

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

March 19, 2025

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

Roll call as follows: Joe Rozzi
Darryl Cordrey
Mark Sousa

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A motion was made by Mr. Rozzi, with a second by Mr. Cordrey, to approve the clerk's journal as the Official Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2025, Trustee Meeting.

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

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

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

Swearing-in Ceremony for Full-Time Firefighters

Chief Jewett introduced the newly promoted full-time firefighters and read their bios before administering the oath. After the oath, loved ones were invited to pin the firefighters' badges.

Jared Bentley, a Cincinnati native, began his firefighting career in 2022. He joined Hamilton Township Fire Rescue in 2024 and was promoted to full-time in January 2025. His father, Brian Bentley, who is also a firefighter, had the honor of pinning his badge.

Reid Daniel started as a part-time firefighter in 2020, later earning his paramedic and fire inspector certifications. He was hired full-time by Hamilton Township and will begin his shift on March 30, 2025. His fiancée, Kalyn, pinned his badge.

Donald Davis, originally from Franklin, Ohio, transitioned from private EMS into firefighting in 2022. After serving part-time, he briefly worked full-time in Mason before returning to Hamilton

Township as a full-time firefighter. He is currently pursuing his paramedic certification. His partner, Anna Ziegler, pinned his badge.

Jacob Emenaker has been an EMT for six years and a firefighter for two. Hired part-time by Hamilton Township in 2024, he was promoted to full-time in January 2025. He is also preparing to become a father in April. His girlfriend, Sarah Carreon, pinned his badge.

Devantae Jones entered the fire service in 2023 after working in adult care. He was hired part-time by Hamilton Township in March 2024 and promoted to full-time in January 2025. His mother, Crystal Lawrence, pinned his badge.

Gabriel Schultz began his fire service career two years ago and joined Hamilton Township in 2024. Already a certified fire apparatus operator, he assists with department operations. His mother, Naomi Oscar, pinned his badge.

Christopher Stock, a former college athlete with a business degree, transitioned to firefighting in 2023. He was hired part-time in 2024 and promoted to full-time in January 2025. His mother, Jeanne Stock, pinned his badge.

Chief Jewett closed the ceremony by congratulating the new full-time firefighters and thanking their families for their support.

Public Comments

Mr. Rozzi opened the floor to public comments at 6:21PM.

Mr. Brad Turner expressed his appreciation to Mr. Wright for addressing the signage located within the township's right-of-way. He also extended his gratitude to Chief Hughes for managing the issue of construction workers parking in residential neighborhoods.

Additionally, Mr. Turner shared his concerns regarding children in the neighborhood entering his and other residents' properties while playing Nerf wars—an issue he became aware of after contacting the non-emergency number.

He inquired whether he would be permitted to install a reflective pole at the end of his driveway within the right-of-way. In response, Mr. Wright stated that he would consult surrounding communities to determine their regulations.

Lastly, Mr. Turner requested information regarding the development near Mounts Road. Mr. Cordrey and Mr. Wright explained that the project, known as Stoller II, was originally approved in 2005. Due to legal and sewage-related deadlines, construction has only recently begun. The approved development will consist of 371 homes.

With nobody else approaching the floor Mr. Rozzi closed the floor to comments at 6:28PM.

New Business

Resolution No. 2025-0205A – Opposing Cannabis Tax Change

Ohio voters approved State Issue 2 in 2023, establishing a 36% tax on adult-use cannabis sales, with a portion allocated to the Host Community Cannabis Fund to benefit local jurisdictions hosting dispensaries. This funding was expected to generate significant annual revenue for these communities. However, Senate Bill 56, introduced in January 2025, proposes redirecting all cannabis tax revenue to the state's general fund, eliminating local allocations.

Hamilton Township Administrator Mr. Jeff Wright stated that local governments relied on these funds to support their communities and reduce the burden on residents. As a home-rule township, Hamilton Township believes tax revenue decisions should remain at the local level, ensuring the intended benefits reach the communities that host dispensaries.

A motion was made by Mr. Rozzi, with a second by Mr. Cordrey, to approve Resolution 25-0319A, a resolution in opposition of Senate Bill 56 with regards to the proposed changes to how cannabis tax revenue is being directed to host communities and any legislation which redirects revenue from this tax that has been designated to be received by local communities.

Roll call as follows:

Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes

Resolution No. 2025-0319BB – Authorizing Private Sale of Unneeded and Unfit-For-Use Property in the Police Department

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve Resolution 25-0319B, a resolution authorizing private sale of unneeded and unfit-for-use property in the Police Department.

Roll call as follows:

Joe Rozzi	Yes
Mark Sousa	Yes
Darryl Cordrey	Yes

Motion- Authorize the purchase of a John Deere Z950M ZTrak mower

Mr. Pelfrey informed the Board of Trustees that the Parks Department plans to replace its aging 2018 John Deere Zero-Turn mower, which has accumulated over 2,200 hours of use. The department intends to purchase the same model through John Deere.

Mr. Cordrey inquired whether the department had considered selling the mower through GovDeals. In response, Mr. Pelfrey explained that due to the mower's existing mechanical issues, John Deere has the capability to repair them as part of the trade-in process. If the mower were

sold on GovDeals, the department would forfeit the \$1,200 trade-in value currently being offered.

Mr. Sousa affirmed that 2,200 hours is a significant amount of usage for this type of equipment.

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve the purchase of a John Deere Z950M ZTrak mower under state contract with Deere & Company in the total amount of \$11,429.70 after receiving trade-in value of \$1,200 for a 2018 John Deere mower.

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

Motion- Approve Hamilton Township Roster as presented

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve of the Hamilton Township Roster as presented before the Board.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Rozzi opened the floor to public comments at 6:34PM, with nobody approaching he closed the floor to comments.

Fiscal Report

Mrs. Leah Elliott gave the following updates for the February Fiscal Report:

Through the end of February, which is 17% through the year, we have received \$1,088 million of the \$16.5 million budgeted anticipated revenue. The final appropriations/expense budget was \$17.8 million, we spent over \$3 million which is 16.9%. The total cash balance overall is \$18.065 million and the unencumbered fund balance is \$6.7 million.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Wright gave the following updates:

Parks & Recreation: Improvements at the Testerman Park athletic courts are progressing, with new basketball hoop footers poured, pressure washing and painting completed, and patchwork underway. Registration for the Community Garden at Marr Park is now open, with 4x4 plots available for residents at \$25 and non-residents at \$30.

Zoning: Cathy Walton reported that demolition is scheduled next week for the fire-damaged house on Amberwood Way.

Public Works: To reduce costs for the new Public Works Facility, the township is directly purchasing equipment, including a generator, rather than paying contractor markups.

Fire Department: The implementation of iWorqs for online scheduling and payments has already resulted in quicker payments and increased revenue. Staffing changes have reduced overtime costs, and higher medic run volumes are contributing to increased EMS transport revenue.

Police Department: The department hosted training sessions this month, including a front-line supervisor course. Serving as the host site and providing trainers resulted in cost savings.

Duke Energy is installing a larger gas line along Stephens Road, Zoar Road, and Morrow-Cozzadale Road. The project will be completed by August, with most work near schools scheduled for summer break.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Sousa expressed his excitement for the arrival of spring and the upcoming township events.

Mr. Cordrey reminded residents that the Hop Into Spring event will take place on April 5th at Testerman Park. He also thanked the Little Miami Youth Baseball organization for their efforts in improving the fields and dugouts. Additionally, he congratulated The Monkey Bar for being named Warren County's Best Bar and Pub.

Mr. Rozzi reminded everyone that the Cincinnati Reds' Opening Day is on March 27th and extended an invitation for anyone interested to join the Rozzi Fireworks float in the parade.

Adjournment-

Mr. Rozzi made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to adjourn at 6:40PM.

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