

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, September 20, 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. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve the September 6, 2023 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- Mrs. Limes provided the August bank reconciliation for review.
- COBRA status has been established and payments made to the company overseeing the management of same.
- Mrs. Limes provided the township's health insurance renewal paperwork, with a suggested modification to the plan from R.J. Rajner, the township's health representative from Savage & Associates. The renewal will be finalized at the next meeting of the Board.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- The Board reviewed an email received from Plain Township with regard to the fire contract. A member of our Board has been requested at the October 9 meeting at Plain Township. In addition, specific requests were made with regard to runs into the township and more. Chief Steve Asmus and Mrs. Limes will review and report back to the Board.

EMS DEPARTMENT

- Chief Jerry Saunders requested the Board accept Paramedic Jennifer Harrison's request for additional leave.
Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve an additional one-month leave to Paramedic Jennifer Harrison through November 1, 2023. Motion approved.
- Mr. Saunders provided information with regard to township employee Sarah Frederick's pursuit of a Paramedic license. He reviewed the past procedures approved by the Board to pay half of a student's tuition, with a commitment for two years with the township. Chief Saunders noted that he did speak with the administration with Waterville Fire, noting that they do not reimburse for any schooling for their part-time personnel. Mrs. Frederick is currently employed with both departments.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve reimbursement of half the tuition for Paramedic School for Sarah Frederick, totaling \$5,828.25 as the township share for the 18-hour program that began September 13, 2023, with an understanding of a two-year commitment from Mrs. Frederick to Middleton Township upon completion. In addition, Mrs. Frederick will reimburse the township if she is unable to complete or pass the test. Motion approved. Mrs. Limes will draft an agreement for signature by Sarah Frederick and the Township Board of Trustees.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Jeff Eckel, Road Supervisor indicated that the ditch repair on Hull Prairie Road is going ahead smoothly.
- A leaf vacuum is available on govdeals.com that is being sold by the City of Maumee. Discussion revolved around purchasing the item currently listed, or waiting for another that may be posted shortly. Mr. Vetter questioned Mr. Eckel to see if the City of Maumee would consider the township renting their equipment. An estimate for the purchase of a leaf vacuum will be provided to the Board.
- Mr. Eckel noted that he contacted OOPS, as there are trees that need removed in the subdivisions.
- Trimming of ditch bank trees were discussed, specifically with regard to Tontogany Road and Mercer Road.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell indicated that permits were coming in slower currently.
- Mr. McDowell and Mrs. Limes updated the Board on the status of the Mansour case, noting that a certified letter had been sent, requesting signature, but that it has not been claimed to date. A

conference will need to be held with Attorney Peter Griggs on how to move forward if the letter is not accepted by Mr. Mansour.

- Mr. McDowell shared with the Board that he has spoke to the owner of the property at the Curling Center. A lighting company will be evaluating and updating the lights in the parking lot within the next three weeks to reduce the light pollution.
- Numerous calls have been received at the township with regard to the Hope House property on River Road adjacent to Riverbend. Mowing has not been handled, weeds are growing in the landscape and the main concern is the status of the pool. Mr. McDowell was encouraged by the Board to contact the Health Department, specifically with respect to the pool.
- Mr. Cromley encouraged Mr. McDowell to move forward with the Health Department on the Blanco residence on St. Rt. 25. Neighbors are noting that vermin come in and out of the house, the car port is still on site and in disrepair plus many vehicles. In addition, mowing maintenance has not been handled.
- No estimate from Attorney Peter Griggs’ office has been received with regard to the update of the township zoning resolution.

VISITOR COMMENTS

- Mr. Heffernan questioned the Board with regard to property sales and status of development. He also was inquiring about ditch maintenance along Mercer Road.

NEW BUSINESS

- Wade Gottschalk, Wood County Planning Commission, provided the Board with a sample of the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) application that will be presented to the Wood County Commissioners on September 28. The application provides a 75% tax abatement for 15 years and was applied for by Liames LLC for a Data Center on the rezoned properties within the CRA boundaries. Mr. Gottschalk noted it is a \$750M investment in the township for a data center by a Fortune 200 company. Eastwood School Board met with regard to the funding to the schools and approved their support. Otsego School Board meets soon to review the data as well as Penta Vocational Center.
Questions were raised with regard to phases and numbers of buildings on the site and the Board indicated that the township has not received a site plan for review.
Ross Fought, township resident, shared his concerns over the board having no say in the tax incentive/abatement. Mr. Moulton noted that the Board will have input on the site plan. Additional concerns were raised with regard to staffing of the Fire and EMS Departments.
Mr. Vetter spoke to the benefits of a data center, with a lower impact, than a large industrial complex with truck traffic.
Resident Bethany Brown questioned if Mr. Gottschalk knew if the company has developed other data centers, and Mr. Gottschalk confirmed that they have handled other projects of this type.
Mr. Fought encouraged the Board to consider a ‘no’ vote of support.
Mr. Cromley spoke to the fact that he does not support tax abatements of this type, but stated his agreement that this plan is a best-case scenario for the township based on the type of business can could come in under M-1 zoning.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to state their support of the Community Reinvestment Area Application as provided to the Wood County Commissioners for a 75% tax abatement for 15 years, with the school districts being awarded in full, as applied for by Liames LLC for a data center. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Safety Day was a success and duly noted numerous times throughout the meeting by the Trustees and Fiscal Officer. A follow-up meeting of the committee will be held in the near future with a date set for 2024.
- Mr. Moulton updated the Board on the Copeland Estate lawsuit noting the plaintiff conducted a road study. Mr. Eckel voiced concern over the repairs that were needed on the road as basic maintenance. The Board reviewed this matter and it was determined Mr. Eckel and his department staff should handle routine maintenance on the township portion of the road.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:10 pm. Motion approved.

Michael Moulton, Chairman

Donald E. Cromley, Vice Chairman

Fred E. Vetter, Trustee

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer