may or not be action taken.

All in favor.

- President convenes executive session at 8:00 PM
- President resumes regular meeting at 8:34 PM

**ROLL CALL**

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

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**, made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to adjourn.  
All in favor.

President declares meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

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Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

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Michael Berding, Trustee Chairperson

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Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

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Joe McAbee, Trustee



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