

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

January 17, 2024

Trustee Board Chairman, Darryl Cordrey, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Rozzi, Mr. Sousa and Mr. Cordrey were present.

Roll call as follows:

Mark Sousa	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all.

A motion was made by Mr. Cordrey, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the clerk's journal, and accept the tapes as the Official Meeting Minutes of the January 3, 2024, regular and special Trustee Meeting.

Roll call as follows:

Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Cordrey, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the bills as presented before the Board.

Roll call as follows:

Joe Rozzi	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes

Proclamation Presentation

The Matthew Haverkamp Foundation was established in 2005 after Nancy's son Matthew was tragically killed in a car accident. Matthew was a Golf Manor police officer and always dreamed of being a K-9 officer, becoming the first in the department. Nancy founded the Haverkamp Foundation to keep her son's memory alive and fund K9 programs throughout the greater Cincinnati region. To date, they have funded 105 Police K9s, Hamilton Township's K9 Khan being the 101st. The Hamilton Township Police Department was the recipient of a generous donation of \$16,000 from the Matt Haverkamp Foundation in July of 2023.

Trustee Cordrey and Police Chief Hughes honored Nancy Haverkamp of the Matthew Haverkamp Foundation a Proclamation for their contribution and commitment to the community of Hamilton Township and enhancing the safety of all residents.

Ms. Haverkamp is thankful for their partnership with Hamilton Township and looks forward to working with them in the years to come.

Chief Hughes welcomed Officer Alex Stephens and K9 Kahn.

Officer Stephens introduced K9 Khan, a 2-year-old German Shepard from Germany. His role in the department is narcotics and article searches. Kahn has been on the road since mid-October of 2023 and assists with other agencies for mutual aid at the federal and local level.

Officer Stephens took the Oath of Office for K9 Kahn, pinning Kahn with his K9 officer badge.

Public Comments

Mr. Cordrey opened the floor to public comments at 6:18 pm.

Shelia Payne: She is a resident at Hopkin Commons and fears health concerns for herself and other residents at Hopkins Commons. A cell tower located behind the Hamilton Township Administration and Police building attracts birds which then leads to feces dropping on the community's dog park, picnic area, and parking lot. Those droppings then get tracked into their living quarters, becoming a health hazard. In the past she was aware there was a noise deterrent on the tower to keep the birds away but was turned off by the Hamilton Township Trustees. She is asking the Trustees to reach out to the tower company to have the device turned back on.

Mr. Cordrey: The issue was more of the noise funneling through the subdivision behind the building. The boxes were originally installed more as a deterrent for the cell towers and our Police Department to protect their equipment.

Mr. Hughes: He confirms the reasoning for the installation and the shutoff of the bird boxes. He is also frustrated with the amount of feces on the police vehicles and would also like to know if there is an alternative to keep the birds away.

Ms. Payne: The residents of Hopkins Commons are all over the age of fifty-five, many of whom are on fixed incomes. Due to the droppings, they are having to wash their cars every day, an expense they cannot afford. She has not heard the bird box and is unaware of any other Hopkins Commons residents complaining. She understands the neighborhood behind her complex is complaining of the noise, but this is becoming a health issue.

Mr. Cordrey: He advises that Ms. Payne reach out to Hopkins Commons and the Village of Maineville for alternatives as well, but he will reach out to the tower company to see if there are other options to deter the birds.

Mr. Rozzi: Agrees that they will ask the tower company what other options they have.

Mr. Sousa: The Trustees in the past asked for the bird boxes to be turned down. At one point some of the speakers were broken and the bird boxes were much quieter. When the speakers were fixed this amplified the noise and he himself heard just how loud the noise was. There is a loop that goes off for 30 seconds, every 3 to 5 minutes. He agrees that equipment is getting damaged and will have someone reach out to the tower company.

Mr. Cordrey closed the floor to public comments at 6:26 pm.

New Business

-Resolution 24-0117A – Resolution Enacting Six Month Moratorium on Adult Use Cannabis

Brodi Conover: Recommends the board to revisit this subject after getting more guidance from the State. Currently the law states that it is legal to smoke marijuana but not buy it. The General Assembly will address the issue soon regarding where the taxes go, who can sell, etc. with the understanding it will mirror the laws for medical marijuana.

Mr. Rozzi- Agrees that the moratorium allows time for more guidance from the state for the township to then discuss in six months.

Mr. Hughes: Today, Governor DeWine is addressing Delta 18, currently it is legal to be sold in the State of Ohio but looking to outlaw that.

Mr. Sousa: So, the short-term impact of this is from use and possession is purely at the individual level? I know that people can grow it so from a law enforcement standpoint, we are going to have to deal with the consequences of it being legal regardless.

Mr. Conover: The short answer is, how accessible do you want to make it to be able to purchase it within the Township?

Mr. Rozzi: The issue is that we do not have guidance on how to issue permits right now if someone wants to sell.

Mr. Conover: We do not want to not pass this moratorium and have a permit issued or have an application submitted because then they would have a vested right if it were to then get outlawed in the Township. This moratorium keeps it status quo until there is more direction from the state.

Mr. Rozzi: Stated that we currently have no idea how to address this with zoning. It will also give time to update zoning when guidance comes out. So, after six months then what happens?

Mr. Cordrey: We bring it back to the table for discussion.

Mr. Conover: It is likely that in six months there will be a recommendation to extend the delay.

Mr. Sousa: Residents have reached out to him on this subject and regardless of which side of the issue they were on, were not in favor of the moratorium. At the state level with the blowback they got, it does not interest me to consider what goes against the will of the majority of local voters.

Mr. Rozzi: Tonight, they are not voting to get rid of a business or usage, just guidance on what we can do at a local level and address zoning codes. The State passed a law without a plan.

Mr. Sousa: I think that we can get together sooner rather than later to discuss proximity of locations to schools and churches as they did with THC and vape products.

Mr. Cordrey: He disagreed with Mr. Sousa because without guidance from the State they cannot have that conversation. He agrees that there should be a pause in the discussion and see if the Township in fact does want to invite that type of business here and take up valuable real estate. Does it make sense from a tax point, does it benefit the Township and taxpayers?

Mr. Sousa: He understands fundamentally what is being said about the details, but he is not a fan of the political component of it. He doesn't think that it is their place to make that decision with most of the residents saying that they want this.

Mr. Cordrey: He does not think that it is necessarily true that the residents do want it. He is curious to see what challenges Monroe and the City of Cincinnati are having with their dispensaries.

Mr. Hughes: Kids are going to the stores, and we don't know what they're buying because it's not regulated, it's coming from all over the world, and there's no control systems in place. We've had issues in schools where they overdose. He would like some guidance from the state legislature on what they are allowed to sell and are the locations going to be allowed to sell vapes.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 24-1117A.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Darryl Cordrey	Yes
	Mark Sousa	No

-Resolution 24-0117B – Authorizing a contract with Warren County for the 2024 Resurfacing, Chip Seal, and Striping Project.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 24-0117B.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Darryl Cordrey	Yes

-Resolution 24-0117C – Authorizing Disposal of Unneeded, Obsolete, or Unfit-For-Use Property

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 24-0117C.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Darryl Cordrey Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

-Resolution 24-0117D – Authorizing an increase in appropriations in the Nature Works and ODNR Aquatic Education Grant Funds

Ms. Earley: The money was originally in the 2023 budget but was not carried over into the 2024 budget. The increase of appropriation is to move that money over.

Mr. Sousa: For this, are we spending our funds and then submitting that the job has been completed, releasing the funds back to us?

Ms. Earley: That is the case with the Nature Works grant, so it's a reimbursement. The ODNR Aquatic Grant has already been funded to us and then we must submit our paperwork to show that the projects are completed, and we complied.

Mr. Sousa: Kudos to Ms. Earley for obtaining the grants.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 24-0117D.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes
Darryl Cordrey Yes

-Resolution 24-0117E – Authorizing the Sale of a 2015 Ambulance via Internet Auction

Mr. Sousa: Asks Fire Chief Jewett which location backup this is for.

Chief Jewett: We are putting it up for sale because it is more cost effective to get rid of it now than keep it because of maintenance cost. This vehicle is the backup to the backup.

Mr. Sousa: Is the replacement in, equipped, and ready to go?

Chief Jewett: The replacement will be in the first quarter of 2025.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 24-0117E.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Darryl Cordrey Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

-Resolution 24-0117F – Appoint Trustee Cordrey of Hamilton Township Board of Trustees to the Warren County 911 Program Review Committee

Mr. Cordrey: He has volunteered to be a representative for the committee on behalf of the township.

Mr. Rozzi and Mr. Sousa thanked Mr. Cordrey for taking on the position.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 24-0117F.

Roll call as follows:	Darryl Cordrey	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

- Motion- Motion to authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Backman’s HVAC Solutions for HVAC maintenance and services.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve the motion authorizing the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Backman’s HVAC Solutions for HVAC maintenance and services.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Darryl Cordrey	Yes

- Motion- Motion to approve the 2024 Hamilton Township 2024 Events Calendar.

Mr. Rozzi: Acknowledged the name for the Easter Egg Hunt event changed for this year.

Mr. Cordrey: Have we taken away or added any events this year?

Ms. Earley: Nothing has been added to the events calendar but there are changes to two events. The Easter Egg Hunt has changed to the Bunny Bash, a noncompetitive family-friendly event. The easter egg hunt, with the growing community would require more staffing and resources than we can offer. Also, the Earth Day Cleanup event will transition to multiple community projects throughout the township.

Mr. Wright: Changing the Easter event has been a trend in surrounding communities.

Mr. Cordrey: How often would you have the community projects, once a month?

Ms. Earley: We would more than likely have them quarterly if not more.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve the 2024 Events Calendar.

Roll call as follows: Joe Rozzi Yes
Darryl Cordrey Yes
Mark Sousa Yes

Motion- Motion to approve the purchase of Cemetery Deeds.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve the purchase of cemetery deeds.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Darryl Cordrey Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

Motion- Motion to authorize a payment to Warren County TID for a traffic signal, painting of signal poles and a turn lane as part of the SR 48/Towne Center/Grandin Road project.

Mr. Cordrey: Asked Mr. Wright if the work has been completed and if we are fulfilling our obligation to get a refund?

Mr. Wright: Yes, that is correct. I reported one or two meetings ago that we had great news that the contract for the future work that we are paying for from that TIF came in under budget, so we certainly have enough funds within the TIF to perform this.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to authorize the payment to Warren County TID.

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes
Mark Sousa Yes

Motion- Motion to approve 2023 Township Highway System Milage Certification from ODOT

Mr. Cordrey: Have we increased our township milage for this year, where are we standing?

Don Pelfrey: We had a minor increase with Sandrun Street that was accepted for this year. The Township did accept a partial subdivision this year but was added at the end of last year's total. There are two other subdivisions that have repairs to make. Mr. Pelfrey conducted walkthroughs of those subdivisions and will reflect on this year's totals.

Mr. Sousa: The new road construction in the TIF, with it being a county led project, the inspection processes will produce high-volume traffic? He knows there has been some issues and even conversation in the county how they inspect and oversee new construction roads to make

sure they're meeting the quality control standards. Who will be leading inspection during construction of those roads?

Mr. Pelfrey: It will be Hamilton Township in conjunction with Warren County doing the inspections.

Public Comments

Mr. Cordrey opened the floor to the second public comments at 7:12 pm.

Mr. Cordrey closed the floor to public comments at 7:12 pm.

Fiscal Report

Kurt Weber:

December 2023 Fiscal Report- Through the end of December, we have received \$17.6 million of the \$14.7 million budgeted anticipated revenue. The final appropriations/expense budget was \$19.6 million, we spent a little over \$16 million which is 82%. The total cash balance overall is \$19.3 million and the unencumbered fund balance is \$15.4 million. Some of the higher fund balances consist of General Funds at \$2 million, Road & Bridge at \$2 million, Police Department \$3.6 million, ARPA Fund \$1.1 million, and Fire/EMS at \$3.1 million.

Mr. Cordrey: Coming in at 81%, we have a fair amount of funds that we anticipated to spend last year. Do we have a lot of projects that will be carried over from 2023 that were moved into 2024?

Mr. Wright: That is correct, in that we will have a few projects that do rollover. A large project would be the TIF because we did receive the bond in December in the amount of around \$850,00, more than had been originally budgeted. While there are approximately sixteen funds, the actual revenue is higher than budgeted, and actual expenditures are less. Other than the General Fund and TIF funds, these are specific operating funds and can only be used for purposes that were voted on by the residents. We are very conservative in our estimates for revenue and the revenue was much rosier than we had budgeted.

Mr. Sousa: When we are over budget in the revenue areas, like the General Fund, Police District, and Fire/EMS, those funds come from primarily property tax. If the amount coming in is over what was anticipated, he would think that the overages would be divided across the board. The Police is much larger than the other funds, why is that?

Mr. Weber: A lot of the overage seen is from the impound lot.

Mr. Cordrey: In 2023 we did not budget for as much as we anticipated for the impound lot.

Mr. Hughes: The impound lot is significant, there is a contract with Maineville to provide police service, and the contract with the schools for three SROs may also be reflected in the figures as well.

Mr. Weber: Generally, you appropriate for those items, but in some cases, it comes in higher, and those items are not property tax items.

Administrator’s Report

Jeff Wright: Following are updates for the Administrator Report:

- ODOT has scheduled a meeting for next Monday with me, Deerfield Township, the Warren County Engineer’s Office, and the Warren County Transportation Improvement District regarding ideas for the intersections of US-22 and Old 3C in our both townships.
- We had six engineering firms submit qualifications and letters of interest for the Mounts Park stream realignment and restoration design project. Nicole Early, Don Pelfrey, Kurt Webber and consulting engineers Paul Goodhue, Rick Ordeman and I reviewed, scored, and ranked the six firms. We have a consensus on the leading firm and Mr. Goodhue is reaching back out to the firm to confirm some things and we hope to negotiate on fees and want to bring a recommendation back to this board to award a design contract at one of your meetings in February.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Rozzi: That he missed the first meeting of the year, he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Cordrey: Reminder the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6th. With anticipated snow, make sure vehicles are pulled into driveways to allow the roads to be plowed.

Mr. Sousa: Warren County is unsure of why there is an uptick in watermain breaks between Stephens Road into the Village of Maineville on State Route 48, perhaps an increase of usage with the growing community. Mr. Wright met with Warren County Water and Sewar and was told that they have received a rough quote for repair on the water lines and are willing to take that in front of the Board of Commissioners. The repairs are not in this year’s budget, hopefully next year’s, but they are aware and looking into it.

Executive Session

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with the second from Mr. Rozzi to enter Executive Session at 7:24 pm in reference to O.R.C. 121.22(G)(I) to discuss compensation for public employees.

Roll call as follows:	Darryl Cordrey	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to come out of Executive Session at 8:07pm.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
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Darryl Cordrey Yes

Mark Sousa Yes

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Cordrey made a motion, with a second from Mr. Rozzi, to adjourn at 8:07pm.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes

Darryl Cordrey Yes

Joe Rozzi Yes