

HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2021

President Gary Hopkins called the August 11, 2021 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 John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough, to approve the July 2022 Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough, to approve payment of the July 2021 bills.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

The Board discussed the Resolution passed at the February 2021 supporting the Ohio Scenic River Designation for Paint Creek. Trustee Cottrill shared that he had received requests from Dwayne Seeling, resident, and Aaron Rourke, ODNR, asking the Board to table the matter and discuss it at the September Board meeting. Rourke stated that ODNR intended to add an article to clearly protect private property now and in the future. Cottrill stated that he felt that Rourke misrepresented the matter. Trustee Hopkins stated that he felt the Board had been lied to. The concern centered around the 1000' right-a-way on public land and the concern of local farmers to the possible impact to their private farm lands.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins, to rescind the Board's Resolution of support to make Paint Creek a scenic waterway.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

GUEST: Mark Colburn asked for a copy of the motion, and the letter that FO Snyder would send to ODNR rescinding the Resolution of support. He wants to provide it to Mike Corcoran for Monday's State Level Farm Bureau meeting. Snyder provided the Township email address.

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The Board discussed then discussed the status of our mutual aid; both our exit from the countywide agreement as well as our intent to sign individual mutual aid agreements with all Ross County townships. Snyder reviewed her conversation from earlier in the day with County Prosecutor Jeffrey Marks. Marks had already spoken to Paul Minney of the Ross County Emergency Mgmt. Association. Marks feels that the entire countywide contract is now null/void given the exit language. Our termination was not just for our part in the agreement, but invalidated the entire agreement. He understands our need to have two agreements - one for EMS and Fire, and one for Fire only – to take to each Township’s Board meeting to ask them to sign mutual aid agreements with our Township. He also stated that he understood our position and frustration with the status quo. There are two other township meetings next week – Paxton and Union - that the trustees will attend to discuss mutual aid. We will offer Fire and EMS to Paxton, Union, Scioto, Green, Harrison, Paint, the VA, and City of Chillicothe. Every other township will be offered a fire mutual aid agreement.

In order to attend another township’s meeting, Cottrill stated that we will need to reschedule our September 8th meeting to Tuesday, September 7th. Snyder will notify the public of that meeting change.

As evidence of the problem we are experiencing with disproportionate mutual aid, Assistant Chief Tristen Carter shared that year to date we have been called for mutual aid 177 times and received aid 26 times. There is a disagreement on the definition of mutual aid; we feel it is not for primary response, but to come alongside and aid the township that has already responded to their own emergency.

A recent example was given of a time when we were outside our township on a mutual aid run, and one of our own residents walked into the fire house for assistance, but we were not there.

Snyder clearly stated that we have a 90-day notice of termination, not the 30 days that was required, and that our participation in the contract did not end until October 1, 2021.

GUEST: Marco Depugh, a resident, addressed the Board regarding his concerns about the Township’s exit from the countywide emergency services agreement. Depugh shared that he was a volunteer with Huntington Township, has been a resident for fifty years, and dispatched for the County for 18 years. He shared that he had a stroke 2 years ago. He stated that a number of residents came to him with concerns that he would like to address with the Board to get answers. His initial concern was that we are exiting the contract and not signing new ones, which would leave us without mutual aid assistance if needed from other townships. He was concerned that Franklin and Twin Townships would not come to the aid of Huntington Township when we needed it – fire or EMS. Or even Scioto Township. The Board then had the opportunity to address Mr. Depugh’s concerns and answer his questions. Snyder explained that every party to the agreement received the same letter, that was mailed the same day. Depugh stated that we have always covered Franklin, that we go there up and going. Hopkins stated that no residents had called him, or any other board member, with concerns about our exit from the agreement. He asked Depugh to ask those around him to please call a trustee. Hopkins also offered to be available Thursday, August 19, to answer concerns that our residents may have. Mr. Depugh stated that he did understand our decision better, and will try to calm the concerns of those around him. He stated that he is not against what we are trying to do.

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GUEST: Barry Haubeil, a resident, attended the meeting to show his support of the Board's decision to exist the countywide emergency services agreement.

GUEST: Tristen Carter, Assistant Fire Chief, approached the Board to ask for approval of six (6) purchase requisitions, as follows:

#1 ESO	\$2,495	Annual renewal of software for ems reporting
#2 Meyer Electric	\$700	Change lamps in 3 poles change light by flagpole
#3 Wagner Rental	\$622	lift rental for electrical work in parking lot at FD.
#4 Bio Med Svcs	\$85	Lifepack service
#5 VCNB Credit Card	\$100	K Lovely EMT National Registry
#6 Northern Tool	\$1200	Pump on brush truck, corrosion.

Motion by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill to approve all six (6) purchase requisitions.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Update on wrecked squad: At the last meeting we considered a \$2000 repair vs a \$6000 repair and the Board went with the \$2000 repair first. We are waiting on a new steering box, have been told it will come from Arizona and it is 5 weeks out.

Carter shared research that he and TJ Oyer have conducted into our EMS billing with Medicount. They accessed the portal and are examining January – June 30, 2021. He cited several instances that are puzzling and do not make sense. Such as, a \$1200 bill against insurance for which we received just over \$200. The run was submitted perfectly and completely by Oyer, therefore the problem was no on our end. A second example was given of 4 different reports, all to the same address, same person, some care, but 3 different costs. When Chief Cuckler returns from vacation, TJ, Larry, and Tristen plan to meet with Medicount and present examples and proof, requesting explanations.

- Assistant Chief Carter asked the Board to approve the following terminations from the paid part-time crew: Hayden Rogers and Greg Campbell for failure to maintain an active status by submitting for a minimum 12-hour shift a month.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to dismiss Rogers and Campbell as noted above.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

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Motion by Larry Kellough, seconded by John Cottrill, to set Trick or Treat for Saturday, October 30th from 4:0 – 5:30.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, seconded by Larry Kellough, to instruct Snyder to submit paperwork in support of the Opioid settlement as recommended by the AOS office. Resolution is attached.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

FO Snyder asked the Board to approve a re-appropriation of \$5000 in the fire fund from 2111.230.420 to 2111.230.323.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the reappropriation as discussed above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

Cottrill discussed an ODOT grant that he intends to submit for \$250,000. It is nonmatching, and projects are assigned points and awarded based upon a points system. The County Engineer submits support of projects. We are considering options to repair our worst roads, such as Rinehart and Easterday, or Turner, Pennington, or Keiser. Kellough stated that it costs \$50,000 to pave one mile of road. It was stated how nice it would be if we could chip and seal every township road.

Snyder shared a summons that the Township had received from Kevin Stuebs who was injured while fighting a house fire in Nipgen while working for the Township. His initial BWC claim was approved, but at some point later he tried to get additional conditions added but was denied. He has exhausted his options with BWC, and has now filed in Ross County for the additional conditions, costs, attorney's fees, and for relief. The summons was provided to the prosecutor, and it has been assigned to an assistant.

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General items under discussion:

- July 2021 Run Statistics: 95 total calls of which 85 were EMS for which we answered 84. 10 were fire calls and we answered 100% of those. Gave 21 mutual aid and received 4.
- Cottrill publicly thanked Kenton Lovely for brining community service workers into the township who picked up 32 bags of trash
- Snyder shared that Auditor Spetnagel hopes to have the real estate settlements ready to go this Friday, August 13th.
- Snyder ask the Board to reconsider returning the remaining CARES funding of \$13,796.61. Only about \$5,000 remains on open purchase orders that could be used. The Board will reconsider at the September meeting but Carter thinks we may be able to use two of the POs to purchase a few more backup uniforms.
- Snyder provided more information regarding the ARPA, and ways that had been approved by the Ohio Grants staff. She will submit for the funding in the next week. Cottrill stated that we should consider putting an attorney on retainer as we worked through how we will spend the money. He also questioned if creating a new fill station for gas, diesel, etc would be an appropriate use of the funds.
- Cottrill discussed the merits of closing Bishop Hill cemetery because there is not a grid, we do not know where there are unmarked graves, and it is just uncomfortable. He shared probing the ground to help a resident find 4 lots that he wanted to purchase. Kellough expressed his disagreement, stating that the entire back half of that cemetery is empty and available for burials. Cottrill stated that Linda Hilsheimer was in support of closing the cemetery. Hopkins reminded the Board that Hilsheimer gave 4 lots to Rich Seeling shortly before the Ward and Hilsheimer families deeded that cemetery to the township. The Board also discussed Denver cemetery, and Snyder reminded the Board that of the 5 parcels, the Township only owns two. Those parcels are in the back, and were donated by the Watkins family and are accessible through Fred Watkin's land.
- Cottrill has submitted the cemetery grant.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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ATTESTED:

President

Vice President

Member

Fiscal Officer