

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Cromley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. In attendance were Trustees Cromley, Moulton, and Vetter as well as Fiscal Officer Limes.

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.

VISITOR COMMENTS

- Jeff Klein, Wood County Emergency Management Agency addressed the Trustees, staff and guests with regard to the Total Solar Eclipse which will occur April 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm. Mr. Klein shared insights into the event based on data collected from a prior event in the country. Middleton Township will be in the viewing area. Mr. Klein shared concerns about the township's locale based on I-75 and the exit at St. Rt. 582. Many visits will be anticipated in the area surrounding the eclipse. Efforts are being made with local entities, including Bowling Green State University, to provide safe responsible viewing platforms.
- Nigel Tussing, Washington Township resident, questioned the Board with regard to sound ordinances in place within the township. He stated they are facing more noise issues in the Village of Tontogany and Washington Township due to new development. A review of our zoning resolution and language for same were discussed. It was noted that enforcement has not been an issue for Middleton Township to date, but that having the resolution in place helps with enforcement, if needed.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to cancel the special meeting of the Board scheduled for September 8, 2022 for a zoning rezoning request review. The applicant withdrew their request. Motion approved.** It is noted that Kip McDowell, Zoning Inspector, notified the neighboring residents of the withdrawal.
- Mrs. Limes noted the Audit has begun and is working with the Auditor on items needing specific review.
- The records request by Mr. Steven Scott Honsberger was reviewed with all in attendance. It was noted that Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Linda Holmes gave her approval to gather and provide the information requested, with the exception of any documentation between herself and other named individuals. Mrs. Limes provided all named persons with a copy of the request and noted she hoped to have information gathered by the township meeting on September 21.
- Mrs. Limes provided the Rates Resolution to the Board for review. An error was found on the document. Mrs. Lime will contact the County Auditor to discuss edits needed and receive clarification.
- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Vetter seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Asmus provided the monthly run report for review.
- The Plain Township run report was submitted for review as well as a vehicle maintenance spreadsheet.
- Fire fighter Makelin Hiser has temporarily moved just outside the township's district. Chief Asmus has recommended the Board continue to let her serve. Ms. Hiser understands she cannot respond as a Middleton Township Fire Fighter or First Responder until she is within township limits.
- A fire fighter recognition awards banquet has been scheduled for March 25, 2023 at Nazareth Hall.
- Evan Hiser and Dustin Decker will be taking the Fire Fighter 1 certification transition course at Penta County via Van Guard in October. This will fall under a grant for same and the township will be reimbursed in due course.
- Fire Extinguisher training is scheduled at Principle Business Enterprises.
- The department will be providing fire fighter safety to the second grade classes at Otsego Elementary.
- The township will be a host for an Incident Safety Officer Class through Four County Vocational. Captain Tyler Ellis will be serving as an instructor. The course will be open to Middleton Township Employees and then other local agencies will be invited.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the township host the Incident Safety Officer Class training at a cost of \$1,000 for twenty (20) students over the course of six four-

hour classes. Motion approved. Mrs. Limes has noted her office can support the billing of students from outside the township as needed.

- Chief Asmus shared with the Board that the Fire Fighters Association will be purchasing a Memorial Bell. A pedestal is being built by fire fighter John Beach. The bell will be able to be transported to special events, as needed. It was suggested the bell be housed at the township administration building.
- Past fire fighter Tom Gibbs passed away and Chief Asmus noted his services would be private and no fire fighter service would be held in his honor.
- Assistant Chief Brian Kotula indicated that a pair of boots, a jacket and a pair of pants have been loaned to Center Township.
- The fire department is not sponsoring a dance in 2023. Fundraising efforts were reviewed.

EMS DEPARTMENT

- Chief Jerry Saunders reviewed the run volume report, with a notation that all runs were considered Advanced Life Support (ALS).
- Mr. Saunders indicated they will be interviewing a prospective Paramedic. He will report back to the Board pending an interview.
- New EMS employee physicals and drug screenings were discussed.
- Vacation was reviewed for Deputy EMS Chief Ron Bogedain. Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve two weeks paid vacation for Mr. Bogedain beginning January 1, 2023, with one week being made available to him for the balance of 2022. Motion approved.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Repairs were made to various spots due to a ditch slide on Liberty Hi Road.
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve Envirocare as the contractor to remove trees in Saddlebrook that hinder the progress or can damage school buses going through the subdivision at a cost not to exceed \$2,600 / day. Motion approved.**
- The speed limit in the Riverbend subdivision is being abused. An area resident is requesting intervention by the Trustees.
- A traffic study has been requested for Cross Creek Road between Mercer Road and St. Rt. 25.
- Mr. Moulton reviewed a grant opportunity through TMACOG with regard to road repairs and maintenance.
- Mr. Vetter noted that the county is needing to assist with a jetting project at Five Point Road and St. Rt. 65.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Mr. Moulton and Mr. McDowell updated the Board on the hearing with regard to Top Notch Landscaping. They noted the hearing has been assigned to Wednesday September 21 at 8:30 a.m. The township did request a settlement with fines, along with Top Notch vacating the property within 30 days.

OLD BUSINESS

- A review of language provided by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Linda Holmes with regard to the public sewer line agreement was held. Mr. Vetter indicated he felt it covered the township's concerns with regard to original ownership of the line. Mr. Cromley voiced concerns over existing residents and how they would be forced to pay for said line. The item was tabled.
- Mrs. Limes and Mr. Moulton provided an update on Safety Day preparations.
- Mr. Vetter noted that the County Engineer's office was handling the paperwork for the Hull Prairie Road Improvement project with Ohio Public Works Commission.
- Mr. Moulton noted a pretrial was in the near future with regard to the Copeland Estate claim revolving around the King Road accident.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the purchase of security cameras for the front and back (specifically the gas tank area) of the maintenance building at a cost of \$350 / line through OhioFIT. Motion approved. The cost per line includes cameras, installation and programming.**
- Mr. McDowell noted that the Spectrum line is still in process. He did note that he was told no extra construction costs would be incurred by the township at this time.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to move to executive session for the purpose of personnel discussions with Kip McDowell, Zoning Inspector at 8:50 pm. Role was called: Mr. Cromley – yes; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.

The Trustees returned to regular session at 9:02 pm.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to increase Kip McDowell's wages to \$28.50 / hour, effective the beginning of the next pay cycle. Motion approved.**

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded adjournment of the meeting at 9:10 pm. Motion approved.

Donald E. Cromley, Chairman

Michael Moulton, Vice Chairman

Fred E. Vetter, Trustee

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer