

HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

President Gary Hopkins called the February 8, 2022 meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. at the Fire House.

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

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the January 2022 Reorganization and Regular meeting minutes.

Vote: John Cottrill Yes
Gary Hopkins Yes
Larry Kellough Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve payment of January 2022 bills.

Vote: Gary Hopkins Present
Larry Kellough Present
John Cottrill Present

GUEST: Larry Cuckler, Fire Chief, approached the Board to ask for approval of five (5) purchase requisitions, as follows:

#1 Eastern Ave Lumber	\$538	Skid of salt
#2 Buckeye Apparatus	\$752.95	Repair 2 valves on 901, air chuck on 902
#3 Albright Saw Co	\$65.70	Chainsaw repair
#4 Lowes	\$240	2 boxes of trash bags and 2 DeWalt batteries
#5 VCNB Cr Card	\$860	3 small locking refrigerators to store drugs; 2 on squads and one for locked storage

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to approve the five(5) purchase requisitions as requested by Chief Cuckler.

Vote: Gary Hopkins Yes
John Cottrill Yes
Larry Kellough Yes

➤ Cuckler asked the Board to accept the resignation of Isaac Fullerton from the part-time crew effective 2.15.2022.

Motion by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill, to approve the Fullerton's resignation.

Vote: Larry Kellough Yes
John Cottrill Yes
Gary Hopkins Yes

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- Cuckler asked the Board to hire a new applicant to the paid, part-time crew: Jace Foster at \$9.65/hr. He is a FFV only, and currently runs with Piketon. Also, to rehire Greg Campbell to the paid, part-time crew at \$9.65/hr. Campbell is a FF1 at this time, but testing for EMTB.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to hire Foster and rehire Campbell as discussed above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

The Board and Fire Chief discussed staffing at the Firehouse. The SAFER grant Friday, February 4th. We applied for 3 more full-time people. The Chief advocated for the Township to retain a labor attorney, stating that he was not comfortable with managing 6 full-time people. In particular, a concern was expressed about the number of hours in a row a person could be required legally to work. The example given was that a full-time person had to work 60 hours straight. The legality of that was questioned. Cuckler recommended Zashin & Rich, and a firm that he spoke to last summer – NPK&H attorneys at law. He passed out information on both law firms to the Board. The FD has questioned FO Snyder several times over the years regarding the 1540 hour rule for part-time employees. Cuckler concurred after consultation with others that the opinion provide by Ross County Prosecutor Jeff Marks was accurate regarding the 1540 hour rule.

The Board and Fire Chief extensively discussed the levies other townships are placing before their voters in order to provide more staffing for EMS services. Twin Twp has a 3 mill levy, for example. If that levy passes, it is felt that the candidate pool for EMT employees will not be enough causing us all to struggle to staff at appropriate levels. Several members expressed the future need to break the county up into areas for EMS services.

FO Snyder explained to the Board that the Township has been paying for double cell services for the 2 lifepaks for almost two years. Styker provided a plan with Verizon two years ago, while the Township has always had coverage with Sprint. Snyder became aware of this situation last month, and called to cancel the Sprint cell service for the lifepaks. Sprint agreed to reimburse two months' worth of that coverage, or \$49.94. Snyder and Cuckler then discussed the two hot spots, with Cuckler stating that we no longer use them. We have been paying \$30 per hot spot unnecessarily. Snyder expressed frustration with the lack of communication and will call Sprint to cancel the service, thereby closing the account. Cuckler said that they would activate the Cradle Point system that Ford offers on the squads. He did not state if there was a cost associated with that decision.

The Board discussed the Paid Holiday schedule. At last month's meeting frustration was expressed with the way the schedule worked out for New Year's Eve and New Year's. The way it fell the crew was off Friday and Monday. Trustee Kellough brought up the idea of requiring the Road Crew employees – both full and part time – to rotate being on call Saturdays and Sundays. The Trustees will communicate this information to the Road Crew and will jointly design a schedule.

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Motion by Larry Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins to require the Road Crew to rotate being on call for Saturdays and Sundays beginning immediately.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

FO Snyder asked how the new 8 to noon, then 12:30 – 4:30 work schedule was going. Trustee Kellough stated that it had just started this week, and was received well.

FO Snyder reviewed the 2022 mowing bid for the cemeteries and the fire station with the Board. Trustee Cottrill will be in charge of advertising and securing bids. A few changes were made to the bid specifications; therefore, Snyder will update and leave new forms at the garage. She will also ask that it be uploaded to our website.

➤ **FO Snyder presented the need to advance funds immediately to the Fire Fund from the General Fund in order to meet the most recent payroll expense.** She recommended an advance of \$5,000 that would be repaid once real estate tax revenues were received in March.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill, to advance \$5,000 from the general fund to the fire fund.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

➤ **FO Snyder presented the need to request an advance on the first half property tax receipts from the Ross County Auditor.** The advance would be available the Friday after the taxes are due on February 11, 2022. She will create a letter to go to the Ross County Auditor and will attach a copy of these minutes.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough, to request an advance from the Ross County Auditor from the first half real estate tax revenues.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

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- **The Board had additional discussions regarding the Stryker invoices totaling \$42,000 from March 2020 for the lift cot and installation on the older squad.** FO Snyder will first ask the Ohio Grants team if the ARP Funds could be used to pay these old invoices. If that is not an option, then Snyder has lined up a loan with Vinton County National Bank. The loan would be for \$42,000 over four years, eight payments, at around 2.5%.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough, to approve a loan with Vinton County National Bank of \$42,000 over 4 years, 8 payments, around 2.5% interest to pay the Stryker invoices from March 2020 for the lift cot that was installed on the older squad.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

The trustees discussed resuming the plowing of the drive and surrounding lot of the Fire House. Trustee Hopkins explained that the Road crew used to do the plowing, but stopped a number of years ago. The Road crew will resume plowing and putting down grit immediately. Currently Tristen Carter has plowed free of charge. We will look at obtaining salt from the County and keeping it at the garage.

FO Snyder shared with the Board what was discussed in the Ohio Grant Management meeting regarding the Final Rule for the use of American Rescue plan funding. For everyone that received less than \$10,000,000 all funding may be treated as Revenue Loss and used in the same manner as general government expenses. This is just amazing and we are very grateful. Of the original grant funding, the Township's fund has a balance of \$264,481.70. Trustee Kellough asked that we spend it all paving three township roads: Chester Hill at 2.15 miles for \$108,958.50; Hartwood Road with 1.4 miles for \$72,639; and Liberty Hill Road with 1.7 miles for \$88,204.50. Totals \$269,802 which is more than we have available. That is \$53,000 a mile for 1 ½ inch of paving and 16' wide through the county. Due to going with a government bid there would be no need to bid it out. Trustee Kellough shared that 20/20 would charge \$85,000 a mile for paving. Snyder reminded the Board of the need to update our fuel/gas/diesel pumps which are out of compliance. That expected cost is \$10,000. Snyder also reminded the Board of the commitment they made for premium pay over the next 4 years.

Motion by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill to use ARPF to pave Chester Hill Road and Liberty Hill Road totaling \$197,163. In addition, they will begin repairing the gas/fuel/diesel pumps at the Garage and Fire House.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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Trustee Cottrill discussed the David Mead Massie Grant of \$5,000 and that the application was ready for submission. He asked the Board to approve the application, which requires no matching funds and would be used our cemeteries.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins, to submit for the \$5,000 grant from David Mead Massie.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

The Board discussed difficulties experienced with the operation of both new Ford dump trucks. The 2021 truck has \$5,000 miles, but the warranty may be voided due to repair work we had done on the vehicle. Now need a \$1200 drive shaft. The 2019 Ford has pump problems, and that warranty may also be void. Trustee Kellough called Union Township to see if they are having similar difficulties with their Ford trucks which are similar to ours. They stated they are not. He also talked to Twin Township. The utilize a slide-in salt box that would be very useful for us to have installed on the dump trucks. Ace has last year model salt boxes for \$7200 that would protect the beds of our trucks. One is electric and one is hydraulic. Kellough recommended that we buy one of each to see which works best. It is his expectation that the stainless steel would be best.

Motion by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill to purchase and install both types of salt boxes for our dump trucks.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

General items under discussion:

- January 2022 Run Statistics: 80 calls of which 72 were EMS and we answered all of them. 8 were fire-related. We gave 24 mutual aids and received 0.
- Chief Cuckler said that we applied for and were awarded a \$5,000 grant from South Central Power for chainsaws. The grant is for the period 1.26.22 – 1.26.23.
- The Board discussed with Chief Cuckler expired drugs and how that effort was managed. Cuckler explained that we do have an inventory management program where expired drugs are dumped into a special container. He explained the documentation required for when the drugs are disposed, when the inventory was shipped, received, and used.
- The trustees stated that Terry Wilt is scheduled for surgery on this knee 2/23, then will be off work 6 to 8 weeks. We need him to be at 100%.

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- FO Snyder presented the 2022 ODOT Township Highway System Mileage Certification at 47.105 miles and secured the signature of each trustee. Snyder will mail that the Deric Cox of the Ross County Engineer's office.
- FO Snyder passed out the letter that will be mailed to local funeral homes regarding the increase in cemetery fees effective 4.1.2022.
- Trustee Cottrill asked FO Snyder to work with the Treasurer Becky Peeden of Huntington Schools to apply for a grant as a joint venture between HLSD and the Board of Trustees for a new bus and vehicle garage that would service both the township and the school. Snyder said that she would.
- Firefighter Nate Cuckler expressed concern about premium pay, and the impact it has on their overall income and applying for assistance on health insurance etc. He asked when the next payment would be targeted given that the trustees had just approved appropriating most of the remaining funds. FO Snyder stated that it would be the 4th quarter of the year, but that she would provide an estimate of the next premium pay.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Member

Fiscal Officer