

# Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

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.*

***A Moment of Silence was requested by Chairman Cromley in honor of  
past Township Trustee Penelope S. (Penny) Getz  
who passed away on February 2, 2025.  
Mrs. Getz served as a Trustee for 17 ½ years.  
Mr. Cromley closed in prayer. 'Rest well our faithful servant.'***

## **FISCAL OFFICER REPORT**

- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the February 3, 2025 special meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- The December bank reconciliation was provided for review.
- The Board received a copy of the 2025 Temporary Appropriations that will be submitted to the County Auditor.
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- Mrs. Limes indicated that figures were provided by the County Engineers' office staff with regard to percentage shares of road improvement projects in Plain and Center Townships. Invoices were sent to the respective Fiscal Officers. Middleton paid for the invoice in full for both the Cross Creek and Self Road improvement projects.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Assistant Chief Brian Kotula provided the department run reports for review.
- Fire fighter O'Connell sustained injuries in a fire and is recovering and was cleared to return to work. Mr. O'Connell's gear was damaged and he is being fitted with new gear.
- Mr. Kotula reviewed an application for Audrey Hendry, noting her experience as an EMT and Fire Fighter 1 status obtained through Penta.  
**Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve Audrey Hendry as a Fire Fighter on a one-year probation. Motion approved.**
- Fire fighter Mike Wulff has moved out of the coverage area for the township. His gear has been returned. It was noted by many that he was a valued member of the department.
- A portion of the recently ordered fire hose has been received. Additional fire hose is still on order.
- The Fire Department Recognition Banquet is scheduled for March 22, 2025 at Nazareth Hall.  
**Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to pay for the rental of Nazareth Hall for the Recognition Banquet on March 22, 2025. Motion approved.** Mrs. Limes will coordinate payment.
- Questions with regard to replacing Assistant Chief Chuck Steedman were raised and the Board indicated no decision would be made and more discussion would need to be held with Chief Asmus. It was also noted Chief Asmus is planning to retire in 2025.

## **EMS DEPARTMENT**

- Chief Jerry Saunders reviewed the run volume report for January.
- Chief Saunders indicated that Burgess Ambulance stated that while the chassis for the new ambulance was not yet in production, he was provided a date of May/June 2026 for delivery.
- Funds were received for the EMS training and equipment grant to be applied toward the body armor purchase approved by the Board.
- The portal for application to the BWC grant is still closed.
- The updated pharmacy license structure was reviewed. There will be one license for the township and three (3) satellite licenses. This is a change from prior years. Chief Saunders will confirm the pricing with Mrs. Limes for payment of same.
- The new LifePak was delivered and training for all personnel is on-going. The LifePak will not be put into service until all staff are trained.
- A grant opportunity is being pursued which could provide funding for the stair chairs and power load system.

- Soft billing was discussed among the Board, Chief Saunders and Mrs. Limes. Chief Saunders reviewed the emails that had been received by neighboring entities. Mrs. Limes and Chief Saunders will continue to pursue a company for recommendation to the Board. Details on how it would be handled, charges that would be approved and billing related to fire department calls are all part of the on-going discussion.
- A review of the February 4 meeting with multiple Wood County township officials, fire and EMS chiefs regarding the future of Wood County township fire and EMS services and potential updated coverage areas was held. The meeting was a discovery session and Washington Township Trustee Steve Powell is heading the talks currently. The next meeting is tentatively slated for April at a date TBD.
- Deputy Chief Ron Bogedain indicated that he has an instructor to hold an ACLS Class and would like to host the training at the township administration building. The Board was in favor of the training being hosted at the township and Mr. Bogedain will review date options with the township staff.

#### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

- Dunbridge Road will be closed at times due to the sewer line project in the township.

#### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

- Paramedic Zachary Neeld stated that the latest class at Penta had ten students, with a 100% passing rate. Mr. Neeld noted the number of students has dramatically decreased from prior years.
- Resident Melissa Petra questioned where volunteers for the fire department are coming from and how are they recruited.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Vetter reviewed the status of the Emergency Vehicle Storage Building project, indicating that the township is moving forward on the project and many details were worked out at the February 3 meeting.
- The Calhalon site may be a potential storage facility for Abbott based on information obtained by Mr. Vetter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Moulton updated the Board on HB315 – the township omnibus bill and also shared that he will be serving on the 2025 Governing Board for TMACOG.
- The township employee handbook is needing updated and Mr. Moulton is suggesting outside assistance with the project.
- Mrs. Getz’s visitation and funeral were discussed, with the fire department noting their attendance at visitation as a group. Mrs. Limes is coordinating an effort to have township fleet vehicles on site as the funeral procession passes the township complex on its way to Union Hill Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

**Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of personnel discussion at 7:28 p.m. Role was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.**

The Board returned to regular session at 8:00 p.m.

**Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the following for Deputy EMS Chief Ron Bogedain:**

- **Retirement from the township effective February 27, 2025**
- **Rehire back into the township effective March 1, 2025.**
- **Wage, vacation, sick, benefits will remain in effect and carryover with no lapse.**

**Motion approved.** Mr. Bogedain has been in contact with OPERS and Mrs. Limes has had conversation on the accurate way to handle reporting with OPERS due to the retirement/rehire plan.

**Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded adjournment of the meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion approved.**

---

**Donald E. Cromley, Chairman**

---

**Michael Moulton, Vice Chairman**

---

**Fred E. Vetter, Trustee**

---

**Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer**