

Huntington Township Regular Meeting September 10, 2024

President John Cottrill called the September 10, 2024, meeting to order at 6:02 PM at the Fire House.

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

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the August Regular Meeting Minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the August 24th Special Meeting Minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve payment of the August 2024 bills.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Guests:

Greg Beard from Seeds of Hope came to talk about the meaning of the program he and his wife are running. He mentioned that they are working with displaced women, and they try to help those women that are in need. He continued to explain that these women don't all have drug issues, and that in some instances it may be that their husband has passed away, leaving them displaced. Mr. Beard purchased 12 acres on Liberty Hill Road and plans to put up to 12 small homes on the plot of land to house these women. He next discussed the three phases of the program, and said that the program is drug and alcohol free.

Resident Bud Lytle asked Mr. Beard what the duration of phase three was (phase three is when they move into the small homes), Beard replied that there wasn't an end to that phase, but that the women would have to still complete goals, and be regularly tested.

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Resident Moose Chrisman asked Mr. Beard “Why here?”, Beard replied that he chose the location because a lot of places won’t allow him to do what he plans to do, and that the land was a good price.

Beard said that they are selective about who is allowed into the program, stating that it’s only for women and their children, and that they do background checks before taking someone in. Before Mr. Beard fished, he mentioned that they have applied for three grants, and also have been doing fundraising to support the program.

Resident Brett Clark made a public records request for the board to provide year to date overtime for the fire department, with a per person breakdown of unscheduled and scheduled overtime.

Resident Moose Christman made a public records request wanting to have a financial worksheet of costs due to the FD union, also wanting to know how many hours the board spends working on the contract. Christman went on to recommend that discretionary spending be suspended until after the contract. He also said that if we don’t give equal raises to both the FD and RB crew, that the RB crew may unionize. Gary Hopkins then said that we pay the RB guys more than we pay the FD.

Fire Department Business – Chief Larry Cuckler

- 1) Chief Cuckler presented the board with purchase requisitions from Cutright’s totaling \$1555.61 for repair costs

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the purchase order presented by Chief Cuckler for a total of \$1,555.61.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Cuckler then presented the board with the resignation of current Captain Troy Hupp, who was said to be resigning because he is busy working on his education.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to accept the resignation of Troy Hupp from the part time crew.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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Cuckler said that we were awarded a grant for new portable radios, and said that we need to accept it soon, as we only have 30 days from the award date to do so (Aug. 23). Austin Depugh brought out one of the old radios and a new one to show everyone the difference. Haines asked what we were going to do with the old ones, and there was further discussion about how the old ones couldn't be updated anymore.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to accept the FEMA grant for new portable MARCS radio's.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Cuckler next brought up the idea to bill Twin Twp for fire runs, and said that they sometimes aren't able to get anyone out of the door to go on fire runs.

Next was some heated discussion between Cuckler and Christman, as the two disagreed about whether or not we should take runs in Franklin Twp, who refuses to sign our EMS billing contract.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to go into executive session for personnel reasons at 6:46 PM.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins resume the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Cuckler presented the board with the application of Brett Gomph (FF1), and recommended that the board hire him to the part time crew.

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Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to hire Brett Gomph to the part time crew as a FF1, \$10.61 an hour.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Cuckler and the board then discussed entering a 3-year \$40,534.50 (total is broken into 3 payments) agreement with Stryker to service our equipment. Cuckler mentioned that we would be liable for malfunctions if we knew our equipment needed serviced and neglected to do so.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to enter into the three year service agreement with Stryker, for a total of \$40,534.50.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Haines mentioned that we are spending too much, and that something will have to give.

Cuckler and the board then discussed having a grant written for a new Fire Truck.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to hire Micky Smith to write a grant for a new fire truck.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Haines next discussed how we received back the rates from the budget commission, and continued to summarize them, in total, we received back over \$10,000 less than we planned for.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to accept the 2025 rates given back to us by the Budget Commission/County Auditor.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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Cottrill mentioned hiring a lawyer for the upcoming union negotiations, and recommended that we hire Keith Washburn, who is the former Chief of Police for Chillicothe, and also specializes in negotiations. He said that the rate for Keith would be between \$8,000 and \$14,000, depending on how long negotiations last.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to hire Keith Washburn as a lawyer for union negotiations.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Cottrill mentioned that we need to set a negotiation date asap, and said that the contract negotiating team is Keith, Gary, Bud, Nick, and himself.

Cottrill next have a thank you to Huntington School for allowing us to have paving equipment staged at the athletic complex, and mentioned our good relations with the school.

Cottrill then read a card we received from a Baptist Hill resident, that was thanking the township for how good the newly paved road is.

The board next discussed Trick-or-Treat, and decided to hold it on October 31, from 5:30-7

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to hold Trick-ot-Treat in the TWP from 5:30-7 on October 31st.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Cottrill next discussed the Issue 1 money we receive, and said that he would like to pave Windy Ridge from the Chester Hill intersection to S.R. 772.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to use the Issue 1 money to pave Windy Ridge from the Chester Hill intersection to S.R. 772.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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After the recent exhumations at Floral Hills, the board discussed having a \$300 exhumation fee across the board at all cemeteries.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to implement a \$300 exhumation fee at all cemeteries.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Haines next discussed several reallocations he had to make over the last month to cover various expenses, and explained that money has to be reallocated because we have overspent our yearly budget for that particular fund, and that now, these reallocations will have to continue for the remainder of the year.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the reallocations made by Haines.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Trustee

Fiscal Officer