

# Middleton Township Trustees

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

*6:00 p.m.*

Mr. Moulton 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.*

## FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve the July 5, 2023 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Vetter seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to change the time of the August 2 meeting to 8:00 a.m. Motion approved.**
- Mrs. Limes and Mr. Moulton reviewed the status of the Electric Aggregation ballot language. The township Prosecutor was reviewing the status of the ballot issue with county officials. The item will need to be on the ballot in November. Edits to the language will be reviewed and submitted to the Board of Elections once approved by legal counsel.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

- The Trustees reviewed the Fire Contract with Plain Township and tabled the decision until conversation with Chief Asmus.

## EMS DEPARTMENT

- Chief Jerry Saunders updated the Board on staffing. Mr. Saunders confirmed that Paramedic Jennifer Harrison is on leave until September. Full-time Paramedic Rudy Hanzel has resigned due to his medical school acceptance. Two new applicants were presented to the Board for approval.
- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve hiring the following Paramedics for a one-year probation period: Christopher Hartford and Tyler Pier. Motion approved.** Chief Saunders also noted that both individuals should not need a physical as they each had a physical through other department employment within the last year.

## ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Jeff Eckel, Road Supervisor, and the Board discussed the Hull Prairie Road project. Traffic control was noted as a concern by many at the meeting.
- A Five Point Road resident is concerned about tree damage on her property.
- Mr. Eckel indicated the need for a boom mower for trimming roadways.
- Fire trucks will be going to W. W. Williams for inspection beginning August 1.

## ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell provided a permit report.
- A review of the timeline and details for removal of a nuisance property were discussed.  
**Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve Resolution 23-0719, Resolution to Remove Structures that are insecure, unsafe, or structurally defective or in a condition dangerous to life or health or unfit for human habitation that is within the unincorporated territory of Middleton Township per ORC505.86(B). Role was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.** The structures set for removal are located at 20921 Dunbridge Road.
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve hiring Attorney Peter Griggs as legal council for the township on an as-needed basis. Motion approved.** The Board requested Mr. McDowell to provide Mr. Griggs with a copy of the township zoning resolution for review and an estimate of time for helping make necessary updates to the resolution. A final amount to be appropriated also needs reviewed.
- Mr. McDowell noted a variance hearing is scheduled for July 26 with the Board of Zoning Appeals with regard to properties in the Village of Riverbend that are located on a corner.
- Plat 8 is set for development in the Village of Riverbend. Discussion was held with regard to roadways and the Saddlebrook subdivision.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of personnel discussion with regard to the EMS Department at 7:08 pm. Role was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES

The Board returned to regular session at 7:19 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Moulton indicated that the planned depositions were held on July 7 with regard to the Copeland Estate lawsuit.
- The Board noted that they would like the rest shelter to be cleaned up, specifically the damaged electrical lines that were vandalized.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to recess the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday July 20, 2023. Motion approved.

The Board reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to move into executive session at 9:02 a.m. for the purpose of hearing a presentation by Project Accordion personnel with regard to information on economic development review pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (8).  
Role was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Mouton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to take a ten-minute recess. Motion approved.

The Board reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT (cont’d)**

- Mrs. Limes noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter report for the Siren Grant was submitted.
- The Board and Chief Asmus reviewed the proposed Fire Contract with Plain Township.  
**Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve the contract as provided for one-year. Motion approved.** The Board has indicated they want to open negotiations with Plain Township for a multi-year contract. Mrs. Limes will update Plain Township Fiscal Officer Liz Bostdorff of the Board’s decision.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Bids were reviewed for paving the township administration parking lot.  
**Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve contracting with Bowers Asphalt based on a bid threshold, and a review of the bid for clarification, to pave the parking lot of the township administration offices from the administration building to the road maintenance building. Motion approved.** Mr. Vetter will be following up with both Bowers and Morelock to compare bid specifications.

**ZONING DEPARTMENT (cont’d)**

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell was asked to formally pursue an estimate for the zoning resolution to be updated before any formal agreement will be made with Attorney Peter Griggs.

**FISCAL OFFICER REPORT (cont’d)**

- Mrs. Limes is in conversation with R.J. Rajner with Savage and Associates with regard to its status as a COBRA employer. Currently the township is not considered a COBRA employer.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded adjournment of the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion approved.

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Michael Moulton, Chairman

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Donald E. Cromley, Vice Chairman

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Fred E. Vetter, Trustee

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Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer