

# Huntington Township Regular Meeting December 17, 2024

President John Cottrill called the December 17th, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Fire House.

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

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough to approve the November Regular meeting Minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Garry Hopkins	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the November Special Meeting minutes.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve the payment of November bills.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 6:03 PM

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to resume the meeting from executive session at 6:24 PM.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Keith Washburn then discussed the union contract between the Fire Department and the Township, going through the various clauses including progressive discipline, wages, uniforms, health insurance reimbursement, holidays, vacation, jury duty, and leaves.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the union contract between the Fire Department and the Township.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Fiscal Officer Nick Haines mentioned that the board had to do a final approval of the budget, and proceed to talk about some of the 2025 budget highlights.

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the 2025 budget.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to give the Road Crew a 3% raise for 2025 (FD got a 3% raise in the union contract).

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

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**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to remove the following paid holidays – Easter, Columbus Day, and Christmas Eve.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

President John Cottrill had brought a list of potential budget cuts and mentioned that we can't spend more money than we make, and that tough decisions need to be made; he continued to discuss the potential selling of some equipment. Nick Haines had brought some of his own proposals for budget cuts, with the biggest impactor being payroll related, and gave dollar figures behind the proposed cuts. Cottrill next stated that we need to cut all mandated overtime. Fire Chief Larry Cuckler brought some of his own proposals for budget cuts and discussed them as well. FF Austin Depugh explained as it is now, vacation and sick time is all approved well in advance, and further states that 7 of our firefighters have said that they will quit tonight if the board cuts down to 2-man crews. Cottrill further states that we don't want to compromise safety, and talks about turning off lights that aren't being used.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to increase the Road Crew health insurance reimbursement from \$550 a month to \$750 for 2025 (FD got the same in the union contract).

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to increase the boot allowance for part time employees to \$125 a year, and full time employees to \$200.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

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**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to send a letter to Franklin Twp that we will no longer provide EMS services in their Twp beginning Jan 1, 2025 (will still cover crashes on some parts of 23, and the end of Blain Hwy).

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Tensions were already escalated from the talks of budget cuts, and a verbal conflict arose between some of the Trustee's and residents; the board then decided to adjourn and continue the meeting on another date.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough to adjourn the meeting and reschedule for another date.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Garry Hopkins	Yes

President John Cottrill called the December 23th, 2024, continued meeting to order at 6:02 PM at the Fire House.

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

Cottrill began the continued meeting by apologizing for letting his emotions get the best of him at the last meeting, and says that he'll be reading off the rules of order at the beginning of each meeting for now on.

Cuckler then discussed the Marks radio grant the Township received.

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**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to use Comm One Communications for the Marks radio grant.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Cuckler then presents the board with several purchase requisitions including ones from Lowes, Mark Porter Ford, Penwell's, and Buckeye Apparatus.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the req's presented by Cuckler for a total of \$1,262.48

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

The board next was presented with the full time resignation from Austin Depugh, as he has gotten a job at the VA FD.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to accept the resignation of Austin Depugh from the full time crew.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to move Austin Depugh from the full time to part time crew.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

In reference to cutting down to two man staffing, Cottrill mentions that the more we thought about it, the worse it got.

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**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to cover crashes on 23 (Franklin portion) between Three Locks and Blain Hwy on 23.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to cut FD part time hours to 60 hours a week, always maintaining at least a 2-man crew, also to sell the brush truck, and continue in the cost savings program (following the budget/spending cuts discussed).

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to go into executive session at 6:59 PM for personnel matters.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to resume the meeting at 7:11 PM.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to extend Chief Cuckler's contract for another year.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Cottrill next discusses the OTA Winter Conference, and talks about all of the information he got at it last year.

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**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to send John to the OTA Winter Conference.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to distribute the Floral Hills claims out of the Pre-Need fund, with a current total of over \$70,000.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to set the 2025 Re-Organization meeting of Tuesday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Cuckler mentioned that with Austin Depugh moving to another department, we will need to start seeking applicants to fill his position.

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to have the Fire Department start seeking applicants to fill Austin Depugh's position.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

FO Haines then went over all of the reallocations he had made since the November Regular meeting.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the reallocations made by Haines.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

ATTESTED:

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President

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Vice President

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Trustee

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Fiscal Officer