

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Vetter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. Trustees Moulton, Cromley and Vetter and Fiscal Officer Limes were in attendance. The sign-in sheet for employees and visitors is attached with the approved minutes.

Noted on the sign in sheet is a statement indicating the meeting may be recorded or streamed live to the internet by a visitor - not at the authority of the township trustees.

NEW BUSINESS

- Visitors Jason Sisco, Wood County Engineers' Office; Colby Carroll, Village of Haskins Administrator; and Brad Heft, Village of Haskins Mayor were in attendance to discuss preliminary options for a joint venture on Issue 1 grant funding for King Road, between Hull Prairie Road and St. Rt. 64. Much discussion was held with regard to options and ideas for widening the road, securing the ditch, and dealing with the railroad track. Mr. Sisco will be gathering more information and will return with drawings for the group to review. Estimates of cost cannot be determined until the scope of the project is determined. Right-of-way purchases were also part of the dialogue.

VISITOR COMMENTS

- Mr. Carroll thanked the road department crew on their help with various questions posed by their staff and consultation on projects.
- Mr. Carroll updated the board on a project he is working on with ODOT for speed limits and sidewalks in the village jurisdiction.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the October 6, 2021 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** An invoice for the concrete materials used on the driveway, the credit card, and other standard business payments will be added to the payment register as needed. A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- Mrs. Limes and Mr. Moulton updated the Trustees on an investment discussion held with Savage and Associates. An investment policy is being reviewed and the representative will be asked to meet the entire Board at a November meeting.
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve the health insurance renewal, with a 27% decrease, from Medical Mutual. Motion approved.** This policy covers all elected officials, full-time employees and their spouse/family.
- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve payment to Kelly Eckel, spouse of Jeff Eckel, for out-of-pocket health insurance expenses retroactive to January 1, 2021 and monthly moving forward, per documentation provided by Mrs. Eckel. Motion approved.** Currently the monthly expense is \$177.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Asmus indicated that the township has submitted paperwork for grant monies to fund sirens. The pre-application was accepted and timeline for more documentation was reviewed with the Trustees.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Discussion revolved around damage to Dunbridge Road from a tow truck company after responding to a tractor-trailer accident. Mr. Sisco consulted on some options for repair of same. It was determined the insurance company agent would be contacted with the accident report. Availability of a contractor to handle the work timely was discussed.
- A variety of fleet vehicles are in for repair. The snow plow bed has been repaired to the satisfaction of the road department personnel.
- Jeff Eckel, Road Supervisor, discussed the need for a new disc mower and possible trade-in on a new tractor.
- Mr. Eckel handled a damaged stop sign and guard rail damage in the middle of the night due to an accident.
- Chase Greulich, Road Maintenance, will be maintaining a spreadsheet with road signs, vehicle maintenance and air pressure checks on the emergency services vehicles.

- Seeding of the right-of-way in the subdivisions was reviewed, as it was not part of the bid package for the recent upgrades. Hydro-seeding was discussed and a potential vendor for same will be contacted.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell provided a report for September activity.
- Mr. McDowell updated the Trustees on a few portal options that are available through iworks, including application for zoning permits. Also available are options for tracking pavement assessment, road signs and including fire department building inspection data.
- Implementing credit card payments was questioned with no determination on a timeline for same.
- Mr. McDowell updated the Trustees on a variance approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals for front-yard parking.
- The order in which a site plan review would occur was discussed. A zoning permit is needed in order to begin the process.
- A conference for zoning inspectors is being hosted by the Ohio Township Association on October 29 and the zoning inspector plans to attend.
- Mr. McDowell is being asked to attend the Stormwater Coalition meetings as a township representative.
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OLD BUSINESS

- A draft contract with Northwestern Water and Sewer District (The District) for a public sewer line on St. Rt. 25 was sent to Linda Holmes, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, for review.
- Mr. Moulton had an inquiry with regard to a marijuana dispensary in the township. A resolution from 2017 prohibits this from occurring.
- Mrs. Limes indicated that the street lighting assessment for 2022 was being finalized.
Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded Resolution 21-1020, Authorization for Street Light Assessment. Role was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to move to executive session for the purpose of personnel discussions at 8:10 pm. Role was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.

The Trustees returned to regular session at 8:45 pm.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve immediate suspension of Training Officer and Fire Department Captain Tom Fowler until March 31, 2022 without pay. Mr. Fowler has been demoted to fire fighter status and will be asked to attend mandatory harassment counseling prior to that time. Motion approved with Mr. Cromley abstaining. *The township will be consulting with OTARMA in regard to this decision and options for Mr. Fowler’s counseling. Mr. Fowler will be in contact with only the Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and Fire Chief during this suspension. He is not to attend any Middleton Township function during this time. Mr. Fowler’s status as a consultant at Wood County Weekend is being reviewed.*

Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded adjournment of the meeting at 9:05 pm. Motion approved.

Fred E. Vetter, Chairman

Donald E. Cromley, Vice Chairman

Michael Moulton, Trustee

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer