

## Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

November 16, 2022

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:    Joe Rozzi                    Yes  
                                  Darryl Cordrey            Yes  
                                  Mark Sousa                Yes

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all.

Motion made by Mr. Rozzi with a second by Mr. Cordrey to approve of the clerk's journal and accept the tapes as the Official Meeting Minutes of the November 2, 2022, Trustee Meeting.

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

Motion made by Mr. Rozzi with a second by Mr. Cordrey 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. Rozzi opened the floor to public comments at 6:02pm.

Mr. Ray Warrick came forward to speak. He stated he has two points to make about the budget. He mentioned that he looked at the beginning reserve balances and then the projected ending. He stated the Township will spend 1.4 million more than what we will bring in. Which is possible because of Reserve money. Mr. Warrick said when he deducted the ARPA funds it brought it down to 1 million dollars. He said in 2017 the Township operated on 7.7 million dollars and in 2023 the Township is saying 15.5 million will be spent. He said that he is sure that some of it can and will be explained. He stated that with the 15 million dollars in Reserve, we have 1 year of expenses paid for. He mentioned that Warren County, Ohio is exceptionally fiscal. He said they are the only County in this State that he knows of that does tax holidays. He asked that Hamilton Township consider this.

Mr. Rozzi closed the floor to public comments at 6:13pm.

**New Business**

-Resolution 22-1116A: Resolution Approving Rezone for Shoppes at St. Rt. 48

Mr. Rozzi asked for a little background on the next two resolutions from Mr. Pegram.

Mr. Pergram stated that at the previous meeting there was a hearing for both. The first is a rezoning at the property on St. Rt. 48, he did mention that they have not submitted any plans on what will be done with the property at this time.

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve Resolution 22-1116A.

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

- Resolution 22-1116B – Resolution Approving Preliminary and Final Plans for Tribute Hamilton Township.

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve Resolution 22-1116B.

Mr. Cordrey stated that he knows there was a lot of concern about water runoff, he asked Mr. Weber if he could explain what the plan is going forward.

Mr. Weber mentioned that from the Engineer’s Office stand point the storm water for the apartments will be directed further to the East toward Bear Run.

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

- Motion – Snow removal contracts for un-dedicated subdivision roads.

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to enter into contract with D.R. Horton LLC. For snow and ice removal services for the unaccepted streets at Valley View subdivision section 1 & 2.

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

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to enter into contract with D.R. Horton LLC. For snow and ice removal services for the unaccepted streets at Villages of Hopewell Valley subdivision section 7 & 8.

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

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to enter into contract Fischer Homes. For snow and ice removal services for the unaccepted streets at Eagles Pointe subdivision section 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 5C and Providence Subdivision section 10.

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

### **Old Business**

- 2023 Budget

Mr. Rozzi asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Mr. Cordrey stated he did not have any questions but would like to have a conversation since Mr. Warrick brought up some good points. He stated that he wanted to clarify on the mentioning of 2017. He went on to say that in 2017 & 2018 there was a shift in philosophy as far as what the Township wanted. He said he ran for office in 2017-2018 and Mr. Rozzi as well they ran on investing in the Township, right sizing our Township and resources. In 2018-2019 they ran 3 Levies that were over whelming passed by the residents. He believes they have done an outstanding job of fulfilling the requests of the residents, investing in our Police, Fire Department and adding resources into our roads as well as investing in our Parks. He stated to Mr. Warrick's part about spending more money than we are taking in, some of that is ARPA funds that we normally wouldn't have done without those funds. We have also had a fair amount of reserves over the last several years. He stated he believes that 6-8 months is a sweet spot that he likes to be. He wanted to reassure that they have done their due diligence and they do not just spend the money where it isn't needed, they have invested in the Township.

Mr. Sousa stated that Mr. Warrick has hit the nail on the head with a lot of points and mentions that he does communicate regularly on financial matters. Mr. Sousa stated he does think government budgeting processes do have a lot of inherent flaws because they are peoples tax dollars you are going to be overly conservative. He mentioned that he did some of the same thinking that Mr. Warrick did and he went back to 2022. He explained in 2022 we thought we

would spend 2.5 million dollars of ARPA money, however we have spent 8,000 dollars of it in fees associated with the Mounts Park mitigation. He stated we will more than likely this year spend 13 million dollars give or take and we budgeted far more than that, he said the routinely are over conservative.

Mr. Rozzi stated what he can add is being a private sector business owner, is the unknown. He explained they were looking at a record year in 2020 but it turned out to be the worst year and almost put them out of business. He also mentioned things came back in 2021 however freight went through the roof it went up 300%. He stated he looks at the cost going into the future he likes to see more of a 9-12 month reserve because you don't know what will happen.

Mr. Pergram gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2023 budget that is available to review online. He stated that Staff recommends the approval of the 2023 budget.

Mr. Cordrey thanked the staff and everyone involved in putting this budget together.

Mr. Sousa stated that he liked the visual presentation. He mentioned Q1 it may make sense to give a prior year update since it will look immensely different after the fact than the budget going into the year does.

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve Resolution 22-1116C, approving the 2023 Budget for Hamilton Township.

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

### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Pegram mentioned that we did recognize on social media Veterans Day this past Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>. In researching he mentioned he did learn the origin was the peace treaty during WWI was struck at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. He explained we do have 12 employees with Hamilton Township across different departments that have previously served or are continuing to serve in the military. He thanked them for their service and noted that we have updated the plaque in the lobby with all current employees' names and branch of service.

Mr. Rozzi wanted to mention and make a motion about the last meeting in December. He mentioned that the meeting is typically moved to earlier in the day to address employee end of the year awards.

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to move the December 21<sup>st</sup> Trustee Meeting from 6pm to 1pm.

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

### **Fiscal Officer's Report**

Mr. Weber mentioned every year that Hurst Kelly accountants do our annual financial reports for the Township. Mark Hurst from Hurst Kelly has a proposal to do that again to close out 2022. The cost would be 8,500 dollars. He asked the Trustees to make a motion.

Mr. Yoder made a motion to ratify Kurt Weber's signature of the letter engaging with Hurst Kelly.

Mr. Rozzi so moved with a second from Mr. Cordrey.

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

Mr. Weber explained that this report is through October of 2022. We are 83% thru the year. Expenditures are at 62% of the budget. 17.7 million was the budget for 2022 and to date we have spent 11.1 million of that. We have received 103% of our anticipated revenue.

### **Trustee Comments**

Mr. Cordrey reminded everyone that Mounts Park is open year around dawn to dusk. Little Miami Craft Show is coming up this weekend at the High School. The Tree Lighting is December 10<sup>th</sup> at Station 76 from 4pm-6pm. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Sousa wanted to mention that we have recently received two grants. One is a grant we received from ODNR for a Shelter that will be constructed at Marr Park. The other grant was received for health and mental wellness for the Police and Fire Departments.

Captain Short explained that this grant was filed earlier in the year it is through Governor DeWine's office. It is part of his first responder wellness initiative that came out earlier this year. We received \$41,750 this is a joint application for the Police and Fire Department. It is a 2 year grant cycle that will allow us to have all Fire Fighters and Police Officers an annual mental health assessment. We will also have a fully funded critical response team during this time.

Mr. Sousa thanked Captain Short. He also mentioned the savings plan and that their current primary account is not gaining any interest. He said Mr. Pegram and Ellen have done some due diligence, they have had meetings and done research and that it is now decision time. He doesn't think we should wait until the beginning of the calendar year. He mentioned the bank that is doing the proposal is holding 70 million dollars for Star Ohio for the State of Ohio. He said the current rate is 4.25% and it is a liquid savings account. He mention Mr. Pegram and Ellen has spoken about keeping roughly a 90 day supply of cash in our primary checking account. He asked if something like this would fall under investment policy.

Mr. Yoder said he doesn't know the answer off hand and he will have to think through timing on that.

Mr. Sousa mention that we probably want to manage as few accounts as possible and this account would be fully insured.

Mr. Cordrey said he would like a formal recommendation from Mr. Weber, Ellen and Mr. Pegram before moving forward. He was also curious if we have approached any other institutions that are offering a similar program as well.

Mr. Pegram said they have done a little bit of that with people we bank with and do investments with now. He stated there are always other options out there, some would be commercial paper. Townships can do investments with commercial paper but it requires more training and more certifications for our fiscal officer and our assistant fiscal officer. He stated it does appear that this option is the best for us, since it is truly cash.

Mr. Sousa mentioned that the Red Tree options do not have the liquidity. He said some is liquid however they will put some in commercial paper or CD's that are not easily accessible. He said his thought is come back next meeting with a formal recommendation and get the structure in place so it can be funded by year end.

Mr. Weber said he appreciates Mr. Sousa leading the charge on this. He also thanked Mr. Pegram and Ellen for doing the due diligence. He said he thinks the fact that Star Ohio parks their money there says a lot. He said he is all for it.

Mr. Sousa said last thing he has is Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Rozzi wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to enter into Executive Session at 7:47pm in reference to O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (1): To consider the appointment or employment of a public employee.

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

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to come out of Executive Session at 7:59pm.

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

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to adjourn at 7:59pm.

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