

Huntington Township Regular Meeting

March 12, 2024

President John Cottrill called the March 12, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00PM at the Fire House.

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

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve the February 13, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the February 24, 2024, Special Meeting minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve payment of the February 2024 bills.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to appoint Larry Cuckler as fire Chief. Mr. Cottrill said the board had looked at others for this position, but felt that Mr. Cuckler had the experience and qualifications we needed. The appointment is through December 21, 2024; and he will be paid \$750 a month.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Guests

Resident Mr. Chrissman

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Fire Department Business – Chief Larry Cuckler

- 1) Oyer asked the Board to approve the resignation of Tyler Wessel from the part-time paid crew

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the resignation of Tyler Wessel from the paid part-time crew.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 2) Oyer asked the Board to hire Michael Grooms as a member of the paid part-time crew. His certifications are FF2/EMT-B, and he is enrolled in an EMT-Advanced class now. Cottrill stated that Grooms called him about coming back. Said we did not need a quitter, but retention. Grooms gave assurance as such. Oyer does recommend bringing him back.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to rehire Michael Grooms to the paid part-time crew at the fire department at a rate of pay of \$12.63 an hour.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

- 3) Oyer asked the Board to hire Krystyna Davis as a member of the paid part-time crew. Her certifications are FFV/EMT-B. She was on the volunteer crew, uncarded.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to hire Krystyna Davis to the paid part-time crew at the fire department at a rate of pay of \$12.06 an hour.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 4) Oyer asked the Board to approve 3 purchase requisitions as follows:

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- a. Ohio Health \$2160 Medical Director for this year
- b. Pike County CTC \$575 Everett Cox firefighter training
- c. Ohio Firefighters Grant Mgmt \$975 2023 AFG Grant management

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve all three (3) purchase requisitions.

Vote: Gary Hopkins Yes
 John Cottrill Yes
 Larry Kellough Yes

- 5) Oyer discussed minimum staffing at the fire house, sharing that currently the minimum staffing is 1 FF/EMT, but that we should require 2 FF/EMT at all time. Historically we have permitted the #2 person to be an EMT, or an FF only. Single carded. But now we need two who are dual carded. Stated it was not a financial issue, but a scheduling issues.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the change in minimum staffing to 2 dual carded employees.

Vote: Gary Hopkins Yes
 John Cottrill Yes
 Larry Kellough Yes

- 6) Cottrill then brought up the situation with Nate Cuckler, who did not use his vacation time within the 2023 year, or request a pay-out of excess vacation. As a result, he lost the vacation time when the new year began above the 48 hours permitted to carry into the new year. Snyder expressed that the employee needs to be responsible for their own vacation time, and that it is not up to her to remind employees to take their vacation time. They have all received the policy, their supervisors have that policy, and that should be enough. She said it is a matter of responsibility, the policy does not need updated, but if the Board wished to pay Cuckler the forfeited time, she would go along with hat decision.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to pay Nate Cuckler the vacation time that had been written off above 48 hours for 2023.

Vote: John Cottrill Yes
 Gary Hopkins Yes
 Larry Kellough Yes

- 7) Oyer shared the run stats for January: 67 Total of which 56 were EMS, and 11 were Fire. We gave mutual aid 11 times, received it 7 times, and had 2 runs into Twin Twp.

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Trustee Business

- 1) Trustee Cottrill brought up the Social Media Policy, sharing that the Prosecutor had created a new one that was not fully applicable. And much larger! It will be tabled again until the Board has time to review the policy and perhaps change it to better fit our Twp.
- 2) Cottrill stated that while the cemetery work was less than the required amount where bids are required, but that he felt we should still bid it out. He asked that we require references. Snyder will update the bid packets, post it to the website, and provide some copies to the trustees at the Garage.
- 3) The Board discussed cannabis law implications for the Twp. It could be a new revenue stream since it would be taxed. Cottrill shared that he learned a lot about it at the OTA conference in February. The Board is not ready to act upon this topic yet.
- 4) Discussion turned to the culverts on Beatty Road. Trustees said that they consulted with the Ross County Engineer's office. We will not get out of the right-a-way to fix the issues, but if it does wash into the right-a-way, then we will take care of what happens on our right-a-way.
- 5) The Board then discussed the road paving program for 2024. They could go with the Ross County Engineer's bid, or bid it out on their own. Paul Cottrill of the county said it would be \$7.25/yard, whereas Jamie of SE Construction suggested a price of \$6.75/yard. The Board will no longer chip/seal Twp roads, choosing instead to pave the roads. This will be of better quality and will last longer.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to not go with the County bid, but to bid it out ourselves. The bids will be created in March.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

At this point, John Cottrill requested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss fire department personnel issues.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to move to Executive Session at 6:45 PM.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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Larry Kellough Yes

The Board returned at 7:11 PM, and Snyder gave roll call.

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

- 6) Cottrill stated that he had obtained a title for the truck received from Huntington Schools Local School Board. Snyder will apply for the gratis tags. The truck is in process of being painted.

Fiscal Officer Business

- 1) Snyder informed the Board that the Twin Twp agreement will expire 2.29.2024. She contacted their fiscal officer, Bill Jones, who stated that their trustee Mike Darbyshire was working on a new agreement.
- 2) Snyder shared that the Twp no longer had a life insurance policy on the full-time employees and elected officials. She asked OTARMA for a quote on a new policy, and shared that quote. **Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough to apply for life insurance with OTARMA as laid out by Snyder. She will provide each person with an application that needs completed.

Vote: John Cottrill Yes
 Larry Kellough Yes
 Gary Hopkins Yes

- 3) Snyder presented the 2023 ODOT Twp Highway System Mileage Certification of 46.614 miles, the same as 2022.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Vote: Gary Hopkins Yes
 Larry Kellough Yes
 John Cottrill Yes

ATTESTED:

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President

Vice President

Trustee

Fiscal Officer