

Huntington Township Regular Meeting
May 9, 2023

President Gary Hopkins called the May 9, 2023, meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. at the Fire House.

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

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve the April 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough to approve payment of April 2023 bills.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Township and Cemetery Business:

- 1) **FO Snyder handed Trustee Kellough** the four bids received for the 2023 chip and seal work on township roads.

20/20 Enterprises	\$256,333.79
Scioto Valley Paving	\$280,000
Geauga	\$280,000
SC Construction	\$220,660

The Board did a quick review of the bids and decided to award the winning bid to SC Construction.

Motion by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill to award the winning bid to SC Construction for \$220,660.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

- 2) FO Snyder asked the Board to approve a change of date for the June meeting since she will be on vacation. She suggested Wednesday, June 7th.

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Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to change the June meeting to Wednesday, June 7th at 6:00 at the Fire Station. Snyder will publicize the change in the Gazette and on the Township website.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 3) FO Snyder inquired of the Board if they were aware of the opportunity to create a fireworks permit fee for inspections of firework displays in the Township. The immediate need is to bill Atomic Speedway \$150 for the firework permit for their display on May 4, 2023. The Atomic plans to set off fireworks 6 times this season. The Huntington Local School is setting off fireworks in May, but it is a PR event for the community and Board elected to donate, and not bill the fee. Firework permits are permissible under ORC 3743.54.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to institute a fireworks permit fee that will cost \$150 each time. FO Snyder will create necessary invoices.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

- 4) Trustee Cottrill provided information about the Ross County Township Association Meeting regarding the Ross County Emergency Services Study. The committee is planning to pay half of the fee for the study, then ask the townships to pay the other half. They are working on a grant that may cover the entire fee. For now, the ask is that we pass a resolution agreeing to support the study by contributing an agreed upon amount towards the study, specifically \$4,000. Trustee Cottrill is in favor of supporting the study. He said the purpose of the study is to see what needs there are for county-wide EMS districts.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to support the county-wide EMS study with a donation of \$4,000.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- 5) FO Snyder asked the Board to approve a series of re-appropriations as follows:

Approve reappropriation in ARPA fund of \$163.76; needed to cover the last OP&F payment associate with stipend pay.

Approve reappropriation within Road and Bridge 2031 and Fire Fund 2111 to cover property & liability insurance for 2023-2024:

- 2031-330-381 \$168.87 Property Ins RB
- 2031.330.382 \$1,319 Liability Ins RB

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- 2031.330.420 (\$1,487.87) From Operating Supplies
- 2111.220.381 \$2828.30 Property Ins FD
- 2111.220.382 (\$2,190.00) From Liability Ins
- 2111.220.318 (\$638.30) From FF Training

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve the re-appropriations noted above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

- 6) FO Snyder inquired of the Fire Department if we have heard anything about the SAFER grant submission. She was told that we expect to hear anytime now. The AFR equipment grant will be awarded first, then a few months later the SAFER grant. The feeling is that successful AFR Grant recipients will also be awarded the SAFER.
- 7) Trustee Hopkins discussed with the Board a change in who may address the Board at the meetings and how they get on the agenda. He stated that at the Huntington School Board meetings a person must get on the agenda at least 48 hours ahead of time. For Trustee Board meetings he wants people who want to address the Board to sign up ahead of time, otherwise they will not be permitted to speak. We discussed the proper time frame, deciding that it must be before the meeting is called to order.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to require anyone who wishes to address the Board must sign up with the fiscal officer before the meeting has been called to order. The FO will maintain a sign-up sheet.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Fire Department Business:

Chief Oyer is on a cruise to celebrate his wedding. He left a packet for FO Snyder to present on his behalf.

- 1) Snyder asked the Board to approve six (6) purchase requisitions for the FD, as follows:

#1 O'Reilly Auto Parts	\$43.96	Car wash supplies
#2 Pike Co CTC	\$990.00	FFV class for Yarman/Coldiron
#3 VCNB Amazon	\$134.78	Flags for FD
#4 Citizens First	\$380.00	Gear wash
#5 VCNB Amazon	\$251.42	Cleaning supplies
#6 Citizens First	\$2,417.00	Hose & ladder testing/maint

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Motion by Gary Hopkins, seconded by Larry Kellough, to approve the six (6) purchase requisitions as requested by Snyder on behalf of Chief Oyer.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

2) Snyder asked the Board to hire Hannah Creech to the part-time crew at the firehouse. She is an EMT-B, therefore her hourly rate will be \$10.39. Retirement contributions to OPERS.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough, to hire Creech as an EMT-B at \$10.39 to the part-time EMS crew.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

3) Snyder asked the Board to approve the application of Chad Burnett to the volunteer crew at the fire department. Burnett has no certifications at this time.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough, to approved Burnett as a volunteer at the fire department.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

4) Oyer asked permission to circulate his letter posted on Facebook to our residents at the public event scheduled May 13 at Huntington School.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the circulation of Oyer's letter at the public event at the school.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

At this point in the meeting, President Hopkins asked if any guests would like to address the Board.

Resident Brett Clark addressed the Board. Clark shared that he was still getting an overwhelming response to his petition, and that people call him wanting to sign it. He stated that he has several hundred signatures to this point, and that he spends about 15 minutes with each person.

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Deputy Emily Schmidt of the Ross County Sheriff's office addressed the Board, asking how things were going in the township, and if we needed anything from Sheriff Lavender. Trustee Cottrill shared with her that he had talked to Sheriff Lavender at the EMS meeting.

Mary Cuckler, resident, did not address the Board, but took the time to ask resident Brett Clark a few questions. First she asked him if he was running for trustee; he said he had not made that commitment. Second she asked him if he had a fire card and an EMT card. Clark said that he does have a copy of his certificate.

At this point, President Hopkins stopped Mrs. Cuckler's questions to Mr. Clark, stating that this time was for people to address the Board, not question people in the audience, and that if she wished to ask questions of Mr. Clark, she could do so after the meeting. Mrs. Cuckler apologized. Hopkins invited anyone at the fire department to join the trustees at the school's public event. The goal is to answer any questions being asked, and to straighten out untruths.

Larry Cuckler, resident, and part-time EMT, addressed the Board sharing that people in our community are getting confused, thinking that we no longer have squad service available. He gave two specific recent examples of people who called the fire station rather than 9-1-1. One call from Valley Rd regarding a baby, and the second from a pregnant person on Liberty Hill Rd.

Cottrill asked Korey Pauley how many calls we had missed. Pauley replied none. Someone suggested that our voice mail at the fire department should instruct people to call 911 in the event of an emergency, and to just call us with basic questions like burn laws.

Discussion turned to our response time. Our average response time was 10 minutes and 38 seconds from the time we were toned until we were on the scene for the period 11.4.22 – 5.2.23. It was noted that at times we are not at the station when a call comes in, and instead are on our way back from the hospital. During the day we are out the door in 3-5 minutes, and at night 5 to 8 minutes. The NFPA standard response time is 20 minutes.

Cottrill made the statement that he has never cursed or threatened someone at one of our meetings, and never intentionally humiliated anyone. He recalled his statement made several years ago that he is not in anyone's pocket, and is very tired of the negativity. He said that he will not respond to attention on Facebook or Twitter. He took this job to service our community. He does not expect that he will be re-elected. He shared that he comes to work at the garage with the road crew every morning, and is on call 24/7. He said "I have done my job, and I appreciate the support."

Hopkins stated that while he has worked with several different trustees and one fiscal officer who is the best in the county, John Cottrill is one of the best trustees to work with. He said if this township lets this man go – shame on us. Said that he is backing Cottrill 100%. Hopkins also said that Larry Kellough is good to work with, too. He said he might be the only one to curse now and then. Hopkins continued to give praise, moving on to the firefighters and EMTs. Feels ours are the best in the county. That no one can compare. But if we are not careful, they will run off and we will have to shut the doors to our fire house and emergency services, reinforcing that if we won't get support from other townships if we do not help others. He was told this at the trustee meeting the previous Thursday. He suggested that we work hard to keep what we have got, and that he wished he could pay them \$100/hour. Then he thanked everyone for coming.

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General items under discussion:

- April 2023 Run Statistics: 68 calls of which 56 were EMS and 12 were fire. We gave 9 mutual aid and received 8.
- Oyer did not have the inventory at this meeting as promised.
- 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 7:15 P.M.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Member

Fiscal Officer