Huntington Township Regular Meeting
October 14th, 2025

President John Cottrill called the October 14, 2025, Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 pm at the Fire House.

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

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to approve the September Regular Meeting minutes.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the September 29 Special Meeting minutes.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the September payments.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

President John Cottrill began speaking of when he and Blake Kellough had met with Jeff Lehner about reducing inside millage (RB & General Fund levies); further mentioning that they are set to increase approximately 27% with the new property valuations.

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Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve reducing the Township's General Fund levy from 1.0 mills to 0.73 mills for tax year 2025, as well as reduce the Road and Bridge levy from 2.0 mills to 1.46 mills for tax year 2025.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

Next, Fiscal Officer Nick Haines read over a resolution accepting the auditor's rates for real estate taxes, with the amendment of the township voting to decrease the millage rates for the Road and Bridge, and General Fund levies as previously mentioned.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to accept the auditor's rates on real estate taxes, with the amendments decreasing the millage on the Road and Bridge and General Fund Levies.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

Chief Depugh then went over a grant the Township had been awarded in the amount of $95,238.10 for an exhaust system to be put in the bay area of the fire department.

Cottrill next followed up on the Appalachian Regional Development grant that had been discussed in previous meetings, stating that it is not just a loan for $500,000 as he'd previously thought, and that it is actually a grant that the township will not have to pay back for that amount.

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins to accept the AFG grant in the amount of $95,238.10.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Resident Brett Clark then addressed the board, asking what they plan to do about the erosion damage on his property. Cottrill then referred Clark to the Township's lawyer. Clark then stated that what the Township is doing is illegal, and Cottrill again referred him to the Township's lawyer. A brief discussion about the matter followed.

Chief Depugh then brought up two grants; one being the 2026 Marks grant for user fees in the amount of $50,000, as well as the David Mead-Massey grant in the amount of $10,000. He proceeded mention that we need to start looking into a new SAFER grant, or a retention grant for the 3 full-time spots we currently have covered by the grant.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to apply for the Marks grant in the amount of $50,000.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to apply for the David Mead-Massey grant in the amount of $10,000.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Depugh next stated that his Township laptop had went down, and asked that the board approve the purchase of one for him, and a second for EMS Coordinator JD Comminsky.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to approve the purchase of two laptops at $279.49 each.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the purchase of a printer for $579.99.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

Depugh next spoke about the Township needing some new turnout gear, and referenced a quote of $20,125 from MES, and a quote of $23.560 from Phoenix Safety Outfitters; mentioning that the quote from MES didn't include multiple pieces of equipment that they would still need. He also stated that he felt like we could get that money fully reimbursed from a grant.

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to approve the purchase of 5 sets of turnout gear for $23,560 from MES.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by Gary Hopkins to approve the work done on squad 916 for $669.78 from F&N, as well as $739.75 from Chillicothe Signs & Screen Printing for new shirts for the FD crew.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Haines then went over the reallocations made since the previous meeting

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

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

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Haines next went over three supplemental reallocations made since the last meeting.

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

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to approve the annual Ross County Emergency Management Agency agreement for $150.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Next was discussion about having APG&E supply the electric through AEP for the Township, which would lock the township into a 60 month contract at a lower rate. The trustees decided to table it until the next meeting so that more information can be gathered. He then talked briefly about the Ross County Senior Citizens levy.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to go into executive session for personnel matters at 6:54 pm.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to resume the meeting from executive session at 7:15 pm.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

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Motion by Blake Kellough, second by John Cottrill to hire Miranda Sims part-time as a paramedic/ff2.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to accept the resignation of Nathan Saving from the full-time crew as of 10/24.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by John Cottrill to hire Brian Sims part-time as a paramedic/ff2.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to hire Austin Chaffin as a part-time 36hr FF.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to hire Cheyenne Kuhn as a part-time EMT B/FF1.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to hire Drew Dickerson as a part-time EMT B/36hr FF.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by John Cottrill to demote Andrew Uhrig from Lieutenant.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by John Cottrill to promote Abraham Winter to Lieutenant ($150/mo).

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to promote Brett Gompf to Lieutenant ($150/mo).

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to promote Alec Stewart to Captain ($250/mo).

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

Depugh then addressed the board asking that they do away with all stipend rank pay except for the position of part-time Chief, part-time Assistant Chief, and the EMS Coordinator position. Proposing that the hourly rates for Lieutenant and Captain be 5% more for Lieutenant, and 5% + 5% for Captain (same as current union contract).

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Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to approve doing away with rank stipend pay except for part-time Chief, part-time Assistant Chief, and the EMS Coordinator position; now giving hourly rates for Lieutenant and Captain as 5% more on the hour for Lieutenant, and 5% + 5% for Captain.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Cottrill and Hopkins then briefly discussed the license plate tax that took effect in 1987.

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by Blake Kellough to reinstate Michael Grooms as an EMT B/FF2 full-time.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes

Depugh then discussed job descriptions that they came up with for the Chief and Assistant Chief positions, saying that there hadn't been descriptions previously.

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by John Cottrill to approve the Fire Chief job description.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Gary Hopkins, second by John Cottrill to approve the Assistant Chief job description.

Vote:	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

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Motion by John Cottrill, second by Blake Kellough to increase the pay rate for full-time Chief and full-time Assistant Chief to $20 an hour.

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

Motion by Blake Kellough, second by John Cottrill to approve raising the allowed hours per pay from 792 to 840, keeping a 4th part-timer.

Vote:	Blake Kellough	Yes
	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes

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Motion by John Cottrill, second by Gary Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM

Vote:	John Cottrill	Yes
	Gary Hopkins	Yes
	Blake Kellough	Yes

ATTESTED:

_____

President

_____

Vice President

_____

Trustee

_____

Fiscal Officer