

Montville Township Trustees
October 22, 2024 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Present:

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chairman
Trustee Sally Albrecht
Fiscal Officer Mary Pawlowski
Police Chief Matt Neil
Planning & Zoning Dir. Paul Jeffers
Service Director Chris Kosman

Also Present:

Resident Bill Hanigan

At 7:07 p.m. Trustee Brandon opened the regular meeting of the Montville Township Trustees. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Police Chief Matt Neil offered a prayer. Trustee Brandon welcomed residents and stated that the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

GUEST RECOGNITION

Resident Bill Hanigan commented that he was very appreciative of all the time and effort that went into the Spooky Walk and Trunk-or-Treat held this past Saturday. He said that it was very well organized, pulled together, ease of parking, getting in and out, and the event was most enjoyable. His 8-year-old granddaughter loved it too.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the October 8th regular Trustees meeting. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon reported receipt of the September LST invoice totaling \$30,689.06, which was considerable over the budgeted amount of \$26,275.00. During September, there were 63 calls for ambulance in Montville Township.

Police Chief Neil provided a spreadsheet showing a breakdown of the township's ambulance costs from 2021 through 2024. The chart shows how costs have increased over the last four years. In 2021, the average monthly invoice was \$18,987 for 50 calls, with an average cost per call at \$382. He said that the cost for 63 calls for ambulance this past month are at \$487 per call. The average cost per month in 2024 is \$28,974 with 62 calls and an average cost per call at \$465. This is in line with averages in 2023. Chief Neil summarized that costs have increased in both equipment and salaries and we are seeing that reflected in our bills. He does not understand how our bill keeps rising when we have more calls; it should decrease with more insurance submissions.

Discussion ensued about increased LST costs for all three entities, non-emergency medical transfers and the roadblocks for stopping LST from responding to every single call that they are dispatched. Trustee Brandon commented that the baby boomers as children as well as their children were taught to call 911 for any problem that may come up. The Trustees considered meeting with Medina Township and the City of Medina to discuss.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that she spoke with Attorney DeVanney regarding the nursing home opening in our township. She suggested that the Trustees reach out to Attorney DeVanney, as there are some ORC codes and options that are available to us.

Chief Neil said that the Director of LST emailed him to inquire about replacing the three recliners that are broken. Chief Neil is not sure which recliners need to be replaced, but he had purchased three recliners from Ashley Furniture in spring 2022 for the front room, which the township paid for. When Station 4 purchased new recliners, their old ones were moved to the bedrooms here. Chief Neil requested direction from the Board.

Trustee Brandon said that the recliners are used 24/7 and we should order new recliners if they are needed. Chief Neil will take care of getting them replaced.

There were no updates on fire.

ROADS: Service Director Kosman reported that the road paving for this year is completed, including berming and striping. Mr. Kosman is going to submit paving for next year with some modifications and some changes due to the way we will be using some of our fundings. With everything we need to pave in the township, we need approximately \$1.6 million. Mr. Kosman is not sure if we can get everything done in four or five years due to funding.

Mr. Kosman said that tree work is happening on River Styx this week. Part of the road will be closed for about 5.5 hours during the day. Chief Neil added that they also did berming work on River Styx south of I-71, which will be helpful during the winter.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Police Chief Neil said that they are currently in the middle of the locks being changed. The keypads will be numeric for some doors, in addition to the key fobs. The Administration building will be completed this week, and then work will continue with the locks in the Service building.

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht and Service Director Kosman had no updates to report.

PARKS: Trustee Albrecht said that she was considering using ARPA money for the signs for the kids' nature trail. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski responded that ARPA money is now zeroed out and will be further explained in Other Business this evening. Mr. Kosman said that we will be ready for the signs when the trail is finished; we will not need too many signs and should not be too expensive.

Trustee Brandon commented that the park looked very nice for the Halloween event last weekend. Trustee Albrecht agreed, and added that the Halloween scenes looked great. She said that Mrs. Navicky is a very talented person that we are lucky to have. Our special effects person and the time and effort from our staff and so many volunteers also helped with this well-organized event. Residents love it; it has taken on a life of its own and everyone in the community now owns it. The Trustees discussed the many positive aspects of the evening.

Chief Neil reported that House Bill 47 takes effect this Thursday, October 24th. This bill requires that townships with over 5,000 people have at least one AED placed in a central location at each recreational location in the township that we own, maintain, and operate. We must also train enough staff in the use of AED for each area of recreational location. We already have an AED at the Austin Badger lodge. We will have to provide an AED at Whitetail Park and at Cobblestone Park. Chief Neil said that Attorney DeVanney reviewed this House Bill when it came out and said that we may lock up the AED inside the concession stand.

Chief Neil thought that all the coaches of the sports associations should have access to the AED. His other concern is that we do not heat the concession stands and the AED batteries will not last in the cold. Attorney DeVanney told Chief Neil that the AEDs can be taken inside in the winter months when the sports seasons are over.

Chief Neil did not feel we should spend \$1200 on AEDs that we don't have control of. He located and purchased two used AEDs at \$100 each and they should arrive this week. He said that they will check the pads and batteries annually, as we do all our AEDs. These are the same AEDs that we have in some of the police cars. The majority of our staff have already been trained since our buildings and patrol cars have had AEDs for several years.

Resident Bill Hanigan asked about having someone on site that knows how to use the AED when residents that rent the pavilion or are at the pickleball courts. Chief Neil responded that the requirement is for recreational use. He would defer to the Trustees on what they would like and he can look into having a lock box for the AED and a way for contacting Dispatch in the event of an emergency.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski suggested installing a box with directions to contact Dispatch for an access code if needed. That would make the AED secure and accessible. Discussion ensued. Chief Neil and Mr. Kosman will work on this over the winter.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon reported that he attended the Medina County Economic Development 2024 county business awards earlier this evening at the Blair Center in Westfield Center. This event was very well attended by many area businesses. Some of the awards given were for: business growth; capital investment; outstanding corporate community advocate; outstanding individual community advocate; and entrepreneur of the year.

Trustee Brandon said that the Medina County Township Association's member meeting was held last Thursday, October 17th, in York Township. The presentation from the First Responders who cover critical incidents here in the county was excellent.

The Solid Waste District will be interviewing new consultants on October 30th. Trustee Brandon is on the interviewing committee and will be there all morning.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht said that the October *Montville Living* magazine is out this week. The article in that issue recognized the park volunteers for their work painting the bridges. The November article for the magazine is completed and it is about our multi-use overlay district. We will do some type of Happy Holidays from the township in December.

Mr. Kosman asked the Trustees to clarify whether our community event is just that? Is it a fund raiser? Is it for our volunteer organization? Mr. Kosman puts up sponsor signs, fundraiser signs and residents were confused about what the event is and asked. He did not have a clear answer and thought it should be clarified due to the questions and the sponsor signage that is displayed at the event.

Trustee Albrecht responded that she saw it as a community event and Montville Cares is the group of volunteers that raises money for certain organizations. We have the event for community outreach and for a free event for the community. It started with the police 5K race for raising money for specific fund-raising purposes and with community members wanting to have a bigger event for Halloween. We wanted to break-even so it is free for residents. It grew to include community outreach.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that we worked on the letters that were sent out for donations which state that a portion goes to charities. We have sponsors and people that donate towards supporting the event because some of the money goes towards charities as well as supporting the event. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kosman concluded that it is a community event. Chief Neil did not mind that funds going to Montville Cares to pay for the event. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that the sponsorships were to help fund it so that we were not using tax dollars. The sponsorships are, in fact, funding it; there is carry-over every year. She also questioned why we are donating to some of the organizations that are benefiting. The Trustees agreed that it is time to re-evaluate the charitable donations.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht had no updates.

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion refunding Cindy Cesen for cancellation of the rental of Whitetail Park for \$75. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Jeffers said that Mrs. Cesen had cancelled her rental request within our cancellation period. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Mr. Jeffers reported that the Zoning Commission will meet tomorrow evening and will be reviewing the preliminary development plan. This is the first step in our Mixed-Use Overlay District (MUOD) which was recently enacted. Mr. Jeffers said that the zoning office has received positive feedback calls that it is residential next to residential and not commercial next to residential.

Mr. Jeffers said that Honey Baked Ham will be going into the Shoppes at River Styx. They are planning to be there before Thanksgiving.

POLICE: Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion purchasing two uniforms for Melissa from Akron Uniforms totaling \$264. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion.** In discussion, Chief Neil said that Melissa is a retired police officer and is used to wearing a uniform. Since she is representing the Police Department when delivering subpoenas to the court and other such things, it is appropriate for her to be in a Montville uniform rather than civilian clothing. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying Alternative Paths for Officer Wellness meetings totaling \$5,060. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said that this is a continuation of the wellness ARPA grant we received a couple of years ago. We will be reimbursed 100% of the amount by this grant. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Chief Neil said that the officers will be permitted to grow beards for our annual no-shave November. Their \$50 donations will go towards the fund raiser for one of our officers whose family member is battling cancer.

Chief Neil received an email that was forwarded from Officer Pinkas from a Lexington Ridge resident. He commented that we may be receiving correspondence from the HOA as they are concerned that, when Taco Bell and Acme start to open on Wooster Pike, the speedway of Lexington Ridge may get more traffic. They are going to ask for speed bumps or a stop sign at Churchill. We have already said no since it is not a legal use for a stop sign. The State of Ohio does not permit stop signs to be used to slow or stop traffic.

Chief Neil said that officers are already on Lexington Ridge all the time because of the school. We do not find traffic to be speeding there but we will put up speed signs (not in winter due to freezing batteries) and will increase our patrols in that area.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$30,689.06 to Medina Hospital for September LST services. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Albrecht moved Resolution 102224.01 rescinding Resolution 092623.01 for the purchase of an International cab and chassis from Rush Truck Centers for \$108,212 from ARPA funds. Trustee Brandon seconded the Resolution.** In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski explained that she and Mr. Kosman reviewed and provided the Trustees an analysis of the ARPA money. As they are concerned that the plow truck may not come in on time, we are better served moving the funds to be used on the gas/road funds to have \$111,000 to be used to pay a portion of the Melway roads invoice of \$402,000. Less money would come out of the road levy and, next year, we would have a little more to spend on roads. This would zero out the ARPA money. Mr. Kosman agreed that it is wise to switch out the use of the ARPA funds. If the plow truck, in fact, comes in before the end of the year, we have the funds to cover it. He wants to use the stored salt and clean the barn out, so the money we normally put away for salt is available. **The Resolution was passed, 2 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht moved Resolution 102224.02 paying \$111,055.61 from ARPA Fund #2273 for repair and maintenance of township roads. Trustee Brandon seconded the Resolution. The Resolution was passed, 3 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$108,212 to Rush Truck Centers for an International cab and chassis. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$402,518.33 to Melway Paving Company for road repairs. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Kosman explained that this is the cost for paving the roads at \$205,000/mile both lanes for one and one-half inch depth. There will be another \$60-65,000 balance, which is held back. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the release of the ODOT agreement covering the use of township roads for maintenance purposes on Route 57 that was in effect September 3, 2024, for a 30-day period. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Kosman said that this is a road use maintenance agreement for Poe Road. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the 2025 Anthem Healthcare “no shop” renewal with a 5% increase. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that she forwarded an email from Anthem to the Trustees. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that 5% is a very reasonable increase and she is delighted that it is not higher. All other benefits are at zero cost and no increases. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht moved Resolution 102224.03 amending the description of the boundaries of the Route 3 Community Reinvestment Area as outlined in Section 2 of the Medina County Commissioner's Resolution #13-0341 by adding Permanent Parcel Number 030-11A-01-025 as the same is known and designed on the Auditor's revised list of lots in Montville Township, Medina County, Ohio; and agrees to match the City of Medina's tax abatement for the specific project of 50% abatement for 15 years for Permanent Parcel #030-11A-01-025 specifically because the property is being developed as part of a larger commercial project primarily located within the Medina City limits. Trustee Brandon seconded the Resolution. In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski explained that this property is part of the JEDD but for some reason was never put in the CRA and likely was simply missed. It is a one-time special exception for this one piece of property and it is not changing what we normally offer. **The Resolution was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski presented the Trustees with a copy of a letter from the SPCA for a request for donation which covers their services to the township. **Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$1,000 to SPCA in January, 2025, as a donation. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving BC & PO's and paying bills totaling \$64,634.66. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski brought up for discussion the upcoming meeting dates for Trustees meetings because they are working on the organizational schedules for 2025. The department heads have requested doing one meeting per month during working hours. She had spoken with Trustee Biehl, who agreed with the proposed meeting time changes and thought it was a very good idea to have the last (4th Tuesday) meeting per month moved to afternoons for the next calendar year. Trustee Brandon and Trustee Albrecht were also in agreement with the proposed changes. The 1:00 start time for January 28, 2025, will also help with travel schedules for those attending the OTA conference January 29-31, 2025, and holidays.

Veterans Day in 2025 is Tuesday, November 11th. The Planning & Zoning Director and the Service Director are off that day as it is a legal holiday. Mr. Kosman said that there is a November restart to the trash contract which needs to be adjusted to five years and two months to have a January start. The current contract cannot be extended two months. We need to go out for bid next year. Mr. Kosman suggested changing it to a daytime meeting on Wednesday because of the trash contract. The Trustees agreed to move the Trustees meeting to Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

The Trustees agreed to change the meeting scheduled for November 26, 2024, to 1:00 p.m. and to follow suit for 2025.

Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers brought the continuation of the snowplow program to the attention of the Trustees. Mr. Jeffers said that six to eight residents are using it, one of which Montville Township owns the property and will plow regardless of the snowplow program. He is not sure that the manpower or the time that it takes to do is beneficial without raising the cost for residents. The last few winters were light and they only received two plows which was unusual. The residents using the program felt they did not receive enough benefit from their current cost of \$75. Discussion ensued. The Trustees agreed to discontinue the snowplow program after this winter season and the residents were notified so they can make other arrangements.

Mr. Kosman said that, now that the Route 18 project is completed, we will begin plowing the Route 18 multi-use path this winter. He asked the Trustees about also plowing Medina Township’s portion of the sidewalk for a rate to be determined. The Trustees agreed to a one-year agreement with Medina Township for plowing their portion of the Route 18 sidewalk. Mr. Kosman will follow up with Medina Township.

At 9:39 p.m. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Klafczynski

Approved By:

Date:

Attested:

Date: