

HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2022

President Gary Hopkins called the March 8, 2022 meeting to order at 5:32 P.M. at the Fire House.

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

**Motion** by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill to approve the February 2022 regular meeting minutes.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve payment of February 2022 bills.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

**GUEST: Lloyd Zubrick** appeared before the Board to discuss a program called Released Time Program and to ask for use of the meeting room at the Fire House one day a week for a few hours. Parents' consent for their children to be released from school for 50 minutes for a Bible Instruction class. Transportation has in place already, but the program needs somewhere very close to the school to meet. It will begin with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, possibly up to 20 students and instructors total. The program is over 100 years old, with the largest program in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Pastor Rick Hartley of Mt Tabor Community Church attended with Mr. Zubrick.

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to permit the program to utilize the meeting room at the Fire House free of charge as discussed above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

**GUEST: Jack Everson** appeared before the Board to as a candidate for Ross County Commissioner. He is seeking the position currently held by Doug Corcoran. He spoke to his history as the mayor of Chillicothe, and the financial recovery as well as discipline her brought to the city. He stated that he has the skills needed to assist residents of Ross County and would like to see a 15 year beautification program at the county level similar to what the City is doing. He also made reference to the World Heritage designation being sought and believes it is important that our county has its best foot forward.

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

#1 Ohio Health	\$2,160/year	Medical director for the Fire Department
#2 Jason Corwin	\$1,331.60	Reimbursement for computer eqt purchased with the ODNR grant awarded to the Township
#3 Albright Saw Co	\$1,182.00	Service 2/year for breathing air compressor
#4 Sam's Club	\$250	Cleaning supplies for FD
#5 Pickaway Ross JVSD	\$1600	FF2 and FF instructor training classes. Reimbursed by training grant

**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 approve termination of Scott Perkins and Rob Grooms from the paid part-time crew for failure to remain active and on the schedule with the Fire Department.

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill, to approve the terminations of Scott Perkins and Rob Grooms.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

➤ FO Snyder asked the Board to approve the following certifications/appropriations:

1. Federal Funds – ARPF
  - a. Please certify \$1,302.66 into 2273.511.0000 Federal Funds
  - b. Appropriate \$1302.66 into 2273.290.420 – Operating Supplies
2. Fire Fund
  - a. Please certify \$1,933 into 2111.892.0000 Other Misc Non-Operating
  - b. Please certify \$1,933 into 2111.220.318 Training Services

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough to approve the certifications and appropriations as discussed above.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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**The Board discussed several items:**

Update on the fueling station. Trustee Cottrill is meeting with Wilbe Nelson Wednesday 3/9 at 10:00AM about moving the pumps at both the garage and the fire house as well as repairing the old pumps. Tristen Carter had previously gathered top level pricing of what it would cost to build a new fueling station. One of the decision points is whether to build new vs move the existing. Cottrill reminded the Board of the plan to join with Huntington Schools on a joint garage for large vehicles.

Update on the sewer system at the Fire House. It is leaking perhaps due to broken piping underneath the driveway.

Update on the chip & seal program for 2022. Trustee Kellough stated dissatisfaction with the previous contractor, and stated the intention to gather more bids by reaching out further geographically. Targeting a spend between \$180,000 and \$200,000.

**Gary Hopkins stated that we were** very close to running out of money in the Fire Fund and that it was the responsibility of the Board and the Chief to improve and protect that fund. He reminded the Board that the 2022 budget showed the Fire Fund \$40,000 in the hole. He indicated that there had been discussions regarding four methods to reduce expenses at the Fire Department:

1. Private runs
2. Sell vehicles and/or equipment that is used infrequently.
3. Reduce the number of annual and semi-annual inspections.
4. Do away with the third guy on shift

Chief Cuckler: As a taxpayer in this township he has huge objections. He stated that he lives on Sullivan Road, a county road, and therefore he gets nothing in return for all the property taxes he pays that go to this Township. He said that the Board has the obligation to tell the voters that the emergency services of Huntington Township are in trouble and need more money. He feels that the residents should have input into whether a new levy should be put on the ballot versus reduced coverage at the station.

President Hopkins: He knows that people are frustrated with paying so much in taxes due to our levies, and do not wish to pay anymore.

Cuckler: Talked about waiting 4 hours and the emergency services would not show up to take him to the hospital. He shared about a person on Harris Station Road who was not breathing. He drove the squad so 2 EMTs could work on the patient. They saved his life. Cuckler said that the squeaky wheel always gets the attention.

Hopkins: This is a business, and our 2022 budget is \$40,000 short. We cannot go in the hole unlike the federal government. We must make ends meet.

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Cuckler: Called attention to the 3 Fire & EMS levies, when they were last voted upon, and the vote counts:

1.5 mill permanent levy 502 for and 331 against  
2018 - 2 mill levy > 1,150 for and 498 against  
2019 – 1 mill levy > 466 for and 226 against.

Hopkins: We are a small time operation and don't have the money to run like the city of Chillicothe has for their emergency services.

Cuckler: Stated that if this Board cuts inspections, that was a risk "you won't take with me". Reminded Trustee Cottrill that cutting dollars at the paper mill was about cutting jobs, which then impacted safety. He made a comment about there you are with 4 guys with the Road Crew.

Hopkins: They live within their budget.

Cuckler: You are saying I am the guilty party.

Hopkins: Asking for help for 2 months.

Cuckler: Have the public meeting.

Hopkins: No one would show up.

Cuckler: You want to cut 8 shifts. That 3<sup>rd</sup> person is more than a guy that follows the squad. Shall we call the trustees and road crew when we need help?

Trustee Cottrill: We have fiscal responsibility for this township and to our residents. 4 ½ mills for EMS is a lot for these tax payers. We need to work within that revenue budget.

Cuckler: Regarding the trucks. 2 of the fire trucks were purchased by the ladies' auxiliary. They are 30 years old; 1 fire truck is from 2009. You start cutting out vehicles and peoples homeowners' insurance will "double and triple". You are comparing our inspections to Twin Township. You cannot do that, we have many more runs. He reminded everyone that the City of Chillicothe's Fire Department employee did not inspect their air tanks, looking at Jack Everson and asking him if he remembered because it occurred when he was the mayor. Cuckler said he will not do it, he would resign.

Cottrill: What can we do without? We have \$40,000 that we have to figure out how to cut and what to do without. Everything we have suggested you have said cannot be done. What can be done?

Hopkins: There is a bay full of stuff. We are paying insurance on them.

Cuckler: Each truck has a purpose.

Cottrill: Larry you have done a great job. Stated he had been reading through old minutes and could see all the infighting and struggle at the FD. Said that Cuckler had brought morale around, but now we have to figure out what to do without more taxes.

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Suggestions were made like – physicals. Can we do them somewhere else beside Adena? Seek out small amounts that add up over a year. Consider that fuel is going up, electric will become more expensive. Chillicothe Signs and Screen printing – is it really necessary to buy beanies etc.?

Cuckler: Said that the SAFER grant will become available late Spring or Early Summer and would pay far more this time than last if we were to be awarded. It costs \$400,000 for a new fire truck.

Conclusion: The Board will meet with Chief Cuckler and Asst Chief Tristen Carter on Wednesday February 16 at 6:00PM at the Fire House. Part of that discussion will be if the Township should hold a public meeting in April regarding a \$40,000 shortfall in the emergency services budget.

➤ **FO Snyder asked that the Board approve the return of the \$5,000 advance to the General Fund from the Fire Fund that was processed in February.**

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to advance \$5,000 from the general fund to the fire fund.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

General items under discussion:

- February 2022 Run Statistics: 71 calls of which 61 were EMS and we answered all of them. 10 were fire-related. We gave 12 mutual aids and received 2.
- The Board discussed paving the new cemetery drive. Could use funds from ARPA.
- FO Snyder shared that the Township had received an additional allocation of ARPA of undisbursed funds amounting to \$1,302.66.
- The Board briefly discussed the outstanding cemetery bids. Trustee Cottrill believes that are around 5 people interested. He informed the Board that 7 people with the Ross County Probation program assisted with cleaning up the Township cemeteries. Mark Thompson leads the program.
- FO Snyder informed the Board that \$780 was received from Fire Recovery.
- The Board discussed the cemetery grant that they plan to use for 2 weed eaters (purchased from Hometown Motors on Eastern Avenue) and perhaps a zero turn mower from Rural King
- FO Snyder stated that she would not have time to work with Huntington Schools Treasurer Becky Peeden 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. She suggested that one of the Board members may be available to do so. Trustee Cottrill stated that he would take on that responsibility.
- Trustee Cottrill shared the he and FO Snyder worked together to submit a grant request to the David Meade Massie Foundation for fencing, gate, perhaps sealing the drive at the cemetery on Liberty Hill Road.

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**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

ATTESTED:

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Fiscal Officer