

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting
September 18, 2024

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

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey
Joe Rozzi
Mark Sousa

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A motion was made by Mr. Cordrey, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the clerk's journal as the Official Meeting Minutes of the September 4, 2024, Trustee Meeting.

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. Rozzi, to approve the bills as presented before the Board.

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

The Board welcomed Chief Hughes back from the FBI National Academy. Chief Hughes expressed his gratitude, stating it was an honor to represent Hamilton Township. He noted the opportunity to meet individuals from various agencies, both large and small, alongside 253 participants from 27 different countries.

Public Comments

Mr. Cordrey opened the floor to public comments at 6:03 pm.

Mr. Marvin Stotz brought to the Board's attention that residents on Hummock Court are facing costly repairs due to tree roots growing into their septic system pipes. He believes that MI

Homes, the developers, should be held accountable for this issue. Additionally, Mr. Stotz inquired about a vacant house on the street, suggesting that there may be usable wood in the garage that the Warren County Career Center could benefit from.

Mr. Dan Dorff lives on Adams Road and questions the regulations to maintaining agricultural land. He put in a violation for the property beside his due to high grass and was told by Zoning Inspector Sanders that the property is agricultural and closed the case.

Administrator Jeff Wright let Mr. Dorff know that he will pass on the information to Director Cathy Walton and will be in contact with him soon.

Mr. Wright addressed the Board regarding a proposed plan that could impact the Dorff family and other residents on Adams Road. The city of Loveland has contacted the township about constructing a bridge on Adams Road to reduce traffic in downtown Loveland. He will be attending a meeting at the City of Loveland with the Warren County Engineer's office on September 30th to discuss the plan but does not believe that this location is suitable. Additionally, the area is outside the urban service area, which the Trustees aim to preserve as rural.

Mr. Steven Potter, a resident of Lakeview Drive in the Valley View subdivision, is requesting a speed study to extend the 35-mph zone coming out of the Village of Morrow or to install signs to encourage drivers to slow down as they approach the blind hill. He expressed concern for safety, noting that there have been multiple crashes since the development, particularly at the intersection of Route 22/3 and Lakeview Drive.

Mr. Cordrey and Chief Hughes agreed to reach out to the Ohio Department of Transportation to request a speed study.

Mr. Wright asked Chief Hughes to pull the five-year crash data for the location.

Ms. Penny Brown owns a property on Nightshade Drive that borders Testerman Park. She is currently facing issues with standing water in her yard, which she believes is causing her trees to die. To address this, she is requesting permission for a tree removal company to access her property through Testerman Park, rather than having the trees removed and transported over her house. Ms. Brown previously spoke with Ms. Nicole Earley and the HT Road Foreman, who informed her that the company's request for access was denied due to concerns about potential damage to the walkway from their heavy machinery. She is now presenting her case to the Board to reconsider this access request.

Following discussions with the Board and Mr. Don Pelfrey, it was agreed that Ms. Earley and a representative from Public Works will work together to coordinate a meeting with the tree removal company. They will review the equipment to be used and potential access points to determine if they can accommodate Ms. Brown's request.

Mr. Dan Smith wanted to bring to Chief Hughes's attention that the zipper merger at the intersection of US Route 22/3 and State Route 48 is leading some drivers to speed and drive recklessly, raising concerns about potential accidents. He is requesting an increased police presence in the area to address this issue.

New Business

- Resolution No. 2024-0918A – Accepting Amounts and Rates by the Budget Commission and Authorizing and Certifying Necessary Tax Levies to the County Auditor

Mr. Wright explained that every county in Ohio must have a Budget Commission that meets annually to certify revenue estimates for the next budget year. The Warren County Budget Commission has provided the 2025 revenue estimates for Hamilton Township’s levy and special funds. Each local government needs to pass a resolution to accept these amounts and send it to the County Auditor.

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 2024-0918A, a resolution accepting amounts and rates by the Budget Commission and authorizing and certifying necessary tax levies to the County Auditor.

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

- Resolution No. 2024-0918B – Supporting a variance to the Warren County Throughfare Plan for the proposed development at the corner of ST Route 48 and US 22/3

Mr. Wright reminded the Board that the Warren County Thoroughfare Plan, which includes the Hoptown Connector in Hamilton Township, was last updated in 2010. A 7-acre site at the corner of SR 48 and US 22/3, owned by 5/3 Bank for over 20 years, is now being considered for commercial development by Myers Y. Cooper Company. The Warren County Engineer's Office is asking the developer to give up part of the land for a new public road, which would significantly limit development options.

He suggests it may be time for the Board to reevaluate the Hoptown Plan based on recent developments. The proposed project could help ease traffic at the busy intersection, especially since the developer can create access to the nearby Kroger and through Towne Center also owned by Myers Y. Cooper. A connector road further east might be a better solution for traffic flow. Supporting the variance from the Hoptown Plan could encourage commercial growth that benefits our community and diversify our tax base.

Mark Sousa	Yes
Joe Rozzi	Yes

- Approve Transfer of Cemetery Deeds

A motion was made by Mr. Cordrey, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the transfer of cemetery deeds.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Cordrey opened the floor to public comments at 6:53 pm, to which there were none.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Fiscal Officer Leah Elliot provided the financial report for August 2024 with the year-to-date figures of the budgeted revenue and budgeted expenses. The second drawing of property taxes will be at the end of the month, evening out the deficit that is depicted on the slide from the previous year's numbers. She also reminded the public that we are currently in a state audit and predicted to be finalized by November 30th.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Wright gave the following updates:

- Veterans Float had a successful turnout with about two dozen participants. Ms. Early is planning for next year's event.
- The property management company, hired by the mortgage company for 1715 Amberwood Way has contacted Chief Jewett. The company is taking control of clean-up, secure and monitor the house on behalf of the mortgage company.
- Public Works this past week improved the storm water ditch improvements on Cones Rd.
- Working with McGill Smith's architect on the conceptual design for the replacement Public Works building. A revised plan and cost estimate will be brought to the board once received.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Sousa did not have any additional comments.

Mr. Rozzi reminded residents that it is dry outside due to the lack of rain, and to be careful with any fires.

Chief Jewett stated that he expects the state to be in a burn ban by next week.

Mr. Cordrey expressed his gratitude to Ms. Earley and the staff for their hard work this year in making the events a success. He also reminded everyone that the LPGA Queen City Tournament is happening this weekend, with public parking available at Oeder's Lake. Special thanks were given to Mr. and Mrs. Oeder for their generous hospitality.

Executive Session-

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to adjourn the executive session at 7:04 p.m. in accordance with ORC 121.22(G)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of public employees.

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

Mr. Cordrey made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to come out of Executive session at 7:24 p.m.

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

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Cordrey made a motion, with a second from Mr. Rozzi, to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

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