

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

January 18, 2023

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

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

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all.

Motion made by Mr. Sousa with a second by Mr. Rozzi to approve of the clerk's journal and accept the tapes as the Official Meeting Minutes of the January 4, 2023, Trustee Meeting.

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

Motion made by Mr. Sousa with a second by Mr. Rozzi to approve the bills as presented to the Board.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments at 6:01pm.

Mr. Craig Bailey came forward to speak. He stated that his wife explained to him that we have an excess of funds in the bank. He wanted to know what the Board is thinking about doing with that excess money. He mentioned that his preference is that the pot does not get bigger and bigger.

Mr. Sousa explained that the excess reserves are in the General Fund which can be used for anything. He said the newest tax issues were in 2019 that were collected in 2020. He mentioned the goal for that would be to have that last a decade or longer. He said they have talked about options for the excess funds however, they do not have a concrete decision on what will be done. He said there are some larger items coming up that we may be using the excess funds on.

Mr. Craig asked if the Board sees it as their job to steer that pot of money to a smaller pot so there is some rainy day fund but less than a years' worth or if a year is where they would like to be.

Mr. Cordrey stated five years ago when Mr. Rozzi and I took office they ran on investing on the Township. He stated in 2017-2018 the Township suffered from lack of investment. He stated in 2018 if things didn't change there would have been no money to repave the roads. He mentioned that there wasn't a lot going on in the Township in the last 10-15 years but now we are about to see a lot of commercial development. He said there has been a lot of conversations on how to invest the excess funds back into the Township.

Mr. Rozzi mentioned that they are looking to right size the Police & Fire Personnel to help with the residential growth that has been happening in the Township.

Mr. Craig mentioned that he is very happy with the plan to right size services and invest into the Township. He asked if we have the plan to increase the services lets pull the trigger and invest in that.

Mr. Sousa mentioned that it is a timing issue. We are getting traffic studies done for some of the development that is coming and we need to figure out if we use it for that. Mounts Park mitigation is also a thought.

Mr. Cordrey mentioned that our Auditor Matt Nolan does not allow Townships to get to a certain level of reserves. He also mentioned the new ladder truck that we have coming in that we will most likely purchase out right, and the fire tower that is being constructed. He said these funds will be invested into the Township, we are not just sitting on it.

Mr. Rozzi mentioned that it is also for personnel, it is hard to get quality applicants.

Ms. Becky Bailey came forward to speak. She mentioned that we love our Public Works, Fire Chief, Police Chief and staff but we still need to be conscientious of how spend those funds. She mentioned that she would like to have a fifth patrol officer and believes we can do that with the money that we have. She thanked Chief Hughes for being fiscally responsible. She then mentioned that you can't have too many Public Works people. She asked if we had thought about purchasing a used fire truck.

Chief Jewett said that it would be incredibly difficult to find a truck that meets our Township needs since we are partially rural and partially suburban.

Ms. Bailey asked about the Covid money that came in. She said that many people suffered through covid without jobs. She stated that it would be appreciated if they disbursed that out to residents. She asked that the Board consider a tax holiday.

Mr. Sousa closed the floor to public comments at 6:21 pm.

Human Resources

Mr. Pegram wanted to give the board an update about the two vacancies in the Public Works Department. He mentioned that these openings have been posted for over a year. We have one person who is undergoing the background check process who we hope will get a recommendation for hire. We are still looking for applicants. He mentioned the Police Department is still hiring as well.

New Business

- Motion: TIF Agreement for Tribute of Hamilton Township.

Mr. Pegram explained this project has been worked on for over a year now. It will be apartments with commercial out lots. This will ratify that the Board intends to do a TIF to pay for the public infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to authorize the Township Administrator to execute a TIF Agreement between Hamilton Township Board of Trustees and Hamilton Pointe Investment, LLC.

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

- Resolution 23-0118A – Authorizing the acceptance of payments by Financial Transaction Device for Township Expenses.

Mr. Pegram explained that we are currently paying all processing fees for our credit card machine and this would allow us to pass them along to the user if we choose to.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0118A.

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

- Resolution 23-0118B – Authorizing the Township Administrator to proceed with Nature Works Grant.

Mr. Pegram explained that Nicole Earley our Parks Director and previous administrator Brent Centers applied for an ODNR Nature Works Grant to put in a shelter at Marr Park. This motion will allow Mr. Pegram to sign all papers associated with the Grant.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0118B.

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

- Resolution 23-0118C – Authorizing a contract with Warren County Engineer’s Office for Salt Purchase for the 2023-2024 cooperative purchasing program.

Mr. Pefrey explained this is a deal we go into every year that gives us a discounted rate on salt.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0118C.

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

- Motion – Approval for the purchase of a 2024 International Dump Truck as Budgeted for 2023

Mr. Pelfrey explained that we will not receive this truck until 2024 we will be trading in a 2003 dump truck but will not receive an appraisal until the time we receive the new truck.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve the purchase of the 2024 International Dump Truck from Rush Truck Center in the amount of \$223,171.55.

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

- Motion – Accepting the Township Highway Miles for 2023 at 105.096

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to accept the Township Highway miles for 2023 at 105.096 road miles per the Ohio Department of Transportation.

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

- Motion – Authorizing \$16,500 with Haig Communication, cost to be shared by Police, Fire, Public Works and Administration

Mr. Pegram explained that currently we have three different systems and this would bring all three buildings onto the same system.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to authorize a purchase order with Haig Communications in the amount of \$16,500.

Roll call as follows:

Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

- Motion – Authorizing the Township Administrator to contact for emergency road repairs on Dallasburg Road.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve an Emergency Repair to a box culvert on Dallasburg Rd and authorizing the Township Administrator to approve any related contracts/invoices in an amount no to exceed \$20,000

Roll call as follows:

Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes

- Motion – Authorizing the sale of a Cemetery deed

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve the sale of a cemetery deed.

Roll call as follows:

Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

- Baseball Contract Renewal

Mr. Pegram explained that at Testerman Park we have a contract with Little Miami Youth Baseball. It was a 10 year contract, where they had the right to use the four fields and would put in the infrastructure on those fields for \$1 a year. We have three other leagues that we work with that do not have similar contracts. They pay a per field, per season price. That price is either

\$1,500 - \$ 1,600 depending on if it is fall or spring ball. The LMYB contract expires in June of 2023.

Discussion continued on the future contracts for all organizations, no decision was made at this time. This topic will be revisited in the future.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mr. Weber explained that this report is through December of 2022. We are 100% thru the year. Expenditures are at 87.1% of the budget. We have received 106.8% of our anticipated revenue.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Pegram mentioned the positive meeting that he had with ODOT on updating the thoroughfare plan for Hoptown. He is continuing to work on negotiations with Kroger and expects something to be to the Board soon. He thanked Parks Director Nicole Earley on putting together a great events calendar for 2023 as well as the Winter Newsletter.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Cordrey he mentioned the Save the Dates for the event calendar that has been released on our website and is excited about it. Spring is coming and Route 48 widening project will be starting soon, so just please be aware.

Mr. Rozzi thanked everyone for their comments this evening.

Mr. Sousa echoed Mr. Rozzi and thanked everyone for coming out. He also mentioned that he reached out to Mr. Pegram earlier this week and spoke about the almost regular water main break at 48 and Nunner Rd. He mentioned that they spoke about the widening of 48 and what they will do about water mains so they are not cutting up new road to fix that. Warren County Water and Sewer said that it is standard practice to replace the water mains before the new roads will be installed.

Executive Session

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to enter into Executive Session in reference to O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (1): To consider the appointment or employment of a public employee.

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

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to come out of Executive Session at 8:18pm.

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

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to adjourn at 8:19pm.

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