

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MIAMI TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800 325 8094 FORM NO 10148

Held _____

JULY 20, 2021

_____20_____

The Miami Township Board of Trustees met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Miami Township Civic Center, 6101 Meijer Drive, Miami Township, Ohio 45150. Trustee Wolff called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given. Mr. Ferry called the roll. Attending were Mary Makley Wolff, Karl Schultz, and Ken Tracy.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 Trustee Business Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Department Reports: A representative of each department presented a report of activities during the month of June 2021.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Tracy made a motion to pay the bills of the Township: with 246 checks numbered 139639 to 139884, and 23 electronic checks numbered 2114 to 2136 for the total amount of \$3,464,787.80 plus payroll and payroll taxes for the check dates 6/18/2021 in the amount of \$334,114.93 and 7/2/2021 in the amount of \$298,030.99, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of the need for a Then and Now Certificate in the amount of \$24,371.29.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-25 authorizing the Township Fiscal Officer to issue and certify a Then and Now Certificate for payment of various expenditures, totaling \$24,371.29 and declaring an emergency, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that he and Chief Kelly are requesting the Board accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Beckett effective July 6, 2021. He shared that Beckett is leaving to accept a career as a Battalion Chief with the Oregon City, Ohio Fire Department. Mr. Wright expressed appreciation for Beckett's service to his home community for a total of 27 years.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the resignation of Firefighter/Medic Jason Beckett effective July 6, 2021, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised it is being recommended to release Firefighter/Paramedic Caden Smolenski from his one-year probationary period effective July 12, 2021 with an adjusted hourly rate per contract of \$26.74. Mr. Wright stated Smolenski has proven to be a very valuable employee in his first year.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to release Caden Smolenski from probation effective July 12, 2021, with an adjusted hourly rate of \$26.74, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that he and Chief Mills are recommending Police Officer Bill Dusa be released from probationary status effective July 29, 2021 after completing his 18-month probationary period.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to release Police Officer Bill Dusa from probation, effective July 29, 2021, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright stated that the Service Department has received a retirement notice from long-term Road Supervisor Jeff Weigel that would be effective on August 27, 2021. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Weigel's 34 years of service to the community. Mr. Wright stated that during Weigel's career the Township has doubled in population and road miles have been added as well. He reflected that Mr. Weigel has been involved in a lot of important projects and amenities that have been put in place for our residents. He stated that it is well-known that

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Mr. Weigel was proud to serve the residents of his hometown and he is wished a great retirement.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the resignation of Jeff Weigel effective August 27, 2021, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that Mr. Elliff has requested the Board accept the resignation of Code Enforcement Officer Nick Colliver effective June 24, 2021. He shared that Mr. Colliver accepted a position to return to law enforcement full-time with another community in Clermont County.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the resignation of Nick Colliver effective June 24, 2021, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that each July the Township reviews the renewal proposal for the health insurance benefits. For the plan year that will start September 1, 2021 and go through August 31, 2022 the Township will see a zero percent increase from Anthem. He expressed his appreciation toward employees of how they used their health insurance for the past year. He stated that we also know that this is probably an anomaly for many organizations because of some deferment due to the pandemic. He shared the loss ratio for the prior 12 months was a very low 66%. He stated that renewals over the past five to six years have been zero to 1.5% with a one-year increase at one time that was at 16% when the Township increased expenses for employees.

Mr. Wright stated the Township's current dental plan and optional vision plan are also with Anthem currently. He stated there is a one and two-year guarantee of those rates. He commented that all three forms of insurance will be at the zero percent increase for the upcoming plan year. He stated that per the Board's direction, this was discussed last week at a plan renewal meeting with our employee health insurance committee, and it is recommended the Board approve the Anthem plan for the upcoming year.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Anthem Health Insurance Benefit Plan and the Basic Life, AD&D and Voluntary Life with Mutual of Omaha, effective September 1, 2021, and authorize the Township Administrator to execute the plans on the Board's behalf, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright reviewed that there is a deadline coming up later this fall for an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Grant application and the first step for any community is to ask its elected body for authorization to make an application. He stated that the OPWC is a State of Ohio program where grants are requested that can be used for various types of infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Wright shared that Miami Township has been very successful the last few years of typically receiving one or two grants per year. He stated the Township typically applies for streambank stabilization projects which are to repair slippage that occurs next to some of the older winding roads adjacent to the creeks throughout the Township. He stated this year it is being proposed to perform a Phase II for Sugar Camp and Redbird Roads. He stated these roads have received some improvements and need repairs in another location of the roadways.

Mr. Wright advised this year the grant being sought would be a 79% grant with a 21% local match and the Township's application may receive 10 additional points by bundling the projects with the County TID (Transportation Improvement District) and receive extra credit for showing cooperation among several jurisdictions. He offered to answer any questions and requested the Board approve the resolution to authorize the application.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-26 authorizing the Township Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State

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Capital Improvement Program and to execute contracts as required and dispensing with the second reading, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised two bids were received for the McPicken Drive Storm Sewer repair project. He stated this project is a component of the capital budget for 2021. Along McPicken, erosion has been experienced along both sides of the large drainpipe and at this time we would like to perform work to avoid being at risk of losing any roadway. He stated that he and Mr. Musselman have obtained the necessary easements from the property owners. He noted the residents of the street are very happy the Township is proposing this project. He announced the lowest and most responsive bid was received from Fillmore Construction in the amount of \$76,820 for the base bid and \$81,820 for an alternate. He stated that he and Mr. Musselman are recommending the Board award the contract to Fillmore Construction and believes that it is responsible to add the alternate. The alternate will allow for the installation of a junction box which is intended to prevent further erosion from occurring. He stated this approach will also enhance the Township's ability to maintain the pipe.

The Board held discussion regarding the difference in the costs of bids for the project among the bidders.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to contract with Fillmore Construction to perform the work of the McPicken Drive Storm Sewer Repair Project including the alternate bid at an estimated cost of \$81,820, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and that no action was being requested. He stated that as the Board is aware, in Ohio there was recent approval of the American Rescue Plan Act that included Townships to be eligible communities for the distribution of the federal funds. He shared the ARPA requirements are that the Township does have to register online through the Ohio Office of Budget and Management. He offered to submit the registration information for he and Mr. Ferry.

Mr. Wright advised the Township is eligible for slightly under \$4.5 million. He stated that Townships will have until December 31, 2024 to obligate the funds and all the money must be spent by the Township by December 31, 2026. He commented there are a few categories of eligibility that projects must be able to align with such as support public health expenditures, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. He stated that, for example, the sanitary sewer project that the Township discussed previously which is located along Branch Hill to connect Fire & EMS Station 27 would be eligible for the funds because that is an enhancement to the sanitary sewer for the public's benefit.

Mr. Ferry held discussion on whether the funds would allow for enhancing public access to the internet. Mr. Wright commented that in broad terms, yes, since that the State specifically identified it. He clarified there have not been a lot of details released yet. Ms. Wolff added that some specifics are provided in the informative handout from the Ohio Township Association. Additional discussion was held regarding specificity for the use of funds and for the benefit of the residents, including potential infrastructure to provide public access to the internet.

Mr. Wright advised the Board supported replacement of the aerial platform truck for the Fire & EMS Department. The truck has passed its useful service life and repair bills have exceeded \$10,000 when out for repair. The tower 26 truck is proposed for auction, which would occur mid-fall when the Fire & EMS Department receives delivery of the new replacement tower.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-27 a resolution authorizing the disposal of surplus property and authorizing the sale of unneeded or obsolescent personal property no longer necessary for Township use by internet auction pursuant to Section 505.10 of the Ohio Revised Code and dispensing with the second reading, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

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Mr. Wright advised the Board has discussed the State Route 28 Overpass of I-275 Bridge Project several times and earlier in the year, the Board approved the aesthetic enhancement preferred for the overpass work. In 2022, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will replace the bridge's concrete that motor vehicles drive on as well as the protective fence and the vertical concrete parapet wall. He stated that, as the Board is aware, the Township has a great opportunity to pay the difference between the basic vandal-proof fencing and the upgrade the Township decided upon. He referenced the photo of the design the Board previously selected.

Mr. Wright advised the action being requested is similar to what the Board completed two years ago when the Township cooperated with ODOT for their replacement of the Happy Hollow Road overpass over State Route 28. He stated that any time a local jurisdiction asks the State to do an enhancement of their bridgework, it is agreed the local jurisdiction will have maintenance responsibility of the vertical fencing and the Township sign (including any future replacement). He clarified that it would be very infrequent that something would need fixed prematurely and will last a few decades.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-28 agreeing to cooperate with the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding participation and obligations related to portions of the SR 28 Overpass of I-275 Bridge Project and declaring an emergency, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised there are five properties that Mr. Elliff has requested be declared as nuisances. Mr. Wright commended Township Planner Jeff Uckotter for stepping up when Community Development lost one-third of their department to a recent resignation. He stated it is obvious by the list that they are still being active in responding to complaints received. The five properties are proposed for mowing and then a lien placed on the tax bill of the property owners.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-29 Authorizing the Abatement, Control or Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Rubbish, or Debris and Declaring an Emergency, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of an out of Township travel request from the Police Department to send two police officers to the Great Lakes Leadership seminar held in Buffalo, New York. He noted there is no airfare involved as a Township vehicle can be driven to the location. The training is seven days and conducted by the FBI on a military installation which is a cost savings. Permission is being sought to send Sgt. Pryor and Sgt. Tobias as they are new in their roles and this leadership training is very good for mid-career new leaders with the department.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the out of Township travel to send Sergeant Pryor and Sergeant Tobias to attend the Great Lakes Leadership Seminar in Buffalo, New York October 2-8, 2021, at a cost not to exceed \$2,318.00, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Public Comment: Paul Kamphaus, 3792 Poplar Creek, Pierce Township, introduced himself to the Board as a candidate for the Clermont County Clerk of Courts in the November election. He shared he originates from Clermont County and has served for the past 27 years as a Deputy Sheriff at the Clermont County Sheriff's Office. He retired as the captain in charge of the patrol division to run for office and plans to bring his knowledge of the criminal justice system to innovative ideas in the Clerk's office.

David Painter, 1196 Riebel Ridge Drive, Ohio Township, commented that he currently serves on the Board of Clermont County Commissioners and was in attendance to hear the Township's updates as he remains interested in what happens to townships. He shared that he attended the National Association of Counties annual conference in Washington, DC where the American Rescue Plan was of topic. He recalled there was a lot of discussion around the water and sewer infrastructure and closing the digital divide. Mr. Painter shared related discussion from the conference regarding broadband as one of the major components of the American

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Rescue Plan. He also offered to hear any requests on needs from the Board where he may be of assistance.

Ms. Wolff discussed the Township being passed over related to funding a sidewalk project along State Route 28 where low-income housing was located. She expressed importance of the sidewalk access as a means for some residents to access work and school and would like to explore options as to funding this for residents. Mr. Painter offered that reaching out to Michael McNamara in the Clermont County Economic Development would be beneficial and discussed the evaluation process for Community Development Block Grant funding.

Executive Session: Mr. Tracy made a motion to go into executive session to discuss three items:

1. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8) to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans of an applicant for economic development assistance that it is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project; and
2. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the discipline of a public employee, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee; and
3. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) to conference with counsel related to pending or imminent litigation.

Mr. Schultz seconded the motion to go into executive session with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Tracy made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Tracy made a motion to authorize the Township Administrator to enter into a limited license agreement with Mike's Car Wash for sign advertising, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:



Eric C. Ferry, Fiscal Officer



Mary Makley Wolff, Chairperson