

HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 24, 2022

President Gary Hopkins called the May 24, 2022 special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Township Garage.

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

- Snyder reminded the Board that permanently the location of the Board requires a motion and vote, just like the when the Board sets the meetings for the year at the January reorganization meeting.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to permanently change the venue for Board meetings to the Township Garage.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

FO Snyder gave an update on paying \$14,844 out of the General Fund for the Fire Department's property and liability insurance since the Fund only has \$20,438.07. Local Government Services of the Auditor of State said it was acceptable to make this payment out of the General Fund, but suggested caution, stating that it is important to know how much money is being paid on behalf of the Fire Fund by the General Fund so it is not hidden, and can be used to determine if Fire Department needs a levy.

\$3 bonus paid for May for hours worked the first two pays in May

Snyder shared a report with the Board and Fire Chief showing how much it would cost to pay a \$3 bonus for hours worked the first two pays in May, after the share of employer retirement contributions and Medicare. For 1,586 paid hours, the total cost would be \$5,614.01. Snyder reminded the Board that there was not ARPA funding available to cover this bonus, and that the Fire Fund was very low, therefore her recommendation was not to pay the bonus for May, but consider starting it in a future month. After reviewing the report, Trustees Cottrill and Hopkins stated their agreement with this assessment and indicated that the program may be implemented once the fund was higher.

Also presented was the average cost for the Fire Department payroll across the first 10 pays of 2022: \$13,472 per pay. Wages, OPF, SS, OPERS, and Medicare.

Twin Township mutual aid billing

The Board briefly discussed the first billing that went to Twin Township for mutual aid. Chief Cuckler provided the run data to FO Snyder, who then created an invoice. Payment was promptly received of \$2,850.00. The payment is recorded in account 211.299.0000 Other-Charges for Services. Chief Cuckler will provide Snyder with all future run detail for future invoicing. Cuckler stated that given the mutual aid runs into Twin already in May we will about exceed the invoice that was for March and April.

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Mutual Aid Discussion

Trustee Hopkins started a discussion with the Chief about several recent back-to-back runs where we were responding to a mutual aid call, when almost immediately a call came for a Huntington Township resident. Our squad proceeded to the mutual aid call, and Cuckler told the Board that Union Township took our call on Grubb Road. In those situations, Hopkins would like to see us respond to our call in the township, and give back the mutual aid call. While Cuckler understood the idea, he did not agree. Hopkins responded that our squad had just left the building, and wanted to know why we didn't cancel the mutual aid. Cuckler said that if we were going to go that route, we needed a game plan.

Cuckler turned the discussion to the frustration experienced when the Sheriff office calls us on an overdose call. They administer the Narcan, but then tell the patient if they get into their cruiser, they are taking them to jail. Therefore, the person decides to go in our squad to the hospital to avoid going to jail. Hopkins and resident Brett Clark stated that the person need to go in the cruiser and our squad should not have been called out.

Cuckler shared that the private ambulance service Medicare does not respond well, but that they have learned if they call the Pike County Sheriff's office, then they get Medicare to respond.

No decisions were made, just discussion.

US Bank application for fuel cards.

Snyder updated the Board on the application process for fuel cards for the Township. US Bank has now asked for the past 3 years of financial reporting for the Township. In the meantime, they offered prepaid credit cards.

FO Snyder asked the bid to approve the following re-appropriations:

Re-appropriation Fire Fund

- \$500 from 2111.230.323 Repairs & Maint to 2111.230.211 OPERS
- \$12,500 from 2111.220.381 Property Insurance and \$3,400 from 2111.220.382 Liability insurance to:

\$5900 2111.230.323 Repairs & Maint - EMS
\$5,000 2111.220.420 Operating Supplies - Fire
\$5,000 2111.220.323 Repairs & Maint - Fire

Re-appropriation General Fund

- \$14,844 from 1000.330.420 Operating Supplies to:
 - \$11,905 1000.220.381 Property Insurance
 - \$2,697 1000.220.382 Liability Insurance

Re-appropriation R&B Fund

- \$537 from 2031.330.381 Property Insurance to 2031.330.420 Operating Supplies
- \$1,400 from 2031.330.382 Liability Insurance to 2031.330.420 Operating Supplies

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Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill, to approve the re-appropriations listed above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Fire Department Schedule, Overtime, Money in Fire Fund

Trustee Cottrill opened the discussion by stating that overtime among the full-time fire fighters is way too high. That the Township cannot afford it. He said that he had looked at the June schedule and it did not look better. He presented a new work schedule for discussion. Trustee Hopkins asked Chief Cuckler to pull up a chair to the table to review and discuss Cottrill's idea together. Cuckler moved his chair half way between where he was and the table and sat down. Cottrill passed out the schedule. (That schedule is attached to these minutes.)

The schedule has two full-time people working 11:00AM – 7:00PM 7 days a week. Each person works 5 days with 2 days off on a rotating basis. There will be no overtime, and only a 2 person crew. The remainder of the time, from 7:00PM to 11:00AM would be filled by part-time staff. Cottrill stated that if no one covered a shift, then we just won't get the run in.

FO Snyder asked how Cottrill determined the hours that would be covered by the full-time staff. He stated that he had reviewed our run reports, and those were our peak hours.

Chief Cuckler stated that the problem is that we pay less than anyone. FO Snyder said she found that hard to believe, and therefore would make a public records request. Cuckler suggested Green, Union, Paxton, Scioto, and Concord.

Cottrill and Cuckler discussed an advertisement for hiring part-time positions for our township which stated that an additional \$3 an hour would be paid from the ARPA funding. Cuckler said that he had placed the ad on social media and explained that he said \$12/hour + \$3/hr from ARPA. Snyder felt like that was inaccurate information because the Board had not approved that additional amount, just discussed it. Cuckler disagreed. He stated that several people interviewed, but would not accept the position at \$12/hour.

Hopkins asked Cuckler what he thought of the schedule. He stated that he believed the full-time people would quit. He said that money was constantly discussed by the crew at the station. That they were always asking him for more pay. He stated that the trustees had always been honest with him, but when the crew had told him that this trustee said this, and that trustee said that, he did not believe them because the trustees would not go behind his back like that. There was a rumor that Cottrill said he would have the staff taking care of the roads so they were not sitting around waiting for a run. Cottrill denied that statement.

There was discussion about the last regular meeting in May, and the complaints from the full time staff about how many hours they were forced to work to cover shifts that were not picked up by the part-time crew. There was agreement between the Board and Cuckler that it worked much better when the part-time and full-time split was what it should have been, and not the full-time crew covering most of the shifts and being paid overtime, plus \$.24 to OP&F for every dollar they were

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paid. Snyder said there was not enough money to sustain that trend. We must have more part-time people working. To which Cuckler said we would have to pay more.

Snyder shared with the Board that the plan under discussion would reduce the hours per pay that the full-time crew works from 112 to 80 hours; 32 hours less a pay and 64 hours less a month. She noted that would be a hardship for those employees.

Cottrill noted that payroll is over half of the FD's budget, that it is the biggest driver and takes more money than anything.

The discussion then turned to the presented schedule and when to make it effective. The next pay period runs from May 30 - June 12, 2022 to be paid on June 17th.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough, to approve the 40 hour a week schedule from 11AM to 7PM, 7 days a week for the full-time crew, with remaining shifts picked up by part-time crew beginning May 30th.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

At this point in time, Chief Cuckler shook the hand of each Board member, and stated that he was done. Snyder asked if he was resigning, and he said yes, he was. As Cuckler departed, Hopkins stated that he was the best fire chief in the county, and we would never would have gotten where we had without him.

There was an ensuing discussion amongst the Board that this may very well close the place down, and there was debate about what happens to the existing levies in that case. Snyder suggested that the Board members get over to the Fire House immediately to begin discussions with any of the crew currently at the station.

Trustee Cottrill discussed the two bids he received for seal-coating the cemetery drives. G&J Paving bid \$2,928. Parret seal coating bid \$3100.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to award the job to G&J Paving for \$2,928.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

The Board signed payments and purchase orders.

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Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Member

Fiscal Officer