

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the Administration Building, 6032 Morris Road, Fairfield Township, OH 45011, for conducting Township business. Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Hartkemeyer at 8:47 AM.

Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. Berding to appoint Patty Moore Clerk Pro Tem
All in favor.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Pro Tem, Patty Moore

Trustee Chairperson, Shannon Hartkemeyer	Present
Trustee Vice Chairperson, Michael Berding	Present
Trustee, Joe McAbee	Present

INVOCATION: Paster Cecil Day, Lighthouse Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION – Fire fighter Jason Agoston – Discussion of Patriots Day Festival. We had 203 cars registered. We doubled that from last year. The Union raised \$4,000 for the Animal Friends Humane Society. In beer sales we had raised a little over a \$1,000. We made a \$500 donation to Brighton’s Battalion, which is a Pediatric Cancer Foundation. We did donate \$1,000 to the overall cost of the event. The IAFF purchased a pallet of water from Walmart which we donated to the Fire Corp to sell to raise money for them and the remaining cases were donated to the Public Works Department. Next years event is on September 13th and the fundraiser for that is the Fire Buddies; a nonprofit group of firemen that give back and support kids fighting serious illness.

Trustee Hartkemeyer – Presented Special Letter of Accommodation to Firefighter Jason Agoston.

Trustee Hartkemeyer - Presentation of Letter of Accommodation to IAFF Local 5276.

Mr. Berding - This was an incredibly successful event. I want to thank all the employees and families that came out to help. I look forward to next year.

Mr. McAbee - We appreciate everything you do every day.

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ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Milton Road Park ARPA Funds Update

Mr. Goins – Fairfield Township was awarded \$150,000 of ARPA funds through an application with Butler County. The grant award was for new playground equipment. The equipment is going to be geared toward 2 – 5-year-olds. We should have a plan to share with the trustees next month.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board of Trustees to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any Trustee may remove an item from the Consent Agenda by request. No second is required for removal of an item. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to adopt Consent agenda.
All in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Administrator, Julie Vonderhaar

Dianne and I and Trustee Berding were honored to have breakfast with Barney Landry and learned more about his story and that was fascinating. Later today we have lunch with City of Fairfield and the school district. We have a *Halloween Trick or Treat in the Dark Movie Night* scheduled. We also have a community appreciation night scheduled through the school. Second half of the tax settlement was received at the end of August for just over \$4M.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Can you let us know what the total is for curb & gutter?

Mr. McAbee – Do you have a total for the 2 events?

Mr. Vonderhaar - The expenses were around \$30,000 and we brought in \$30,000 in sponsorship

Mr. McAbee – What about the expenses for Touch a Truck?

Mrs. Vonderhaar - I haven’t gathered them yet. We did have help from Bridgewater Falls. I think the Township paid about \$1,500 for Patriots Day.

A. Recommend motion to suspend reading of the minutes of the following meeting:

a. Trustee Regular Meeting August 13, 2024

b. Special Trustee Meeting, August 27, 2024

B. Recommend motion to approve the minutes.

C. Recommend motion to approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Office

All in favor.

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MOTIONS – Consent Agenda Item

- A. Motion allowing Administrator to bid for curb and gutter work as needed for year 2025.
All in favor.
- B. Motion to pay Fairfield City Schools their portion of the TIF payments received the second half of 2024.
All in favor.

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Resolution No. 24-128 approving open Purchase Order Balances.
- B. Resolution No. 24-129 declaring nuisance and ordering abatement on properties.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS #24-130
Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution #24-130.
All in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET COMMISSION THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR #24-131
Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. Berding to adopt Resolution #24-131.

Mr. McAbee – We need to decide whether we’re going to raise taxes or not. If we approve the rates on that sheet we’re going to raise more money. I’m in favor of not raising taxes.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – So you want to use the 2023 numbers and not the current numbers? We talked about this in June and Ms. Schultz said she was not comfortable in using old rates not reflective of our 2024 numbers.

Mrs. Vonderhaar - We cannot change the inside millage. From everything I’ve been told we should not mess with the tax rates. This is an annual thing and up to the will of the Board. I would proceed as the auditor requested.

Mr. McAbee - I don’t think the auditor requested this. That’s why we get to do it by setting the rates. We did it last year by accepting the same amount.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I thought we had discussed this thoroughly back in June. We had concerns about numbers that weren’t reflective of our current data and there were actually some concerns about fraud. The auditor’s office had concerns about the higher rates in property taxes.

Larry Barbieri, Attorney - I think this is a policy decision. Last year was the first time I’ve ever been involved in a discussion not to go with the numbers from the auditor. From a legal standpoint I think you could do either. It’s very unusual not to go along with the decision from the auditor.

Mr. Berding - I don’t consider it raising someone’s taxes. We’re not adding a new tax and we’re not increasing the rate. We’re keeping the rate the same. The economy has raised the taxes. As our expenses go up we need to collect the same rate to help offset our rising costs. I think we should keep the rate as it is.

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Mrs. Hartkemeyer – We need to look at this long-term. The way that we have managed things we have made our levy last more than the 5 years it was supposed to last. I would prefer not to go for a levy anytime soon. We’re doing what we normally do every single year. Last year was aberration but we’re doing consistently what has been done. I think it protects our financial position to hopefully push that levy down the road.

Mr. McAbee - I strongly disagree accepting the money because we can.

YES: Mrs. Hartkemeyer, Mr. Berding

NO: Mr. McAbee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. TID – Trustee McAbee, nothing at this time.
- B. EMA – Trustee Hartkemeyer, nothing at this time.
- C. OKI – Trustee Hartkemeyer, nothing at this time.
- D. CLOUT - Trustee Hartkemeyer, nothing at this time.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Berding – The Patriots Day Event was tremendous to see all the different departments and volunteers to chip in and make it a great event.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - It was brilliant to see everyone working together. It was such a give-back for our community. I’m looking forward to what we do next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Food Pantry Collection for Thanksgiving – October 21-November 15, 2024, Administration Building
- Fairfield Township/Indian Spring JEDD Meeting-Thursday, September 19, 2024, 8:00 AM
- Fairfield City School Community Appreciation Night-Friday, September 20, 2024, 7:00 PM
- First Day of Autumn-Sunday, September 22, 2024
- Fairfield Township Board of Trustees Meeting-Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to adjourn at 9:23 AM.
All in favor.

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Minutes submitted by:

Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Chairperson

Michael Berding, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

Joe McAbee, Trustee