

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

March 1, 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:

Mark Sousa	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited by all.

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 February 15, 2023, Trustee Meeting.

Roll call as follows:

Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	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
Joe Rozzi	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments at 6:02 pm.

Mr. Sousa closed the floor to public comments at 6:02 pm.

Presentation – Major Steve Arrasmith, Warren County Drug Taskforce (WCDF)

Major Arrasmith thanked Chief Hughes, the employees of Hamilton Township and citizens of Hamilton Township. He emphasized that they wouldn't be here without the support of everyone. He handed out the annual report, he mentioned they have remained very busy. He explained they remained multi-jurisdictional and still believes that is the best way to catch drug dealers especially as they start to evolve. He stated that they remained at 20 staff for the majority of time during 2022 and are a little below that this year. He stated their fentanyl seizures went down significantly last year. He noted that in 2021 there were 75 over dose related deaths in Warren County and last year that was down to 45. He mentioned funding remains unstable like every year. He said they live off of grants and community contributions.

Mr. Sousa asked if there are any new funding options for tasks forces.

Major Arrasmith said there is funding out their but it mainly has gone into treatment areas.

Mr. Rozzi asked what about prevention? Keeping it from getting started in the first place.

Major Arrasmith stated that they collaborate with the substance abuse coalition in our county. We have a person that does that, she does a great job. He said the more people you can influence to just not go there, don't try it because once you're on that path of addiction it is so difficult to get out of.

Chief Hughes as Major Arrasmith to touch on the vape pen trend and why they are so dangerous.

Major Arrasmith stated what a rabbit hole that has been, he said its complicated. He said you see the vape stores popping up all over the place. He mentioned there is a blend of things happening. He said nothing in these stores are easy for Law Enforcement to attack, you have nicotine vapes and then you have vapes that are high dollar that are coming back as hash. They are still illegal and are extremely difficult for crime labs to identify. There is nothing in the ORC for us to regulate who purchases those, unless it's a nicotine vape or we can prove that it is hash.

Chief Hughes stated the lack of regulation is an issue. He mentioned that you are relying on a label that isn't reliable at all.

Major Arrasmith stated unless it's a nicotine vape you don't know what you are getting. He said if you need to be 21 to by a nicotine vape you should have to be 21 to buy any vape. But unfortunately that is not the case.

Mr. Cordrey said we put a significant investment with the flock system in the Township, how has that benefited the task force and have you seen it defer people from coming into that jurisdiction?

Major Arrasmith mentioned that the deterrence probably not yet but he stated wow what a tool. I wish we had those everywhere not only for drug cases but for crime everywhere.

The WCDTF 2022 annual report is attached.

New Business

- Resolution 23-0301A: Authorizing the advance of funds.

Mr. Pegram explained that the Township is proceeding with the public infrastructure needed for the new Kroger. The way that is being paid for is Tax increment financing or TIF. We are coordinating that with the County Engineers Office. At some point very soon bonds will be sold and the TIF will be funded. We will have some expenses before the TIF revenue will hit our bank account. We are requesting to advance 100,000 dollars from the General Fund to the TIF fund. An Advance must be paid back.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0301A.

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

- Resolution 23-0301B: Creating appropriations.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 23-0301B.

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

- Motion – Authorizing the Township Administrator to enter into contract.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to update the Township roster as presented to the Board.

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

Trustee Comments

Mr. Rozzi mentioned it was a nice day today. We had a good retreat this morning and I am looking forward to the rest of 2023.

Mr. Cordrey stated it was a great retreat, we had some great discussions on short and long term plannings. He thanked the staff for all of the time and effort that was put into the retreat.

Mr. Sousa said he appreciated all the staffs input and thought that this retreat was very efficient and productive. He mentioned that the Warren County Museum in Lebanon is a hidden gem, and everyone should check it out if they get the chance.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Pegram mentioned earlier this week we hosted the Little Miami Chamber, Duke Energy Foundation and the Warren County Foundation. They had a grant program where Duke gave them \$15,000 to specifically help small business. We were able to fun 100% of the requests. It included a business in the Township, several in the Village, and one in Salem Township and one in Wayne Township. I would like to thank these foundations for continuing to support small businesses.

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)(3) to conference with an attorney in reference to pending or imminent court action. As well as ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss the employment, compensation and discipline of a public employee.

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

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to come out of Executive Session at 6:45 pm.

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 6:45 pm.

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