

Huntington Township Regular Meeting January 9, 2024

Fiscal Officer Robin Snyder called the January 9, 2024, re-organization meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Township Fire House.

Roll Call:	Gary Hopkins	Present
	John Cottrill	Present
	Larry Kellough	Absent

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to elect John Cottrill as President for 2024.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to elect Gary Hopkins as Vice President for 2024.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill to appoint Larry Kellough as Road Crew Supervisor for 2024.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to set the 2024 Board meetings for the second Tuesday of each month at the Fire House at 6:00 PM.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to approve the Annual Permanent Appropriations for 2024 of \$1,326,961.98 leaving \$19,961.02 unappropriated across all funds.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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FO Snyder shared that the 2024 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources is \$1,346,923: \$86,940.94 is carry-over fund balances from 2023 and \$1,261,267.47 represents the new resources expected in 2023. The does include the replacement of the 2 mill levy.

REGULAR MEETING

FO Snyder requested that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:20PM.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins, to move to execute session to discuss personnel issues.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:30PM, and Snyder took roll call:

Roll Call:	Gary Hopkins	Present
	John Cottrill	Present

President John Cottrill requested that the everyone at the meeting stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This will be a permanent change at the Board Meetings.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the December 2023 meeting minutes.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve payment of the December 2023 bills.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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Guest: Brett Clark, asked the Board how they planned to handle the erosion issue he is experiencing on his road. Hopkins explained that all 3 trustees and our Road Crew visited the location to review and discuss how to handle the erosion. At this time the Board is not certain what to do, and have invited the Ross County Engineer to give input. He stated that it is certainly a summer project. Mr. Clark then gave a few of his own ideas of what could be done to correct the erosion.

Guest: Jason Link, introduced himself as a candidate for the Ross County Board of Commissioners. Stated he was from the Unioto school district. He feels that county is not doing enough to help the townships in Ross County. Stated that he is a financial guy. He then discussed the seats that were available at the March primary. Dwight is retiring.

Fire Department Business – Assistant Fire Chief Larry Cuckler

1. Asked the Board to approve the resignation of Logan Warren and Kevin Fausnaugh, Jr from their full-time positions with the Fire Department. Kevin wishes to remain part of the part-time crew. Effective 1.7.2024.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the resignations of both Fausnaugh and Warren, while keeping Fausnaugh on the part-time crew.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

2. Presented two full-time candidates to the Board and recommended that the Board hire Austin DePugh (FF1-EMT-B) and Ian Hardin (FF1/EMT-A) to the full-time crew effective immediately. DePugh will make \$13.21/hr and Hardin will make \$13.78/hr.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to hire DePugh and Hardin as discussed above.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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3. Asked the Board to terminate the part-time employment of Cheyenne Kuhn effective immediately. She has not scheduled a shift per the FD SOP.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to terminate C Kuhn immediately.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

4. Asked the Board to approve six (6) purchase requisitions. As follows:

1) Buckeye Apparatus	\$620.35	Electrical issues with #902 the fire engine
2) Cutrights TM	\$284	Fix old squad sway bars
3) O'Reilly's	\$95	oil dry
4) Mark Porter	\$433.28	916 maintenance
5) Amazon VCNB	\$116.38	batteries
6) Xxx	\$283	electric parts for brush truck

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve all 6 purchase requisitions.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

5. Discussed the 2024 MARCS grant for \$7800. It will be used to purchase two mobile radios.
6. The tanker truck had a fire underneath. All American Fire will do the repairs, and an insurance claim was submitted. The claim payment from OTARMA will be \$4,142.69 after the \$1000 deductible. The towing bills were submitted, as well as a fee from Buckeye Apparatus.
7. The Board discussed the Assistance to Fire Fighters grant that was awarded to purchase new extrication rescue tools. (AMKUS) The total cost is \$82,250 of which 5% of that is the Township's share. An additional \$29,100 was spent on additional items outside the grant. The old tools were traded in for \$10,000.

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Fiscal Officer Business – Snyder

8. **Snyder** shared that it was very likely the Township would need an advance on the 1st half property taxes, and requested that the Board approve the advance request, and for Snyder to prepare the necessary letter for Auditor Jeff Lehner. She felt that the advance could be received the 3rd week of February, well ahead of the usual time in March when the receipts were paid to the townships.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to request an advance on the 1st half property tax receipts. Snyder to contact the County Auditor and prepare the necessary letter.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

9. **Snyder** asked the Board to approve an advance of \$15,000 from the General Fund to the Fire Fund effective immediately.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to advance \$15,000 from the General Fund to the Fire Fund, to be repaid once the 1st half taxes are received.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

10. **Snyder** made the Board aware of the Ross County Land Bank. Abandoned properties can be suggested to the Bank to consider for demolition. Snyder has already requested that the Land Bank look into a property on Windy Ridge Road and one on St Rt 772.

Road and Board Business

11. **Social Media Policy** – Prosecutor Marks has the drafted policy, and stated that it is not robust enough. He asked that the Board table it until the February meeting.
12. **Cottrill** discussed the OTA Winter Conference from 2/7 – 2/9. He plans for himself and Nick Haines to attend. There is a pre-registration fee. Snyder shared that the Twp would cover the cost of the hotel and meals.

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- 13. **Floral Hills.** Cottrill provided a brief update. He stated that Huntington Twp will get this cemetery. More activity is scheduled at the Court at the end of January.

- 14. **Pick up truck** being sold by the school. Hopkins discussed this truck, and the Board’s desire to obtain the truck for the Road Crew. The school had tried to sell it for \$5,000 but no one was interested. It does have a plow attached. There is a Board meeting tonight where it will be discussed, but the Twp would like to get it for free.

- 15. **Cottrill** discussed the annual OTARMA annual grants. The Twp grant will be used for a weed-eater and tiller for the cemetery. The FD will use their’s for flashlights and back up cameras.

- 16. Brief mention was made of the **SAFER Grant**, and the need to identify candidates for the 3 full-time positions.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Member

Fiscal Officer