

HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2021

President Gary Hopkins called the June 9, 2021 meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. at the Fire House.

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

**Motion** by Larry Kellough, second by John Cottrill, to approve the May 2021 regular meeting minutes.

Vote: Larry Kellough Yes  
John Cottrill Yes  
Gary Hopkins Yes

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough, to approve payment of the May 2021 bills.

Vote: John Cottrill Yes  
Larry Kellough Yes  
Gary Hopkins Yes

**GUEST:** Nate Freeman, President of the Ross County Fire and Rescue Association, attended the meeting, introduced himself, but did not present information to the Board.

**GUEST:** Larry Cuckler, Fire Chief, approached the Board to ask for approval of five (5) purchase requisitions, as follows:

#1 Quick Stop Piketon	\$880	2 tires on new squad
#2 Chris Meyer Electric	\$700	install 16LED lights in bay (already purchased)
#3 EMT & Fire Training	\$360	Refresher course for K Pauley (used credit card)
#4 Michael Grooms	\$311.44	Hotel reimb for training class – Howell Rescue
#5 PRJVS	\$1,250	EMT-B class for K Lovely

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve all five (5) purchase requisitions.

Vote: Gary Hopkins Yes  
Larry Kellough Yes  
John Cottrill Yes

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- Chief Cuckler gave an update on the wrecked squad. Waiting on a paint booth, then needs lettered. It has been out of service since November 2020. Trustee Hopkins expressed frustration at the amount of time it has taken to get the squad repaired and back in service. He told the Chief to bring it back here and we will find a place to get it painted. Felt it was just ridiculous that it has taken this long. It has two recalls on it, but we cannot get that work done until the squad is back. If it will not be finished in the next week, we will drive it back and have it painted locally. The Board then discussed paint booths that would be large enough to paint the squad. FO Snyder asked about rental payments to Ross County Fire and Rescue for the use of their squad during this time. Chief Cuckler shared that our insurer, Rinehart, paid them \$4500 to cover our use of that loaner squad.
  
- Chief Cuckler asked the Board to approve the following terminations from the paid part-time crew: Phil Sanborn; Jennifer Patterson; and Jason Gleich for failure to maintain an active status by submitting for a minimum 12-hour shift a month.

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to dismiss Sanborn, Patterson, and Gleich as noted above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, seconded by John Cottrill, to set the 2022 Tax Budget Hearing for July 14, 2021 at 5:30PM at the Fire House. The regular meeting will follow immediately afterward.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

- Trustee Hopkins asked why we are required to submit to inspections of our equipment at the Fire Department; we spend a lot of money on all the inspections. Chief Cuckler explained that Ohio is not a NFPA state, which means we do not have to submit to the regulations of the National Fire Protection Agency. Yet, it is good procedure to ensure that our equipment is functioning as it should by having the inspections. Cuckler state that BWC will not pay out worker's comp claims if our equipment was not maintained and inspected. Blame could then rest upon the township for having faulty equipment. We don't have to do it, but we do it to protect us from liability that could fall upon us.
  
- FO Snyder shared information with the Board that due to Wilt's salary coverage via BWC, there was an additional \$18,000 available towards chip and seal this summer. She also stated that another \$20,000 could be appropriated that was left unappropriated at the beginning of the year. That gives another \$38,000 towards chip and seal. He said that he wanted to add Mt Zion Road, which is 1 ½ miles long, and would cost us another \$41,000.

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**Motion** by Larry Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins, to add Mt Zion Road to the 2021 chip and seal program at \$41,000.

Vote:	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

- Trustees Hopkins & Kellough readdressed the Seelig Lane dispute with Dillon Throckmorton. County Engineer Charlie Ortman visited the area under dispute on this day. He said there is a chance that the road probably moved over time, but that it would have been within Township right-a-way. The disputed area is not the same as where the road was moved for the box culvert. The trustees said there was nothing more to do, and if Throckmorton wishes to take it to the next step, he had that right. Trustee Cottrill said that he had called Throckmorton to share Ortman's opinion, and that the Board would take no action. Throckmorton purportedly said "Okay, thanks."
- A long discussion then ensued between the Board, FO, and Fire Chief regarding staffing and wages for the full-time and part-time crews at the Fire Station. We are paying too much in OT to our full-time employees; their OT rate with our OP&F contribution averages at \$24.47/hour. The question was asked why our part-time employees are not picking up the shifts. That average rate is \$13.45/hour. Several answers were suggested, such as: They can make more elsewhere; it is summer and they don't want to work as much during summer months; and the limit of 1,564 hours a year in order to be classified as part-time. There is a sweet spot, the right place, to balance the correct pay rate that will incent people to work, lower full-time overtime, and result in the Township incurring lower overall salary costs than what we have faced the last three months. Another option would be to hire 3 more full-time employees, but with 24% OP&F contributions as well as benefits, that could be a stretch without more funding. Trustee Hopkins asked FO Snyder how that cost/benefit could be calculated. She replied that she had some idea, but was considering asking Jeff Snyder to assist her.

**FO Snyder asked the Board to approve one more re-appropriations due to the additional property and liability insurance. It was higher because our 3-year run history was much higher than they were told.**

**Fire Fund**

- Re-appropriate \$648 from 2111.220.314 Tax Collection Fees into 2111.220.382 Liability Insurance

**Motion** by Gary Hopkins, second by Larry Kellough to approve the reappropriation as discussed above.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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- FO Snyder shared her discussion with Ross County Auditor Tom Spetnagel regarding the Township's levies. The dates previously provided were incorrect. There are no levies eligible to be placed on the ballot in the election November 2021. Here is the schedule for the 2 mill and 1 mill:
  - 2 mill levy:
    1. November 2022 (the duplicate year)
    2. March 2023 primary (collection year)
    3. November 2023 (collection year)
  - 1 mill levy:
    1. November 2023 (the duplicate year)
    2. March 2024 primary (collection year)
    3. November 2024 (collection year)

**The motion passed last month regarding the 2-mill levy was rescinded.**

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to rescind the motion to place the 2-mill levy back on the ballot November 2021.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes

General items under discussion:

- May 2021 Run Statistics: 93 total calls of which 88 were EMS for which we answered 88. 5 were fire calls and we answered 100% of those. Gave 24 mutual aid and received 1.
- Chief Cuckler shared that FO Snyder had received our second Fire Recovery payment - \$780.
- The Board and Fire Chief discussed the next Mutual Aid informational gathering meeting on June 24 at 7:00 at our Firehouse. It was reinforced that every township should be invited. FO Snyder will get those invitations out within the week.

**Motion** by John Cottrill, second by Larry Kellough, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Larry Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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ATTESTED:

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Fiscal Officer