

Huntington Township Regular Meeting
April 11, 2023

President Gary Hopkins called the April 11, 2023, meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. at the Fire House.

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

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough to approve the March 14, 2023, meeting minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Larry Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins to approve payment of March 2023 bills.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Township Road and Cemetery Business:

1) **Trustee Cottrill** opened the two bids received for the 2023 cemetery mowing.

Dylan Dotson	\$11,300 for cemeteries	\$3,100 for fire house
Big E's Landscaping	\$12,564 for cemeteries	\$3,510 for fire house

The Board discussed that while Dylan Dotson's bid was the lowest for both cemeteries and the firehouse, they didn't have to accept the lowest bid. FO Snyder agreed, but suggested they gave Mr. Dotson a chance and let him have the firehouse mowing. The Board declined to follow that recommendation, stating that they had no idea who Mr. Dotson was, and if he was capable of mowing the cemeteries.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to award the bid to Big E's Landscaping. (The owner was at the meeting, but declined to comment.)

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Snyder shared her opinion that she didn't understand why we put the work out for bid if we are not going to accept the lowest bid. Hopkins said that he understood her opinion, and perhaps next year it should not be put out for bid.

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- 2) Cottrill provided an update on changing fuel providers from Fuel Services to Glockner Oil. He stated that World Fuel owns the current pumps and tanks. Glockner will install used or new pumps and tanks. We need to determine which. World Fuel has left us without fuel in our tanks, we no longer have an account at Huntsmen Market, so the directive was to use the Township credit card.
- 3) Cottrill gave an update on the most recent Mead Massie Grant submission. He said that our application had been tabled until their Board's June 9th meeting.

FO Snyder then addressed the Board, as follows.

- 1) The 2023 Chip and Seal bid packets have been created, are posted to the website, and copies left at the Garage. Bids are due Friday, May 5th.

GUEST: TJ Oyer, Fire Chief, approached the Board with multiple items to discuss.

- 1) He asked for approval of nine (9) purchase requisitions, as follows:

#1 VCNB Lowes	\$1,211.48	Day Room remodel supplies (ARPA)
#2 VCNB Amazon	\$238.93	Cleaning supplies (bed bug issue)
#3 VCNB Amazon	\$139.96	Repair security camera
#4 Mark Porter Ford	\$406.55	917 Maintenance
#5 VCNB Blinds.com	\$158.23	Blinds for day room (ARPA)
#6 VCNB Amazon	\$49.99	Speakers for day room (ARPA)
#7 VCNB Huntsmen Market	\$94.81	Gas for 904 & 919
#8 VCNB Lowes	\$115.57	Day room remodel flooring (ARPA)
#9 Tim Owens	\$30.00	Paid for his own BCI - reimburse

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to approve the nine (9) purchase requisitions as requested by Chief Oyer.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 2) Oyer asked the Board to move the minimum staffing at the fire department from 1 person to 2. This subject was discussed at length at the March meeting, but no decision was made. Oyer stated that in the last 2 months there has only been one issue with covering the 1 person minimum. A person was left by their self, and someone from Bainbridge came over to help. An updated Article XIX Scheduling and Attendance Policy for Paid Part/Full-time Staff was submitted. (Attached to the original minutes in the Book). Eric Price updated the policy. He stated that there are specific steps to be taken first, before overtime is mandated by our full-time people. Such as: used to require 2 dual carded people on shift, but now require only one as long as the other is an EMT. If EMT is not available as the 2nd person, then a single carded firefighter could split the shift with the EMT if necessary. The policy had an error that Price will correct regarding compensation time vs paid overtime. Snyder researched with both the Federal DOL and State DOL departments of wage and hour about this specific issue. For public

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employees, if they take comp time in lieu of paid overtime it must accrue at 1.5 for each hour. The article will be updated.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to move minimum staffing to two employees on station, and to accept the modifications to Article XIX.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 3) Oyer asked the Board to approve firefighter training for Jeff Coldiron. The same training was approved for Todd Yarman at the last meeting. Currently both are EMTS only; single carded. The class is \$495 apiece. Once both become firefighters they will no longer pay into OPERS, it will be social security instead. They will receive the applicable pay raise.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to authorize firefighter training for Coldiron.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 4) Oyer asked the Board to accept the resignation of Brandon Robinson from the paid part-time crew.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough, to accept Robinson's resignation from the paid, part-time crew.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

- 5) Trustee Hopkins instructed Chief Oyer to ensure that the fire house is locked with doors down at all times due to the amount of furniture and updates recently installed.

- 6) Oyer shared that he brought the dayroom and conference room remodels just under the \$1,427.62 that the Board allocated at the March meeting.

- 7) The Suburban, 919, is almost unsafe according to Oyer. He stated that it is usually used as the "chase vehicle" when one is needed. It needs tire, preventative maintenance, etc. He said the tires were bald. He would like the Board to approve a req of \$1500 to Piketon Quick Lube to complete the work.

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Motion by Larry Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins to approve \$1500 to be allocated for the updates on the Suburban to Piketon Quick Lube.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

8) Oyer shared that 902's engine has water leaks. This is the first engine out. He thinks it will cost around \$1000 but will discuss it at the May meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Resident Brett Clark addressed the Board. (The highlights of the ensuing conversations are captured here. Note at one point no one was addressing the Board, so the meeting was adjourned.)

Clark: My concern is the frequency with which our township is unattended for EMS coverage. He stated that not only was this his concern, but hundreds have people have signed his petition so far. He reminded Hopkins that he had said no more than a dozen or less people would sign such a petition. Clark stated that the petition would be time stamped and filed by an attorney.

L Cuckler: Shared some operating statistics, stating that in 2021 private ambulance was only called in Huntington Township 2 times out of 1000 runs that year. He said that we are leaving Twin Township stranded, and are on the cusp of losing our friendship with them because the Board voted down the Twin Twp EMS contract. Stated that we lost \$700 on missed mutual aid runs recently

Clark: Is it about the \$700, Larry?

L Cuckler: No, it is about taking care of the people. He referred to Clark's "Bullshit Facebook posts" and didn't understand why this Board didn't take action to stop him.

A person from the Ross County Dispatch office shared about a recent experience where 4 sets of county-wide tones were issued for a call on Flat Road, but no one responded.

Lannie Claytor: Wasn't there one person back who could respond?

Oyer: Shared that of 40 people on the FD payroll, only 8 lives in our township. We have 2 ½ mills to fund our staffing.

Claytor: Said that he and Brett used to volunteer for Huntington Township, and that he went on to be the chief at Waverly. He said he knows that times have changed.

Someone on the FD stated that we cannot do away with mutual aid, and if we did, the majority of our employees would walk away from their jobs. Reinforcing the mantra among townships that "if you don't help me, I won't help you."

G Hopkins said directly to B Clark: What do you want Brett?

Claytor: You cannot do away with mutual aid

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Hopkin asked about Brett's petition. Asked what was on it. Brett said it is right here, and gave a copy to the Board.

J Wessel read the petition aloud. (A copy is attached to the original meeting minutes in the Book.)

Wessel took issue with the statement "the township has failed in providing 24/7 coverage.

Clark: You, Oyer, promised that our Township would be covered 24/7 but there are times we are left without coverage when the crew is on a run outside our township.

Oyer: "You are using my words against me. I am leaving this meeting".

One of the FF crew asked Clark about his past certifications, stating that he claimed he was an FF and EMT-Advanced for 12 years, but that the State of Ohio had no record of his EMT-Advanced certification.

L Cuckler: We always knew that the levies would not cover all of our needs, and knew we would need to rely upon the EMS billing receipts to cover a 2nd crew.

Lyle Henderson, a Beatty Road resident was also present and said a few words during this conversation.

Snyder asked Clark what his plan was regarding the petition, stating that she did not understand its purpose. It is not something that would go on a ballot in the fall, so what is it for? What do you hope to accomplish?

Clark: Stated he had two attorneys looking it over to see if they wanted to take the situation on. He suggested that possible a legal action could be taken against the Board.

Oyer: "You have killed our morale."

Brad Oates: Shared that during the situation last year where Larry Cuckler resigned as Fire Chief, Oates said "fuck you" to the Board and resigned. He took a position with MedCare, but now he is back with the Township working his full-time position because this is where his heart is.

N Cuckler: "you are smearing us on Facebook, making us feel like we are ready to give up."

Clark: The Fire Department cannot run our Township.

Hopkins: I am begging you Brett, stop this. Please stop this."

At this point the motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

General items under discussion:

- March 2023 Run Statistics: 93 calls of which 60 were EMS and 33 were fire. We gave 22 mutual aid and received 14.
- Oyer did not have the inventory at this meeting as promised.

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- Hopkins shared that Terry Wilt would have knee surgery in the near future and would be off work an extended period of time. He has asked that we use his sick and vacation time to cover his pay. It is not the same knee as his worker's comp claim.

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

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Member

Fiscal Officer