

Held

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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The Miami Township Board of Trustees met in a regular virtual session, as permitted in Bill 197 passed by the Ohio General Assembly, on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM. 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 January 19, 2021 Trustee Business Meeting, February 8, 2021 Trustee Work Session, and February 8, 2021 Special Trustee Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Special Presentation: Chief Kelly gave a presentation of the Unit Citation Award, previously deferred because of the pandemic, in recognition of the shift three fire personnel that responded and rescued five residents on a fire scene that occurred February 20, 2020 at the Millcroft Apartments. Also recognized for their response on-scene were three officers from the Police Department which were Corporal Todd Taylor, Officer Kyle Ball, and Rob Bunnell.

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

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Tracy made a motion to pay the bills of the Township: 210 checks numbered 138614 to 138823 and 23 electronic checks numbered 1982 to 2004 for the total amount of \$1,406,451.14 plus payroll and payroll taxes for the check dates 1/29/2021 in the amount of \$307,098.05 and 2/12/2021 in the amount of \$289,268.78, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Ms. Wolff advised of the need for a Then and Now Certificate in the amount of \$265,932.52.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-05 authorizing the Township Fiscal Officer to issue and certify a Then and Now Certificate for payment of various expenditures, totaling \$265,932.52 and declaring an emergency, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of a request to accept a list of Miami Township Citizens Police Academy graduates as volunteers: Carol Langdon, Joyce Winrod, Christian Bisogni, Megan Gayer, David Howdyshell, Michael Lyrenmann, Heather Krenwinkel, Nitamire Azman, Jeff Ruhlman, Thomas Langdon, and John Ringhofer.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the listed Miami Township Citizen Police Academy graduates as Miami Township Volunteers, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of the recommendation for the Board to accept the resignation of part-time Maintenance Worker Gage Petit, effective February 15, 2021. He shared that Mr. Petit did receive an offer for a full-time position from another township in Warren County.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to accept the resignation of part-time Maintenance Worker Gage Pettit effective February 15, 2021, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of the request that the Board accept the termination of Jason Geros retroactively to January 28, 2021.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the resignation of part-time Maintenance Worker Jason Geros, effective January 28, 2021, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that Parks Supervisor Brad Roettele who was promoted last August has very successfully completed the required six month probationary period. He informed the Board that he and Mr. Musselman are in agreement that he be removed from probationary

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status, effective February 1, 2021, and to apply the 2% wage increase for non-union employees for a new hourly rate of \$34.18.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to release Parks Supervisor Brad Roettele from probationary status retroactively effective February 1, 2021 with an adjusted hourly rate of \$34.18, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that as discussed at the February work session, minor modification to the office and sleeping quarters at Station 28 was presented by Chief Kelly. He noted the station is one of the original facilities that is now over 30 years old and that it has been over 15 years since any work has been performed in the combination workspace utilized 24 hours per day. He stated the first component would be to install new carpeting due to its age. Bids were sought and a low bid of \$3,200 from Dalton GA Flooring was received. The second component is a request to purchase new furniture in the workspace portion which would include dividers to allow for greater separation for workers which was brought to light during the pandemic. This cost would be \$5,651.48 from the Office Furniture Source. Both components would be serving the dual purpose space for many years.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to purchase and install new carpet at Station 28 for a cost not to exceed \$3,200 from Dalton GA Flooring and purchase workspace furniture, including dividers, from the Office Furniture Source at a cost not to exceed \$5,651.48, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that as discussed at the February work session, there are two travel request items from the Police Department that are scheduled to occur in July. The first item is for two female police officers to attend CALEA's National Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He stated that due to the proximity the officers would be able to ride together in a staff vehicle and room together to save on cost. The training is scheduled for July 14-17, 2021 and the total cost for both is \$3,155.

The Board discussed travel during the pandemic and whether employees would be vaccinated prior to travel. Chief Mills added there will be cancellation options if needed and impressed upon the in-person conference option being of the utmost benefit for employees new to CALEA management. It was also noted that the status of the pandemic would be weighed, and cancellation of the in-person attendance exercised if necessary.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the out of township travel to send Officers Wahlert and Miller to attend the CALEA Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina July 14-17, 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$3,155, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised the second travel request was for school resource officers to attend the NASRO National School Safety Conference which is attended every other year. Officer Brashear serves at Live Oaks Campus, Officer Benhase is staffed at the Milford Junior High School and Officer Ball serves at the Milford Senior High School. The three officers would go July 11-16, 2021 to the conference held in Orlando for a total cost of \$1,453.20 each for the fees, food, lodging and travel. He noted room sharing would help reduce the expense.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to approve the out of township travel to send Officers Brashear, Benhase and Ball to attend the NASRO National School Safety Conference in Orlando, Florida from July 11, 2021 to July 16, 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$1,454 each, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of a replacement mower for the parks that was anticipated and included in the 2021 Budget. He stated the purpose was to replace a 72" zero turn mower as it is inefficient for the park areas and a proposal to replace it with a new 60" zero turn mower. He noted the existing mower to be replaced is ten years old. Two quotes were received with the lower being from Zimmer Tractor which would include a trade-in of the existing mower for approximately

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half of the purchase price. The net cost from Zimmer Tractor for the new mower would be \$6,673.22.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to purchase a 60" Kubota mower from Zimmer Tractor for a cost not to exceed \$6,673.22, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that as discussed at the February work session, it is common for jurisdictions of the Township's size to have professional services contracted for legislative advocacy and we have been doing this practice since 2017. He stated it is commonly done to have an amplified voice in state and federal legislation, including grant requests. He noted several changes have occurred at the state and federal level. He stated the recommendation is to work with a different firm at this time. He stated that Mr. Chip Gerhardt of Government Strategies Group has submitted a proposal for the Board to consider. The request is to begin services March 1, 2021 through the end of the year at a monthly cost of \$2,000.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to engage in month-to-month services with Government Strategies Group at a cost of \$2,000 per month, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that as anticipated in the 2021 Budget and discussed at the February work session, there is a need to purchase 33 5-gallon containers of replacement foam for the Fire & EMS Department. The foam is utilized within the hose lines and carried on each of the vehicles. He noted that the foam has uses that are better, safer and more effective than using water in various applications. He shared that the firefighting industry also learned there are serious concerns with harmful chemicals in the types of foam from previous years. The total expense for this allotment of foam would be \$4,102.25 with Atlantic Emergency Solutions.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to purchase 33 5-gallon containers of Firebull A/B firefighting foam through Atlantic Emergency Solutions at a cost of \$4,102.25, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that over the past two years the Board of County Commissioners and Miami Township as well as a majority of other townships and municipalities in Clermont County passed resolutions that would modify the method of how Local Government Fund (LGF) monies are portioned in the County. He stated that LGF is received from the State of Ohio and the state determines the amount counties receive. He stated that the counties do have the ability to have a unique formula that is most fair within the county.

Mr. Wright stated that the modified formula has been phased in over the past two years. After the county receives approximately 49%, the remaining is portioned at 25% to be distributed equally among the townships and municipalities and 75% is distributed on a per capita basis utilizing census data.

Mr. Wright advised there is a requirement to have a resolution to the County by August 2nd to meet the deadline. He stated it is in the best interest of the Miami Township residents to have this resolution adopted again and it is far more equitable to all residents throughout Clermont County.

Ms. Wolff discussed an effort toward a 50/50 split being pursued by some communities. Mr. Ferry stated that it was village mayors. Mr. Schultz added that this is being discussed at CLOUT meetings and shared some counties are really struggling with it. He stated Miami Township has taken a leadership role in this along with the Ohio Township Association.

Discussion continued related to the differing initiatives and how the proposed formula in the resolution was part of a phased-in process over three years to provide ample time for communities to adjust financially in the effort to create a more equitable formula for taxpayers. It was noted that in the 50/50 formula, Miami Township would lose \$58,000 annually over the current proposed formula which would be more than any other entity being negatively impacted. The voting process for the LGF apportionment was also discussed. The Board

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members each expressed their continued support for the LGF formula being based on a per capita basis as proposed.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 authorizing adoption of an alternative method of apportionment of the undivided local government fund for calendar year 2022 that per Ohio Revised Code Section 5747.53 excludes the approval otherwise required of the legislative authority of the city, located wholly or partially in the county, with the greatest population, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised of four items in the Fire Department proposed for surplus property disposal as they are longer of service or value to the Township. A resolution to allow those items to be placed on the online auction site and if unsold items remain, they will be disposed of properly.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-07 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 as listed on Exhibit A, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that it was very exciting to share the low bid received for pavement resurfacing in 2021 that was below the engineer's estimate. It is being recommended that the base and alternates be awarded to JR Jergenson for a total cost of \$2,314,747.76. He stated the reclamite would be performed later this year. He stated the Township would be paving a new record of 15 miles this year. He expressed appreciation to the voters for passing the street levy and stated the road funding also improved with the increase by the State of Ohio to the gasoline tax. He recalled that about four years ago the Township average 3.5-4 miles of resurfacing annually.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the bid from JR Jergenson to perform the 2021 Pavement Resurfacing Plan at a cost of \$2,314,747.76, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that the Station 27 Sanitary Sewer Project would be to allow staff to engage engineering services to design a sanitary sewer extension from the current Jackson Woods subdivision on Branch Hill to Fire Station 27. He stated there is no sanitary sewer in close proximity and shared there have been a variety of on-site septic systems. He stated in 1990 when the station had less occupants as a volunteer operation this was amenable, but now that it is a 24-hour operation the water utility load has increased significantly. He informed the Board the existing septic system on site has passed its useful life. He explained that if the Township were to replace the existing septic system with a new septic system, the time period has exhausted for grandfathering, so there would not be an ability to expand the system in response to increased manpower or building expansion.

Mr. Wright advised that he and Chief Kelly have held meetings with Kleingers engineers which is a company the Township has utilized in the past. He stated they would like to award a contract not to exceed \$35,000 to begin the survey work. He stated Kleingers would coordinate with the Clermont County Water Resources Department and design the complete construction drawings. He stated the Township is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County Water Resources. He noted that this project would be similar to the sanitary sewer extension in Miamiville. He stated the County would award the contract and through the MOU to facilitate the reimbursement to the County for the costs of the project.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to authorize a contract with Kleingers Group to perform surveying and engineering design services related to the sanitary sewer extension project for Station 27 for an amount not to exceed \$35,000, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that the projects discussed this evening would necessitate an action to supplement appropriations in 2021. He stated that the road related funds would allow for as

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many roads to be paved as possible and there is sufficient funds from the prior year for a total of \$290,000 from the Gas Tax Fund and the Road & Bridge Levy Fund. He stated the other item would be to utilize the UDF/Branch Hill TIF as it is located within a half mile of Station 27 so it can be appropriately utilized for the infrastructure improvements related to the sanitary sewer in the amount of \$35,000.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-08 a Resolution to Amend Appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of Miami Township, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

Mr. Wright advised that Mr. Elliff has a need to ask the Board to select a date in early March for a special trustee meeting for the purpose of hearing zoning Case #576. He stated the request to come before the Board is to revise an existing PUD on the David Todd property on Todd Farm Lane. He recalled that many years ago there was an approval to allow a few hundred apartments be developed on the property and a new developer would like to modify the PUD to allow for some apartments to be constructed and the balance of the property to be large lot single family homes. The Zoning Commission has heard the case and recommended approval. The next step is for the Board to hold a public hearing. The recommended date from Mr. Elliff is March 11, 2021 at 7 p.m. and if that date is unavailable the Board can hear the case no later than March 15.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to set a virtual special Board of Trustees meeting for Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to hear zoning case #576 and any other business that may come before the Board, seconded by Mr. Schultz with all voting "AYE".

Public Comment: None.

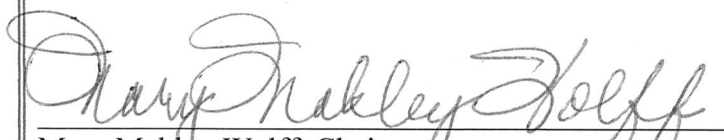
Executive Session: Mr. Schultz made a motion to consider confidential information related to the specific business strategy of an applicant for economic development assistance that is necessary to protect the interest of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(8) of the Ohio Revised Code, seconded by Mr. Tracy with all voting "AYE".

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

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

ATTEST:


Eric C. Ferry, Fiscal Officer


Mary Makley Wolff, Chairperson