

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

January 4, 2023

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

Roll call as follows:

Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Rozzi, with a second by Mr. Cordrey, to nominate Mr. Sousa to become the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Roll call as follows:

Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Cordrey, with a second by Mr. Sousa, to nominate Mr. Rozzi to become Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Roll call as follows:

Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the clerk's journal and accept the tapes as the Official Meeting Minutes of the December 21, 2022, Trustee Meeting.

Roll call as follows:

Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

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

Roll call as follows:

Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments at 6:05 pm.

Ms. Laura and Mr. David Fisher came forward to speak. Ms. Fisher stated that they would like to make an appeal to the Trustees, she mentioned that they own the Marmalade Lily and they understand that their liquor license they applied for was neither approved nor denied. She invited everyone to come and speak with them to learn a little bit more about their business.

Mr. Ben Yoder explained liquor laws are controlled by the Ohio Department of Liquor and explained how they go about their process.

Ms. Fischer explained what they are trying to do is get an informal hearing approved because of the Ohio Department of Liquor being so far behind. She explained that in the wedding business people book a year or two in advance and the people that are coming up thing that they are receiving a liquor program from them.

Mr. Sousa said that he believes they would be open to having an informal hearing. He explained that with the agricultural exemption they have that the Board thought the liquor board would be the better subject matter experts to make the decision.

Mr. Shawn Ford came forward to speak. He mentioned that he is going to be talking about noise from the tower located behind the Township Administration building. He stated he knows that it has been brought to the attention of the board before and he believes that it is noise pollution.

Mr. Sousa explained that the speakers were out on the tower and we had someone come out and fix it, and they amplified the noise when they fixed it. He then asked Captain Short to speak more on this.

Captain Short explained that at the time only 1 of the 4 speakers was working and they replaced all four speakers. They ended up setting it back to the level that the volume was at, which was 70 percent. He then stated that 70 percent with four speakers is way to much. He stated that the Township has been in contact with them several times, however they are based out of Louisville, KY. The representative that we have was on vacation last week but is supposed to come up and work on it by the end of the week this week and get it adjusted to an appropriate level.

Mr. Ford asked what is an appropriate level? He mentioned he thought you should not be able to hear it from any distance away. It should just be up close with the tower.

Captain Short stated those are all things they plan to talk about with them and he is not sure what they consider an appropriate level.

Mr. Sousa stated that Mr. Pegram if he is available and a member of the Police Department will be outside and present when they are adjusting the volume. He said our expectation is for this to be completed by the end of the week. However, if it is not we will try to communicate that with everyone.

Mr. Ford thanked the Board for being understanding and helpful with this issue.

Mr. Alex Noffsinger came forward to speak. He asked if any consideration has been given to include the community members who have been effected by this. He stated he has had a hard time sleeping with him working 3rd shift. He asked if they could be involved to see if it's at a volume where they can no longer hear it.

Mr. Sousa said he isn't sure what kind of notice that we will receive that they are coming out to fix it. He stated that they are going to air on the side of caution with the level of sound. He then said if the noise is still to loud he would like those residents to come in and let them know.

Mr. Sousa closed the floor to public comments at 6:16pm

New Business

- Resolution 23-0104B: Setting meeting dates and times.

Mr. Pegram stated that this resolution is creating a schedule for Trustee Meetings. We will be keeping the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104B.

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

- Resolution 23-0104C: Authorizing the annual Blanket Certificates and establishing financial policies for approval of purchase orders.

Mr. Pegram explained this allows the Fiscal Officer to open what we refer to as Blanket Certificates, similar to purchase orders. We use these for all our routine, standard bills. It is all for budgeted items, so we do not receive any late fees.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104C.

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

- Resolution 23-0104D: Transfer of Fire and EMS Levy Fund to Fire Station 76 Capital Project Fund.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104D.

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

- Resolution 23-0104E: Authorizing the disbursement of checks for payroll and payroll related withholdings and expenses.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104E.

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

- Resolution 23-0104F: Transfer of General Fund and Police Fund to Building Bond Fund.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104F.

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

- Resolution 23-0104G: Authorizing Fiscal Officer to process re-appropriations and distribute payments.

Mr. Pegram explained that this allows the Fiscal Office to move money that is budgeted without having to come back to the Board. He stated they would come back to the Board if they were increasing the appropriations.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104G.

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

- Resolution 23-0104H: 2023 membership agreement with Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT)

Mr. Pegram explained that CLOUT represents Large Urban Townships, which is the category we fall under. He said they represent the townships that have a bigger population and offer more levels of service, in legislative items.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104H.

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

- Resolution 23-0104I: Advance from the General Fund to the Lighting District.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0104I.

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

- Motion – Authorizing a Depository Agreement with CF Bank

Mr. Pegram explained this came before the board a few months ago. He said currently all the funds for the Township sit in one checking account that doesn't earn much interest or benefit. We were approached from a bank that does a lot of business with other Townships, School Districts and even the State of Ohio. He said they will move all but a 90 day supply of funds to this savings account to earn interest to potentially pay for capital items or pay off debt.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to authorize the Township Administrator to enter into a Depository Agreement between Hamilton Township and CF Bank for the establishment of an interest earning savings account for the Township.

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

- Motion – Mowing Contract for Township Cemeteries

Mr. Pelfrey explained this motion is to approve the contract with Kimberly Becker, DBA Y2K Landscaping for the mowing of Township Cemeteries for 2023-2026. Ms. Becker has been mowing for 5 different Townships for many years. Mr. Pelfrey mentioned they have been mowing for us for the past 3 years and even with the rise in fuel prices they did not raise their price per mow.

Mr. Cordrey mentioned that they have done an outstanding job. He said they used to receive many complaints but since Y2K has begun to mow there has not been complaints. He is excited to have them back for another 4 years.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve a contract with Kimberly Becker d/b/a Y2K Landscaping for the mowing of Township Cemeteries for 2023-2026 as presented.

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

- Motion – To approve purchase of a Cemetery Deed

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve purchase of cemetery deeds as presented to the Board.

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

Administrator’s Report

Mr. Pegram Thanked the Public Works Department, he mentioned it is very unfortunate when storms hit during the Holiday Season when our employees are supposed to be off. He stated that in the 72 hrs. that they were supposed to be off, the Public Works Crew worked 24 of them. He said this was a rough storm because of the rain that came first it made the pretreating challenging. He said their first shift they worked was 17 hrs. He thanked the Public Works Crew again for their hard work.

He mentioned that in their staff meeting today Chief Jewett stated that Fire & EMS had a record number of calls last year. He said that this shows we are a growing Township but it is a concern that more people are calling 911. It was an 8% increase in Fire & EMS runs and over 10% of the time we had over 3 or more calls at the same time. These will be items of future discussion.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Cordrey wanted to echo what Mr. Pegram said about the Public Works Department. He thanked them all for an amazing job. He wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year. He mentioned he is excited for what 2023 will bring, with all the projects happening in the Township. He said we have a lot of new faces on staff in 2022 and are excited to have them for a full year and see where the direction takes us.

Mr. Rozzi said Happy New Year and kudos to Public Works for a job well done.

Mr. Sousa mentioned that there have been more break-ins to vehicles recently and asked Captain Short to give a reminder on best practices to make sure this doesn’t happen.

Captain Short reminded everyone to do the 9 o’clock routine. Make sure your cars are locked, your valuables are removed from the vehicle, you remove your garage door opener from your vehicle and lock your door inside your garage. He stated these are mostly crimes of opportunity.

Mr. Sousa congratulated our assistant law director Mr. Brodi Conover on making partner at the law firm.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Sousa made a motion, with a second from Mr. Rozzi, to adjourn at 7:37 pm.

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