

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY:** Bixler, Jeffrey 7:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Bixler: Chair, present, Vice chair:, Diehl present Trustee Pfile: absent, Bill McCluskey, Fiscal officer, present , Jesse Baughman, fire chief, present. Rhonda Lipply, zoning, absent. Kevin Biltz Road Department, present.

Guest :Matt Kelly Portage County Auditor

I. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR 4/11/2024

Moved By: Diehl Second: Bixler

Mr. Pfile: absent Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

II. Jeffrey opened the floor to Matt Kelly. Mr. Kelly introduced himself and asked trustees if they have any needs he can support. He passed out his cards. Also mentioned the property appraisers are out and will likely raise property taxes. He explained the procedures and reviewed how we tax our legislators on how to tax us other ways than just the property tax. He spoke of a new rep will be elected for the next year. Sports gambling and marijuana are new programs that might be used for some of the new revenue. More general stating 66% of the taxes goes to the schools. Bill asked when it would go into effect, and Matt said the new rate will go into effect in 2025. More general discussion. Bill mentioned that he would like to put in a good word for the great job Bethany does at the auditor’s office.

III. Correspondences. Short discussion on a payment.

IV. Old BUSINESS.

Jeffrey discussed a meeting he had with the EPA at the fire department property to review past findings and new process for septic system. We may be able to use the present property. Jeff will forward information to architect and engineer. Chris mentioned he will follow up with other property that was being looked at and let them know our process. Chris explained the issue to Matt Kelly regarding the septic system allowance, previously denied. Some more general discussion about the process. Matt mentioned Dave Joyce, our rep. has office located in Ravenna and we can consider reaching out to him regarding federal issues.

.IV. Trustee Report: none

VI. Department Reports.

**1. Roads:** Kevin reported servicing vehicles and a pipe in drive on Giddings. Working around weather.

New chip and seal project for 2024 discussed regarding materials needed. Bid process discussed and 2.4 miles on Giddings from industry to 183. will use 350 tons #8 slag and 10707 gallons MC 350. would like to add that the signs and traffic control must be provided and the contractor to be completed by October 1st on the bid sheets. Kevin is contact for information. Bill asked if it is possible to work with other townships, as a group, if bidders would be better. Kevin said not every township does the same materials.

Motion made by Chris and seconded by Jeffrey.

**Motion. Resolution: 2024-010** Fiscal officer to submit bid information for legal posting to advertise for bids, which will be opened at the meeting of May 29th. Bids must be in hand by 5pm the 30th.

Moved By: Diehl Second: Bixler

Mr. Pfile: absent Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

Kevin spray for weeds. Also said about 35 cars for the Eclipse. Only 2 needed direction to stay off the grass.

**2. Fire:** Jesse reported run summary. March 2024-36, Year-106; March 2023-64.2023-141 EMS training will be pediatrics at Paris Township. Reminder that the State Fire ban for open burning/campfires is in place from 6 am to 6 pm until May 31.

He reported no major Eclipse related incidents. Cap installed on the new chase vehicle 26. May 3rd there will be a mock Crash with OSP Southeast fire and UH medvac for students.

Some discussion regarding double shift staffed during eclipse weekend with no unusual increase, however, a construction fire that did have 11 Edinburg fire fighters to respond. Jeffrey and Jesse mentioned there may be some funding available to cover the extra eclipse staffing. Will follow up with Randy Shackelford.

Sending unit on fuel tank 1513 not working, getting information for pricing and repair. Brakes on 1512 feel soft. front end steering seams loose.

**3. Zoning:** Chris reported for Rhonda. Reported zoning violations sent to Mpr Properties, received call from engineering firm regarding building RV storage building on Mr. repasky property. Garage permit discussed in highlands.

**4. Fiscal Officer:** Bill discussed NOPEC grant, and after discussion the energies community grant, he would like to change the plan to use this money rather than use the Covid grant money. Trustee agreed to pursue this grant. Bill also expressed that if new vendors are needed, who have not been in system, he needs address, and tax ID number or SS number for tax purposes, when they are making purchases. He mentioned he did attend the Public records training, 4 hours. During that meeting he did ask about publication of meeting times. He asked the Board to review how we would publish meeting.

**Motion: Resolution: 2024-011** Chris made a motion that the Web Site and the Town Center LED sign will be used to post information about meeting times. Seconded by Jeffrey

Mr. Pfile: absent Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

**Resolution:2024-012**

For clarification, NOPEC "Acceptance of Energized Community grant" letter accepted, Signed By Mr. Bixler

Provided financials, reports, payments, warrants. The new plate has come in for the fire vehicle.

Bill had shared a 7 year wage/hour/OT report trend reported on salary costs for the fire department. His concern was a sharp increase from 2023 to 2024 even though there me no increased in raises after the significant increase in 2022, showing a 17% jump this year, without including the salary bonus from Ambulance Arp grant. Jesse said it is because he is staffing more hours than in the past. The report, however shows the staffing hours, although higher trend than 2023, it is in line with 2018-2020. Also, it significantly decreased in 2022, after an average wage increase of \$5.00 per hour. Bill said he believes this is primarily due to an increase of over 50% in Overtime the first quarter of 2024. It alone creates a 2.00/hour increase in wage/hour even though there was no increase in salary. The amount is about \$20,000 per quarter, regardless, so he needs to make appropriation changes due to this increase as the previous budget will not support Salaries. Bill asked for a resolution to reappropriate funds due to increase salary costs of

the fire department due primarily to increased overtime. He specified the account information. Jesse asked if call back was included in calculation of time sheets.

**Motion: Resolution 2024-013**

Jeffrey made a motion to reappropriate \$80,000, from fund 2194 other expenses to 2194 Salaries, reducing the other expenses fund to \$20,000. Seconded by Jeffrey.

Mr. Pfile: absent                      Mr. Diehl: yes                      Mr. Bixler: yes

Bill reminded trustees that the Ambulance recovery grant has about \$8000.00 that must be used before June. Jesse mentioned he got a bill for training, but will have to pay up front and won't be able to get grant reimbursed until the Fall. Bill said he could not use Ambulance recovery grant money as it needs to be spent before June, if reimbursed, he would have to put the money back into the fund. Jesse said he will look into more training. Bill said he has been pushing for something from them for over a year, and now time is running out. Jesse mentioned initial setup of a new course program set up will be \$800.00. Bill said that would work. Bill asked about purchasing the CPR monitors/manikins. Jesse said he would get pricing.

Bill mentioned he attended Park meeting, and he will have \$1000.00 grant money for a community event for the Memorial parade. There was also a discussion of adding a Jr. Marshal to the parade, under 18. Reminded trustees they need to decide on Trustee award. Looking at adding an antique vehicles category. Also looking at announcing displays/groups at the Town Gazebo. Trustees did say they have identified a trustee award recipient between the two trustees in agreement.

Chris asked about delivery of materials for roofing at the park.

Chris made motion to pay the bill, eft and warrants; 43420-43438, seconded by Jeffrey.

Mr. Pfile: absent                      Mr. Diehl: yes                      Mr. Bixler: yes

Chris made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm seconded by Jeffrey.

Mr. Pfile: Absent                      Mr. Diehl: yes                      Mr. Bixler: yes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Bixler, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Diehl, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_absent\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Pfile, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
William McCluskey, Fiscal Officer