

# MIAMI TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 8, 2024

The Miami Township Board of Trustees met in a work session on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Miami Township Civic Center. Chairperson Wolff called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ferry called the roll. Attending were Mary Makley Wolff, Mark Schulte, and Ken Tracy.

Craig Hibner from the Burnham & Flowers Insurance Group gave a presentation and quote on property and casualty insurance through OTARMA.

Chief Kelly recommended the following action for personnel:

## **Police Department**

Make a final offer of employment to Jeffrey Alan Van Pelt for the position of full-time Police Officer with an eighteen-month probationary period, at a pay rate of \$43.29 per hour starting January 22, 2024.

## **Recreation Department**

Make an offer of employment to Stephanie Stanton as a part-time Lifeguard at a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective January 9, 2024. This offer is contingent on successful completion of a drug screen and background check.

## **Service Department**

Gage Pettit is currently due for a promotion effective Jan 3, 2024 from a MW 1-2 to MW 2-1. This promotion, combined with his 2024 contract rate results in a new pay rate of \$25.79 per hour. I am requesting that Gage receive a step increase to MW 2-2 at a rate of \$28.21 per hour based on the following. He did receive an exemplary annual evaluation.

## **Fire Department**

Accept the resignation of Colin Campbell, seasonal hydrant technician, effective December 31, 2023.

Accept the resignation of Ethan Morgenthaler, seasonal hydrant technician, effective December 31, 2023.

Change the rate of pay for Shawna Lynch to \$19.31 per hour effective December 24, 2023, to coincide with her transition from full-time to a part-time Firefighter/Paramedic.

Promote full-time Firefighter/EMT, Molli Doyle, to full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective December 24, 2023 following her graduation from Paramedic School. Her hourly rate will change to the probationary Firefighter/Paramedic rate of \$25.31 per hour.

Promote full-time Firefighter/EMT, Stephen Bischoff, to full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective December 24, 2023 following his graduation from Paramedic School. His hourly rate will change to the probationary Firefighter/Paramedic rate of \$25.31 per hour.

Promote Paul Eckert to the role of full-time Fire Inspector effective January 22, 2024 earning \$33.65 per hour.

Make an offer of volunteer employment to Reagan Schultze effective January 9, 2024.

## **New 2024 Part-Time Firefighter Rates**

Effective January 7, 2024, it is recommended part-time Firefighter/EMS hourly rates be adjusted to blend components of current pay and compensate employees fairly at a base rate. Set shifts and weekends are now included in the scheduled rotation and no longer an adjustment to the base rate. The longevity incentive will continue to be paid to employees listed in the chart below but will not be included for anyone hired on January 1, 2024 or later.

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	Base Rate	Longevity	Total
Bober, Andrew	\$20.75		\$20.75
Cayse, Daniel	\$23.00	\$ 1.50	\$24.50
Hall, Keilin	\$20.75		\$20.75
Lantman, Steve	\$20.75	\$ 1.50	\$22.25
Lynch, Shawna	\$23.00		\$23.00
Nagelhout, Jeff	\$20.75	\$ 2.50	\$23.25
Schmidt, Tyler	\$20.75		\$20.75
Silletti, Giovanni	\$20.75		\$20.75
Spitznagel, William	\$23.00	\$ 0.50	\$23.50
Wedig, Cara	\$23.00		\$23.00

Longevity Benefit

Longevity	Per hour increase
3-5 Years	\$0.50
6-8 Years	\$1.00
9-11 Years	\$1.50
12-15 Years	\$2.00
16+ Years	\$2.50

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the personnel recommendations as stated, seconded by Mr. Schulte with all voting “AYE”.

Mr. Eliff asked the board to set a hearing date and time for the trustees to hear zoning cases #591, 592 and 593 for final disposition.

Mr. Schulte made a motion to set a special Board of Trustees meeting for Tuesday January 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to hear zoning cases #591, 592 and 593, and any other business that may come before the Board. Mr. Tracy seconded with all voting “AYE”.

Chief Kelly presented information on the cost to replace thirty ballistic helmets and vests specific to FEMS. Current ballistic helmets and vests have previously expired or will expire in the next few months. The proposed vests are a universal fit and have a 5-year replacement schedule. This project will cost up to \$42,615.00 and was budgeted as a part of 2024 capital expenses.

Chief Kelly mentioned that in 2022, the fire department began the task of remounting an ambulance body onto a new chassis to not have to purchase a new ambulance. The project was significantly delayed but is currently underway. Upon deeper visual inspection, it was discovered that some significant additional repairs would need to be made. The greatest of these involve seams, welds, and structural components that could not be fully evaluated previously but are necessary to ensure the ambulance is structurally stable. Also, in the interim, since they started the project, some of the electrical controls are no longer supported and must be replaced with newer components. These two major areas of concern, along with some minor issues that were discovered and must be addressed, have resulted in additional costs of \$6,523.00 worth of work which must be done. Chief Kelly included a copy of a change order that outlines the various costs of the work needed. Also, there was a \$302.00 increase in the cost of the chassis that was incurred by switching from the original RAM chassis that was not available to an available Ford F550 chassis. Chief Kelly requested the board approve the expenditure of \$6,825.00 for additional work on the refurbishment of ambulance A-12.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to approve the expenditure \$6,825.00 for additional work on the refurbishment of ambulance A-12, Mr. Schulte seconded the motion, and all voted “AYE.”

Chief Kelly presented information on behalf of both the police and fire department to purchase upgraded radios. In 2025 there will be additional radio upgrades nationally and many of our current radios will no longer work with the new system. Both the police and fire department

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budgeted for this purchase in 2024 as a capital project cost. He mentioned we are required to purchase these radios through Mobilcomm and Motorola Solutions. The fire department needs to purchase seven (7) APX 6500 vehicle radios at a price not to exceed \$6,047.05 each for a price not to exceed \$42,329.35, four (4) APX 900 handheld radios at a price not to exceed \$2,770.34 each for a price not to exceed \$11,081.36. The police department needs to purchase six (6) APX 6000 handheld radios at a price not to exceed \$5,169.71 each for a price not to exceed \$31,018.26, with the total for all radios not to exceed \$84,428.97. He asked to bring this item back to the business meeting for formal approval.

Chief Kelly mentioned that Miami Township has contracted with the Loveland Symmes Fire Department for many years to provide services to residents and properties along O'Bannonville Road. The contract amount is equal to the total Fire and EMS levy funds collected from the five single family homes in Miami Township on O'Bannon Road. The cost for 2024 is \$2,541.25. Chief Kelly will bring the renewal contract to the next Business Meeting.

Chief Mills provided an updated Canine Agreement. The Agreement was reviewed and edited by Mr. Braun since Officer Heintzelman went from an auxiliary officer to full time. Chief Mills mentioned Officer Heintzelman will not bring both of his Canines every day to the school, but that his vehicle is available for safe keeping of Canines if necessary. Miami Township will provide liability insurance related to the work performed by the Canines in the furtherance of law enforcement activities. Per the Agreement, if a problem arises and either party wants to terminate the Agreement, a fourteen-day written notice must be given.

Mr. Schulte made a motion for Interim Administrator Kelly to sign the MOU agreement, Mr. Tracy seconded, and all voted "AYE".

Chief Mills presented information on the purchase of two new solar-powered speed boards from TrafficLogix, that integrate with existing software, at a cost not exceeding \$6,686.00. He also mentioned the police department is requesting the purchase of two solar adapters from All Traffic Solutions at a cost not exceeding \$2,868.49. The request from residents to place speed boards along township streets to warn motorists of their speed has greatly increased. The speed boards also allow the police department to gather valuable traffic data. These purchases are budgeted as a capital expense for 2024.

Chief Mills presented information on integrating Axon Air as a part of the department's drone program. Axon Air provides streaming capabilities to allow all first responders access to real-time footage of the situations as they are unfolding. Additionally, Axon Air will log flight information and provide a streamlined ability to retain evidence and share it with our criminal justice partners. The police department is requesting approval at the business meeting for the ability to enter a five-year contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc for Axon Air capabilities. The agreement for a term of five years with an annual cost of \$7,930.24 for the first year and \$7,680.24 for an additional four years. Over the five-year period at a cost not to exceed \$38,651.20.

Chief Mills is requesting approval at the next business meeting to send Officer Wahlert and Officer Dold to the CALEA conference in March in Montgomery, Alabama. This year is the police department's year for CALEA re-accreditation. Chief Mills will join them at the end of the conference for the re-accreditation hearing and awards banquet. The total cost for travel, conference fees, lodging, etc. will not exceed the cost of \$5,060.

Mr. Musselman previously met with MessCo Engineering to discuss traffic issues that will occur due to a redevelopment of an existing building at the intersection of Wards Corner and Center Street. He presented their traffic solution proposal to change Roscoe Alley (to Drake Alley) and Drake Alley from Roscoe Alley to Center Street, to one way traffic. Clermont County's traffic engineer, Amanda Beiting has reviewed this and sees no issue so long as the township makes the appropriate notifications and advanced warning postings. Currently there is not a projected date for completion of the project, but he will be asking for the Board's approval to move forward with the changes.

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Mr. Musselman presented information to purchase a new single axle cab and chassis through State Purchasing at a price of \$100,071.00 as a part of the service department’s five-year vehicle replacement plan. Current supply chain issues are affecting this size dump truck and if ordered now, the cab and chassis should be available by the 2025 snow season. \$225,000 was budgeted for a new salt truck and the remainder of the budget will be used to configure the truck bed and plow/spreader.

Mr. Musselman presented the streets that have been selected for the 2024 Pavement Resurfacing Plan. These streets were chosen due to their Pavement Quality Index or condition rating as determined by State Engineering. The project base bid is \$2,226,912.04. With alternate streets the base bid is \$2,356,597.04.

Chief Kelly presented an overview of the township’s CLOUT (Coalition of Large Ohio Townships) membership. Miami Township is eligible to be a member of CLOUT based on population and budget.

**Public Comment:** Jordan Remice asked Chief Mills and the board if the Canine Initiative proves successful, would the board consider using more Canine units for other entities in the municipality? She further asked if the police department has quantifiable metrics or dimensions that can be used to prove the efficacy of the program.

Ms. Wolff informed Ms. Remice that each Milford School has a therapy dog for mental health services. Miami Township’s Police Canines will have different functions.

Chief Mills stated the canines have already been used at the schools various times to search for drugs. The police department keeps track of the findings.

Jordi Rour of 1388 Wade Road asked Chief Mills what other criminal activities the officers are looking into, such as cyberbullying and digital crimes.

Chief Mills responded that the police department has detectives that work with the Fusion Center in the greater Cincinnati area to help with such cases. He said typically these cases are turned over to the FBI as our local department cannot investigate overseas.

Mark Schulte made a motion to go into executive session. Ken Tracy seconded the motion. Upon roll call, all voted “aye”.

Mark Schulte made a motion to come out of executive session. Ken Tracy seconded the motion. Upon roll call, all voted “aye”. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM on January 8, 2024.

ATTEST:

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Eric C. Ferry, Fiscal Officer

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Mary Makley Wolff, Chairperson