Montville Township Trustees
October 27, 2026 – Regular Trustees Meeting

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

Also Present:
Officer Joel Eckstine

At 1:05 p.m. Trustee Brandon opened the regular meeting of the Montville Township Trustees. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Trustee Brandon welcomed everyone and stated that the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

POLICE: Chief Neil asked Officer Joel Eckstine to present to the Trustees their request for adding suppressers to their rifles. Officer Eckstine is the senior firearms instructor for the Police Department, and he is a member of the SWAT team.

Officer Eckstine explained how the suppressors mitigate sound and the flame ball coming out of the rifles. All of their rifles are short barrel and get very loud both outdoors and indoors. He provided examples of the equipment and demonstrated the sound difference using an audio recording and he described the ear ringing that occurs without suppressors. Officer Eckstine discussed situations in law enforcement such as school shootings and industrial places where officers are unable to hear and communicate to each other after firing inside, especially with echoing.

Chief Neil looks at this as a safety aspect for the officers. The officers need to be able to hear victims yelling for help as well as directions from other law enforcement personnel.

Trustee Albrecht thought that the suppressors are a necessary equipment upgrade, as hearing loss leads to all kinds of cognitive deficits. Trustee Brandon agreed.

Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Skidmore made a motion using Safety Services Funds to purchase rifle suppressers and associated equipment from Ridgeback Defense Company for $16,000. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the October 13th regular Trustees meeting. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nayes and 1 abstention (Skidmore).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon reported receipt of the September LST invoice for $21,277.32. This amount is under the budgeted amount of $25,359.00. There was an adjustment on the invoice for $658.08 credit from August and the total amount to be paid is $20,619.24.

During September, there were 67 calls for ambulance in Montville Township.

Chief Neil commented that he learned that Champion Creek's staff recently did a great job saving a resident's life who had been choking in the dining room. The staff successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver on the resident. LST confirmed that the staff saved the resident's life.

Chief Neil mentioned that the Medina County Fair board uses our gator for the Fair every summer. We received their $500 donation to the township for the use of the LST gator.

The LST gator was also needed for a resident in a terrible situation last week who needed to be life flighted out. The gator was used to go where the victim was on his large parcel of property. The victim was extricated and brought to the ambulance to wait for the chopper.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Mr. Kosman requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion purchasing 6728 Wadsworth Road for an amount of $300,000 and half of closing costs. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Kosman said that he was pleased with the price that was agreed upon. He said that the sellers requested the title company. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nayes, and 1 abstention (Skidmore).**

ROADS: Service Director Kosman requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion hiring Luke Kurt as a full-time employee effective October 26, 2026, at $23.00 hourly with full benefits. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Kosman said that Mr. Kurt has obtained his CDL. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that his study work was completed prior to his attending the class, which helped shorten the time needed to test for his license. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion entering into agreement with the Medina County Highway Engineers' office for purchasing materials. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Kosman explained that this is an annual agreement with the engineers' office in order to purchase items from the county. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion hiring Thompson Excavating to remove the home structure at 6728 Wadsworth Road for an amount not to exceed $10,500. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Kosman explained that this is for the removal of the home, the footings and the basement and it will be done after closing. Our Service Department will fill in the basement, compact the soil, take care of the well and septic abandonment. The focus is to get the house down; it is an as-is property. Mr. Kosman does not know the condition of the garage at this time but we could probably handle the garage ourselves in the

future. Trustee Skidmore said that he was not part of the Executive Session discussion where this was discussed. He said that it was not put in the record the logic of the purchase. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that it could not be put in the minutes since it was Executive Session. Trustee Skidmore understood that but since this discussion is related, perhaps it is appropriate to state the intentions at this time. Trustee Albrecht responded that it was for extending the amount of land in our campus for future growth. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski added that it could be used for cemetery or for fire or a roads building in the future. As the township grows, we may need to store more equipment. Many townships are looking to purchase property to move things around, and we are setting up our township's future growth with what we are doing to keep services in one place and not scattered around the township like others have had to do. Chief Neil asked the Trustees' permission for the Fire Department to use this abandoned home for training before it is taken down. The Trustees agreed. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion to remove the home structure and single-car garage at 3747 Poe Road for an amount not to exceed $20,000. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. Trustee Skidmore asked whether Mr. Thompson would do this demolition as well. Mr. Kosman responded that Mr. Thompson did not have the time to provide us with a quote for removing this house. Of the three estimates he received for the Wadsworth house, Mr. Thompson's was the lowest. Trustee Skidmore said that we know the condition of this house and expressed concern for are having no specific plans for use of this property. Trustee Brandon responded that we have been hesitant for taking this house down, hoping that we could find a good use for it over the last two years. Mr. Kosman said that the Trustees have done their due diligence on discerning any possible uses for this house. Discussion ensued. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski reminded the Trustees of the costs we have by leaving the house up, including property taxes, utilities and maintenance. She asked the county auditor and found that removing the house will save the township $3,000 per year on property taxes. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 1 naye (Albrecht) and 0 abstentions.**

Chief Neil asked the Trustees to use the house for training for the Fire Department and Police purposes. The Trustees agreed.

Trustee Skidmore talked with Ryan O'Cull, the Business Manager for Medina City Schools today and wanted to revisit the Trustees' previous conversation about the sidewalk starting around McDonalds towards the City. We need the schools' cooperation to apply for the grant to do the study. Trustee Skidmore asked to be sure that the Board is in favor of extending the sidewalk. Trustee Albrecht and Trustee Brandon agreed to try for the grant and that the study is necessary. Trustee Skidmore will try and schedule a zoom call to include Mr. Kosman and Alan Biehl.

Trustee Skidmore said that Steve Hambley reached out to him with a working group that are opposed to the roundabout that would be less than a half mile from the current roundabout. This group includes the City Economic Development Director, the County Economic Development Director, the County Engineer and several others and, apparently, they have found some funding for a grant to study that intersection. Steve Hambley has invited Trustee Skidmore to a meeting to discuss this S.R. 162 corridor study, and Trustee Skidmore will plan on attending. He asked if Mr. Kosman could attend the meeting as well.

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht noticed that 25 percent of the columbarium niches have been filled over the last 16 years. She felt that we have sufficient space for future growth.

PARKS: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report. Mr. Kosman said that the weather will determine when we will close the parks during November. If it stays mild, we will try and leave them open. However, we have a hard date in mid-month for closing the pickleball courts to keep in agreement that we have with the City of Medina. Trustee Skidmore asked, and Mr. Kosman said that they plan on making a sign over the winter indicating the pickleball courts are exclusively for pickleball.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon said that the Medina County Economic Development business awards are set for this Thursday at the Blair Conference Center in Westfield.

Trustee Brandon attended NOACA's 2026 annual meeting on October 16th at the Cleveland Public Auditorium. The panel and speaker discussed utilizing and developing the Cleveland waterfront. Trustee Brandon provided copies of their 2026 annual report.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht briefly reviewed the Halloween event held last weekend. She thought it went well and the kids who attended had a great time. Trustee Albrecht noticed that there were many kids with disabilities that went right to the sensory activities; she was glad that we added that this year. She asked if there had been any parking issues. Chief Neil said that parking was fine but there were so many cars that they had to open up the fields.

Trustee Brandon said that it was a great turnout. Attendance was less than the past because there was no spooky walk and there were less people coming from all over the area. There were mostly local residents with many families walking from the neighborhood. He estimated over 500 kids at the trunk-or-treat.

Trustee Albrecht said that we didn't have as much help this year due to a high school band event the same night. We will check for a band event date next year and may change to the Friday night before so there is no conflict. Trustee Albrecht thought that we should eliminate the food trucks if we do not have the scary walk. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that her tablet was not working for the costume contest. There was some confusion about the amount of candy we needed since the police didn't need it and the fire truck did not come. The weather was too cold for the helium spider and people couldn't walk under it as planned. When it was moved, it made a great photo location.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report.

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers reported that the Zoning Commission will be reviewing a partial development plan for Southern Medina Veterinarian Clinic on Poe Road. They are expanding their business and will be putting a 1,700-foot addition onto their building, contingent on the BZA granting their variance the following Monday.

The BZA will review the Veterinarian Clinic's variance request for a reduction of the side yard set-back on their narrow lot.

October had a slow-down in new builds which has given the Zoning office time to catch up on housekeeping items such as scanning and filing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying $20,619.24 to Medina Hospital for September LST services. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht moved Resolution 102726.01 increasing Funds & Appropriations in General Fund #1000 by $156,958; Road & Bridge Fund #2031 by $12,857; Police Fund #2081 by $202,351; One Ohio Opioid Fund #2274 by $4,831. Trustee Skidmore seconded the Resolution. In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski explained that this is for money that we have received for grants and other reasons. **The Resolution was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion approving BC and POs and to pay bills totaling $88,558.23. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.

At 2:44 p.m. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Brandon made a motion entering into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of the collective bargaining, which is required to be kept confidential by law and everyone requested to stay are bound to confidentiality. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

At 4:15 p.m. **Trustee Albrecht made a motion returning from Executive Session. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nayes and 0 abstentions.**

There were no additional motions or Resolutions. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Klafczynski

Elaine Klafczynski

Approved By: Date: 11-10-26

Attested: Date: 11-10-2026