

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Vetter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. In attendance were Trustees Cromley, Moulton, and Vetter. Fiscal Officer Limes was in attendance for a portion of the meeting. Stephanie Morris served as Clerk.

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 November 6, 2024 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 an update with regard to the Webster Township Fire Contract noting that she has spoke with the Fiscal Officer Julie Foos. They utilize a formula that takes into consideration their funding from the Nexus pipeline as well as valuation for both Webster and Middleton township. Webster Township is aware of the need to increase the contract amount. Mr. Vetter spoke to the details involving how to increase the coverage area for Middleton to include both sides of Anderson Road and up to St. Rt. 199.
- Mrs. Limes presented an option to the Board for a Construction Administrator to oversee the Emergency Vehicle Storage Building project.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve Jeff Buehrer as a construction Administrator at a cost of \$20,000 maximum for 2025 plus mileage. Motion approved.
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve The Spieker Company for the design-build services on the Emergency Vehicle Storage Building. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve \$145,000 to The Spieker Company as an initial down payment for their design/build efforts on the Emergency Vehicle Storage Building project. Motion approved.**
- The Fifth Third Securities investment matures November 25. Mrs. Limes requested confirmation on closing the investment and where to place the funds.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to close the Fifth Third Securities Investment totaling \$187,432.42 and reinvest with STAR Ohio. Motion approved.
- Wreaths Across America will be placing wreaths at New Belleville Ridge Joint Cemetery on Saturday, December 14. Volunteers are needed that morning to lay wreaths. In addition, help is being requested by township staff to utilize a trailer to move the wreaths from their location outside Pemberville that morning.

EMS DEPARTMENT

- Chief Jerry Saunders indicated he plans to come back to work as an administrator only until December 16. He is planning a 24-hour work week until that time.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Chase Greulich, Road Supervisor reported that leaves are being picked up in the villages, berming is on-going and trucks are being prepped for winter use.
- There are a bank slides on Ovitt Road and Liberty Hi Road. Mr. Greulich will continue to reach out to the county to review the situations.
- An evergreen tree is blocking visibility on Five Point Road. Mr. Vetter is checking to see if the tree is in the township right-of-way.
- A four-way stop will be allowed at the intersection of Five Point and Hull Prairie Roads. Due to the number of accidents, a traffic study is not needed according to a representative at Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). A recommendation for HALO type signage was made by the county engineer.
Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve a four-way stop with halo signage at the intersection of Hull Prairie and Five Point Roads per drawings provided by ODOT. Motion approved.
- A new berm box is being discussed with thoughts of keeping the existing berm box as well. The Trustees encouraged Mr. Greulich to look at equipment available at the Ohio Township Association conference next January.
- Mr. Vetter discussed pavement condition on Mercer Road from Sugar Ridge Road to Rte. 582 and Devils Hole Road from Mercer Road to Rte. 25.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell indicated the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold three hearings before the end of the year which include: Saddlebrook subdivision; a variance for screens around buildings and materials, and another for landscaping behind a home.
- Two proposals have been sought for an update to the township Zoning Resolution. Quotes have not been received to date.
- Mr. Cromley noted concerns about a property in Dunbridge with tarps over 7-8 cars.

VISITOR COMMENTS

- Paramedic and Fire Fighter Chris Hartford addressed the Board with a proposal to allow him to provide embroidery and screen printing on shirts for the township. Mr. Hartford owns his business in the township. The Trustees will review the legalities of utilizing a township employee-owned business.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Moulton reviewed the status of the Copeland Estate lawsuit. He reported township legal counsel conveyed the court ruled on the township’s motion for summary judgment, dismissing all negligence and intentional tort claims and agreeing that the township is entitled to immunity on those claims. An amended complaint seeking an injunction against the township and the Village of Haskins regarding road conditions remains undecided. Mr. Cromley thanked Mr. Moulton for his efforts on this task. d
- Mr. Moulton plans to meet with the owners of the Curling Center to discuss timers on the lighting.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Trustees reviewed a meeting held at Northwestern Water & Sewer with regard to the water line coming through Dunbridge. They indicated the project was moving along well. It was noted by Mr. Moulton that there is a plan to cut Mercer Road versus boring under the roadway.
- Mr. Moulton shared a conversation with resident Jason Cobb about the data center project and his positive comments about road work in the township.
- The roundabout on St. Rt. 582 is open to the public.

The Board went into recess at 6:59 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

ZONING DEPARTMENT (cont’d)

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell will attend the TMACOG meeting on December 9.

ROAD DEPARTMENT (cont’d)

- Tom Dauer, Road Maintenance employee, thanked the Board for bringing him on board as a staff member. He requested clarification on how they want things maintained/repared. The Board stated he should discuss with Chase Greulich, Road Department Supervisor and then a Trustee if necessary. Mr. Cromley reinforced the need to log all maintenance records.
- Mr. Vetter requested the road department staff drive roads to work on a list for future paving projects.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded adjournment of the meeting at 8:10 pm. Motion approved.

Michael Moulton, Trustee

Donald E. Cromley, Vice Chairman

Fred E. Vetter, Chairman

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer