

Held \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_  
**November 15, 2022**

The Miami Township Board of Trustees met for their monthly Business Meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Miami Township Civic Center. Chairperson Schulte called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Schulte invited the Grothaus Family to step forward and presented them with a proclamation recognizing their contribution to Miami Township for their many years of service with the SAY Soccer organization. The family will be leading the Miami Township Holiday Parade this year.

Mr. Schulte opened the public hearing for R.C. 505.86(C) (2) Re: Resolution 2022-40 Removal of an unsafe structure. Mr. Elliff presented the history of the property at 5888 Cook Road that dates to 2007, it is in disrepair and is considered a health & safety hazard.

Mr. Fiedler, the property owner, noted that the maintenance of this property has been an ongoing struggle. He had issues with retaining tenants and finding people to take care of the lawn maintenance. A roofing permit has been obtained and he has a contractor expecting to start in the next few weeks. He noted that a patch that was on the roof was destroyed during the July storms and that has allowed raccoons to enter the property. The subcontractors have given proposals to do the work, but they are having a hard time finding help and building materials. He maintains that about 80% of the building is in good condition although an inspection 30 minutes prior to the meeting was conducted and no work has been done at the site.

Mr. Schulte invited any other interested parties to speak. Mr. Mark Birkle, 5889 Cook Road, the adjacent property trustee where his mother lives spoke on the smell coming from the building and the animals coming in and out of the property. He noted the property has been that way since 2011, he tried to address it with Mr. Fiedler who did not respond or make any repairs. In 2014 he offered to help with the building, and nothing happened.

Mr. Fiedler added that the insulation in the attic has gotten wet due to the disrepair of the roof and that is the source of the odor. Mr. Elliff spoke to the fact that the neighbors back yard is unusable due to the stench.

Mr. Schulte closed the hearing and noted that the Board will enter an order within 30 days. There was a discussion regarding the time and date of the hearing, and it was planned for the December business meeting. Mr. Tracy noted that he has reviewed the file in great length and is willing to make a recommendation to the Board tonight. The Board agreed that they will make the decision at the end of tonight's meeting.

Mr. Ferry presented correspondence from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to approve the October 18, 2022, Business Meeting minutes and the November 7, 2022, Work Session minutes, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

The Department Heads presented their monthly reports for October.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to pay the bills of the township, 214 checks numbered 143010 to 143223, and 55 electronic payments numbered 2699 to 2753 for the total amount of \$1,967,173.88, including payroll taxes, plus payroll for the check dates

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10/21/2022, and 10/04/22 in the amounts of \$316,606.66, \$301,030.37, respectively. Seconded by Mr. Tracy, all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright presented a request from the Fiscal Office for a Then & Now Certificate in the amount of \$26,663.84. Mr. Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-43 authorizing the Township Fiscal Office to issue and certify a Then & Now Certificate for payment of various expenditures, totaling \$26,663.84 and declaring an emergency, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright presented personnel actions from the Fire Department. Ms. Wolff made a motion to accept the personnel actions as presented, seconded by Mr. Tracy and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright presented a request from the Fiscal Office to adopt a Resolution that will permit the Township to request advance payment of real estate taxes from the Clermont County Auditor in 2023 pursuant to Revised Code 321.34.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-44, a Resolution requesting the County Auditor to make advance payments of taxes and dispensing with the second reading, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright presented information on the OPERS Conversion Plan, which permits employees to convert a portion of their retirement payout of compensatory time to pensionable income. According to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System regulations, employers with Conversion Plans must update them annually with OPERS and can do so by submitting the OPERS Conversion Plan Template, completed by the Fiscal Office.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-45, a resolution authorizing the adoption of an Annual Conversion Plan in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 145.01 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 145-1-26 and to dispense with the second reading, seconded by Mr. Tracy and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright presented information on House Bill 377, which has made available \$500 million dollars for planning and implementation grants for communities in the 32 counties in Ohio designated as Appalachian Counties.

He has attended several information sessions on the program and application process hosted by Clermont County and the Ohio Department of Development. At each of the meetings, State, regional and County officials have stressed the same phrasing of do not go it alone. They are directing us to combine projects with other communities, our county, and even multiple counties. The Governor wants projects that are "transformational" and "of regional benefit".

The first phase of the grant and timeline is that the State is accepting applications with a December 9, 2022, deadline for the Appalachian Technical Assistance Grant. This is a pool of funds that will be available for further planning and engineering studies showing cooperation among jurisdictions.

Mr. Wright shared his list of prospective projects for Miami Township first with the Board and then with representatives of the Clermont County Community and Economic Development Department. He is in the process of securing letters of support from community partners for each of the projects. The first item for us to complete at this time is a Resolution from the Board that authorizes him to submit our list of prospective projects to Clermont County so that they are included in the Counties submittal to the State to be eligible for the Technical Assistance Grant. It is his intention that after further

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developing the process and due diligence we will submit an application, in cooperation with Clermont County, in December of 2023 for Development Grant funds to fund our projects.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-46 to authorize the Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Appalachian Community Grant Program and to execute cooperation agreements as required and declare an emergency, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright noted that each of the Township's land use boards, the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) are comprised of five regular members and one alternate member. Terms are staggered so that one regular seat expires each year.

Customarily for the beginning of each new year, the Board of Trustees appoints a member to the Zoning Commission and BZA for a new five-year term. For 2023, the term of appointment for both seats will begin January 1, 2023, and expire on December 31, 2027.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to re-appoint Carol Turchick to the regular Zoning Commission seat for the term January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027 and re-appoint Todd Munro to the regular Board of Zoning Appeals seat for the term January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027, seconded by Mr. Tracy and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright shared the job description for the Behavioral Health Specialist to be available to all Township Personnel. To fund this position the Fire/EMS Department received a \$220,000 ARPA Grant for First Responder Wellness. The funding will include salary and benefits, training courses and administrative overhead for the position.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to accept the Behavioral Health Specialist Job Description, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright reminded the board that we have budgeted in the 2022 General Fund Capital Improvements, \$30,000 for electronic sign upgrades. The sign at Community Park, one of our oldest, installed in 2016 and out of warranty is in need of an upgrade.

An upgrade would consist of a new Samsung 8mm 120 x 270 Matrix Display. This would give us a bit more than 4.5 times the pixels that the current 16 mm sign has (6,912 in current display compared to 32,400 in new display). The smaller the pixel number means less space between the pixels for a much higher resolution image. This upgrade would also give us the ability to display videos up to 60 frames per second. The new display would also be about 6 inches taller, so the estimate includes the necessary modifications to the exiting cabinet.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to contract with Signarama of Lawrenceburg to perform the electronic message board upgrade as outlined in this memo at Miami Township's Community Park for the amount of \$31,302.90, seconded by Mr. Tracy and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright also noted that the Miami Township Towne Center pylon sign at Montclair Ct. and I-275 is in need of repairs as some of the tenant panel internal lighting has been failing. The internal lighting system is a system of chains of LED modules powered by individual 24-Vdc power supplies. Some of the power supplies and LEDs have failed in one of the tenant panels and they need to be replaced.

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BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

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Given the approximate 6-year age of the sign, these components are reaching the end of their expected life cycle. All warranties for this sign have expired.

Mr. Wright presented a need for the replacement of all of the LEDs and power supplies in all of the tenant cabinets and the Towne Center panel (\$23,417.84). The new LEDs would come with a 10-year parts and 5-year labor warranty, and the power supplies would come with a 5-year parts and labor warranty.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to contract with Yesco to perform the lighting repairs as outlined at the pylon sign located at Montclair Ct. and I- 275 in the amount of \$23,417.84, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Wright reminded the Board that at the Work Session we discussed an opportunity to consider a Resolution to allow Miami Township Police Officers to excise powers to make traffic arrests on I-275. If agreeable to the Board, it would be used to respond to auto crashes on the Interstate so that crash scenes can be cleared more quickly. Often when it occurs now, we must wait for an Ohio State Highway Patrol Officer to come on scene to complete the investigation and report so that we can open the lanes of traffic back up to the public. We feel that would be a benefit to Township residents and businesses. We are not making this request to spend additional time patrolling I-275 for traffic offenders and speeders, except for a few times per year when the State of Ohio provides grants for extra patrols for impaired drivers.

The State of Ohio recently passed Legislation House Bill 206 allowing Township Police officers, with populations under 50,000, arrest powers on highways. The Township Board of Trustees may adopt a resolution authorizing these arrest powers.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-47, authorizing Miami Township Police Officers to make arrests and enforce specified traffic offenses on state highways, including any highway that is part of the interstate highway system or otherwise a part of the national highway system, located within Miami Township and declaring an emergency, seconded by Mr. Tracy and all voted "AYE."

Mr. Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-48, ordering the removal of the structure located on Clermont County Parcel No. 181427A047P with a mailing address of 5888 Cook Rd on the rear of the property and finding it to be unsafe and unfit for human habitation, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Wallace, 6123 Geneva Court, and other members of the Lamorna Cove neighborhood commended the Miami Township Public Safety Departments for their response to their neighborhood amidst the recent emergency.

Jacob Roberts, owner of Griff's Cleaners, discussed the natural gas program through AEP energy. He noted that his gas bill has tripled from last month. The board reminded him that the aggregation was voted upon by the residents of the Township. Mr. Wright will work with him and Energy Alliances to check to make sure no mistake was made in his billing.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the purchase of property, pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Tracy made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Ms. Wolff and all voted "AYE."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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ATTEST:

BEAR GRAPHICS 800 325 8094 FORM NO 10148

Held Eric C. Ferry 20\_\_\_\_  
Eric C. Ferry, Fiscal Officer

Mark Schulte  
Mark Schulte, Chairperson