

Miami Township Trustees
Greene County, OH
Minutes of July 6, 2026

**see acronym glossary following minutes*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Askeland present.

Fire Chief James Cannell and Zoning Administrator Bryan Lucas were in attendance.

Yellow Springs News Editor Lauren Shows and residents Peter Buswinka, Pan Reich, and KellyAnn Tracy were also present.

Trustees Agenda Approval

Trustee Mucher **moved** to accept the agenda as presented. Trustee Askeland **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the June 15, 2026, meeting are pending due to Ms. Pauwels' vacation and subsequent illness.

Correspondence

The Trustees received no correspondence that needed further discussion.

Citizen Concerns

Ms. Tracy shared her thoughts re: **the upcoming MTRF levy**. She stressed that while she always supports the fire department, she has concerns re: the Township's "stewardship" of tax monies. She believes that in order to convince voters to approve the levy, Trustees must "demonstrate that they can responsibly manage" the requested funds. Ms. Tracy pointed to past funding issues and ended with, "Residents will be watching your budget."

Mr. Reich said he shared Ms. Tracy's concerns, and added two other issues. In reference to past discussions re: **reimbursement for healthcare expenses**, he asked if that was legal, adding he felt it was unethical. In response, Trustee Moir noted that issue would be discussed later in the meeting under Old Business.

Mr. Reich then addressed Chief Cannell and while thanking MTRF for their appearance in the Fourth of July parade, asked **why the department did not participate in the Pride parade and if they would do so next year**. Chief Cannell said he had not received an invitation to be in the parade, but that the department would be **happy to participate** as they do in any community function. Trustee Moir noted someone had stopped to make that request after-hours as she was leaving the building when no one was available at the fire department. She had asked them to return during regular business hours when someone would be there.

Fire Department Report

Chief Cannell addressed Ms. Tracy's budget question by noting that **as of the six (6)-month mark of 2026, the fire department has spent just forty-nine percent (49%) of its budgeted outlay**. He tracks spending regularly.

He opened his staff report (attached below) by **requesting approval to hire Annessa Stamper as a part-time EMT (single certification), at the established \$17.57/hour**. Her sister, Ashlynn Stamper, was hired recently and is doing well. They are Township residents.

In response to Trustees' questions, Chief Cannell said this hire would **replace a recent PT resignation (Madison Terry)** and is needed to help keep three (3) staffers 24/7. Currently the department is maintaining that staffing level eighty-eight percent (88%) of the time (*see notes in his report re: employees on leave*). While Ms. Stamper is currently certified only as an EMT, she is making plans to attend fire school.

Trustee Mucher **moved** to approve the hiring of Annessa Stamper as requested, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Chief Cannell continued his report, with the following highlights:

- Antioch **intern Nico Rivera's** co-op status ended June 19, and he has moved to **volunteer status**. He plans to begin fire school next month
- The department has responded to **six hundred seventy-seven (677) runs** so far in 2026, averaging **3.6/day**.
- The new **Chief's vehicle** was completed and delivered; however, while responding to a run last week, the engine started knocking and **may need to be replaced**. The dealership has provided a loaner vehicle during the warranty repairs.

After explaining current issues with equipment storage in Engine 82, Chief Cannell asked for authorization to **enter into a contract with Fire Manufacturing Innovations, LLC (FMI) for the design, construction, and installation of custom shelving and tool mounts at a total cost of \$21,230.28** to be paid out of the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund 4904. The custom storage system will optimize equipment organization, improve tool accessibility, and enhance operational efficiency during emergency responses.

After Trustee Moir **moved** to authorize the contract and Trustee Askeland **seconded**, extended **discussion was held re: the Township purchasing policy and the possible need for bids**. Chief Cannell explained the "single-source" exemption, noting he would be hard-pressed to find three local companies able to do the work. Trustee Askeland **moved to amend the motion noting that exemption**, and Trustee Moir **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

In response to Trustee Mucher's question **if the work would be done on site**, Chief Cannell explained they would take the truck in one day for laser fitting,

then it could take up to two (2) weeks for the installation in the shop. **Back-up Engine 81** has undergone extensive repair and is in shape to cover runs during that time.

Trustee Moir asked **Chief Cannell to meet with Mr. Reich** at a later time to discuss his further questions re: staffing; he will do so.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Moir described **citizen requests re: the new Pine Forest section**. She then **moved** to assign Mr. Lucas, in his administrative role, to prepare a proposal of what needs to be done in order to open that section and to look at pricing. Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **motion carried 2-1 with Trustee Mucher voting "No."**

Trustee Mucher said when he had asked to finalize and open the Pine Forest earlier he was told no because the funds weren't available, and he doesn't see what has changed. Trustee Moir disagreed, saying the Board voted not to plant the proposed grasses or install a fence at that time, not to delay opening. Trustee Mucher responded that that was all that had been necessary.

Mr. Lucas said he would have the proposal ready for the next meeting.

Roads:

In Mr. Gochenouer's absence, Trustee Moir reported the **Harbison Road project bid opening will be held Tuesday, July 28, at 10 a.m.** The completion date has been moved to 2027.

Fiscal Officer's Report

In Ms. Pauwels' absence, Trustee Moir shared her action items:

- A citizen **added \$50 to their cemetery payment** in thanks for Brandon Morris' extra assistance and requested it be shared with him. How should that be handled? Is it allowed? – No answer was given.
- **An unmailed cemetery deed was discovered** in the Deeds files, which are terribly out of order (not alphabetical).
- Presentation of current payment listing: **6/14-7/3/2026 - \$157,849.65**
- **Resolution 2026-23 Accepting Amounts and Rates from the Budget Commission** for FY 2027 – Trustee Askeland **moved** to adopt the Resolution, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.
- **Resolution 2026-24 to Redeem Dollars from Star Ohio Investment Account** as Needed – Trustee Askeland **moved** to adopt the Resolution, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.
- **Resolution 2026-25 to Amend Permanent Appropriations** (Fines & Penalties, Garbage & Trash Removal). After asking for the dollar amounts, which Trustee Moir provided (\$10,000 and \$3,500 respectively), the **Resolution was adopted**

unanimously (note an oversight in which no motion was specifically made/seconded, only a vote taken).

- The **audit went well**, with only a few outstanding documents to be located and shared with Perry & Associates. Their cost is capped by the State at \$6,000 unless they request and we approve anything more. It could be **up to six (6) months before we receive a final report**.

Zoning Administrator's Report

Mr. Lucas presented his monthly report (attached below) and requested the Trustees schedule a **public hearing for their next meeting, July 20, 2026, to hear the proposed text amendment for Article 2 (Definitions)** of the Zoning Resolution. The public hearing was added to the meeting agenda. He will handle publication.

Mr. Lucas explained a new **request from RPCC that any text amendments must go through legal review before they are referred to RPCC**. He is concerned with duplication of efforts and of the ORC-prescribed time table for the referral process. Following Trustee Mucher's input on the RPCC Executive Committee's discussion of the matter, it was agreed the Zoning Commission could vote to send the matter to the Greene County Prosecutor first, and after it is returned from there, vote to send it to the RPCC for review which will then trigger the ORC clock.

Old Business (all related to Medicare reimbursement)

Trustee Moir answered more fully Mr. Reich's earlier question re: **Medicare reimbursement**. She reviewed the situation the Township has been dealing with, noting it had not been unusual for an Ohio township to offer Medicare reimbursement in the past.

She stated that in the case of Miami Township, the reimbursements over the past ten (10) years or so have been **"somewhat less expensive" than paying for the group health plan**. This was legal under Ohio law **if done properly via Resolution** (annually?) with the reimbursement **option for all, not just Medicare recipients**.

When Trustee Askeland was elected in November 2025, Trustee Moir began researching to see if Ms. Askeland's husband, who is on Medicare, would also be eligible for that reimbursement. That was when she learned the process had not been established properly, and **after consultation with the Greene County Prosecutor's Office, the process was stopped** (see Resolution 2026-11, passed unanimously on April 6, 2026).

Trustee Mucher then addressed the perceived "disparaging comments" from the public. He reviewed **his understanding of how reimbursements came into practice for previous trustees** including Misters Spracklin, Crockett, Hollister, and for himself. He stated the early Board had worked with insurance agent Steve Ackley (sp) to prepare a process that was "equal to" the plan offered to Township employees.

Trustee Mucher added he is “personally offended” at the suggestion he took advantage of the Township, noting **he “applauded the Board’s decision to save the taxpayers of Miami Township” \$800 per month in his case alone.**

Ms. Tracy asked to respond and was told no.

Trustee Askeland stated that while she believes the previous Trustees “acted in good faith” and may have “save thousands,” **the Affordable Care Act changed things.** It’s also **illegal to “incentivize” Medicare**, which such reimbursements could be seen as. “The legal landscape has changed.” She noted the earlier Resolution on the matter (2018-12) and a motion passed in January 2025 were **“insufficient” in any case by not offering such reimbursements to all employees.**

Referencing Robert’s Rules of Order, **Trustee Moir** then offered a **motion to reconsider the motion from last meeting** “to accept the advice to consult a tax attorney for those items referencing medical reimbursement that Mr. Hayes feels merit further review,” amended to add “expand the tax attorney consultation to not just reimbursement, but also how the Township handles all insurance matters and pre-tax premiums” which had passed unanimously. She reiterated the problem that previous efforts did not offer the reimbursement to all employees and noted that **Resolution 2018-12 specifically referred to “Part B Medicare” only while reimbursements have been made for B, D, and supplemental coverage.** Trustee Askeland seconded.

Further extended discussion was held.

Trustee Mucher stated **no one told him a Resolution was required:** “not the Fiscal Officer, the Prosecuting Attorney, the County Auditor, the State Auditor, the State Attorney General.” When **Trustee Moir pointed out it’s in the ORC**, he added, “Regardless, I was never told.” He said that the Fiscal Officer came to the Board “five (5) years ago” to change the process so Trustees paid for coverage and were then reimbursed rather than the Township paying Medicare directly.

Trustee Askeland quoted the advisory letter from Prosecutor Hayes and also questioned the wording of the 2025 motion again. She then **apologized for her vote** last meeting, noting she **needs to ask for a vote to be deferred when so much information comes in at once that things get confused.**

Trustee Moir clarified that **a vote on the motion to reconsider would be a vote on the original motion as amended:** “to accept the advice to consult a tax attorney for those items referencing medical reimbursement that Mr. Hayes feels merit further review,” amended to add “expand the tax attorney consultation to not just reimbursement, but also how the Township handles all insurance matters and pre-tax premiums.” The vote was **one (1) “Yes”** (Trustee Mucher) and **two (2) “No”** (Trustees Askeland and Moir), and **the motion was defeated.**

Trustee Moir restated **Trustee Askeland's** comments, agreeing how important it is not to make decisions under pressure.

Trustee Mucher then offered **the history of a retirement payout to an early Township employee some ten (10) years ago** as an example of being "fair." When the Trustees learned the annual 200-hour vacation time rollback had been missed and the employee would collect ~900 hours of pay, they approved the ~\$20,000 payout even though "it certainly was not legal to pay him that."

Trustee Moir objected, noting that **documents on file show an attorney's letter noting the Board had been "neglectful in not following the policy" and approving those hours by signing regular paychecks, and therefore directing the payout.** The Board was also instructed to make sure it never happened again. She added, "When I got here **in 2022, ten (10) years later, they had let it happen again.**"

Trustee Mucher said, "That's a fiscal officer's responsibility to keep those records, not the Township Trustees."

While noting the more recent recurrence "**because the Board let it happen,**" **Trustee Moir** added, "**It's never going to happen again as long as I'm here.**"

After further disagreement, **Trustee Moir** stated, "This is irrelevant and off track. **The motion stands.**"

New Business

Trustee Moir presented **Resolution 2026-26 to Proceed on Levy** and read the text aloud. **Trustee Mucher moved** to adopt the Resolution as presented, and **Trustee Askeland seconded.** After a brief discussion of the expenses to be covered, the **motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Askeland presented **Resolution 2026-27 to Place a Moratorium on Any New Data Center Attempting to Operate/Locate in Miami Township, Greene County, and Waiving the Second Reading.** She explained her rationale behind the motion and read the text aloud. Mr. Lucas noted the moratorium would **give the Zoning Commission time to review the matter in detail,** similar to the solar issue. **Trustee Moir moved** to adopt the Resolution and **Trustee Mucher seconded.** The **motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Mucher deferred his requested Board of Trustees policy review.

Trustee Moir presented the Chamber of Commerce request for the **Township's annual donation to the Fourth of July fireworks** and **moved** to renew the \$1,000 contribution. **Trustee Mucher seconded,** and the **motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for **Monday, July 20, 2026**, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson _____ **Attest** _____

***Acronyms:**

- MTFR: Miami Township Fire & Rescue
- MVRPC: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- OTA: Ohio Township Association
- RPCC: Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission
- YSDC: Yellow Springs Development Corporation

/clp

Miami Twp. Trustee Meeting- Fire Chief Report

Personnel/Staffing-

One part time resignation (Terry), one new part time hire recommendation (Stamper), one application out

Capt. Ayers off on extended leave due to daughter's surgery

Casey Flora is back from extended leave due birth of 2nd child

Nico Rivera placed on volunteer status after his Antioch Co-op ended on June 19

Shift personnel started a 48/96-hour rotation which still equates to a 56-hour work week

Changed over to ESO for staffing, expecting improvements, EPR Staff works discontinued

Operations-

677 runs year-to-date (see run/staffing report)- 3.6 runs/day

Building-

Lt. Turner is new house officer who will oversee all things pertaining to in/around/and attached to the building

Act Lt. Brewer is new uniform/fire gear officer

Fire alarm panel and detectors were inspected/tested

Apparatus/Vehicles/Equipment-

The Chief's vehicle had upfit and graphics completed. The vehicle experienced engine trouble last week after a run, is now at Ford dealership in Beavercreek being evaluated. F-150 loaner vehicle is being utilized by chief

The FEMA grants have been submitted. Should receive grant outcomes by Sept 30.

Authorize the Fire Chief to execute a contract with Fire Manufacturing Innovations (FMI) for the fabrication and installation of custom compartment shelving and fire equipment mounting systems within Engine 82 at a cost not to exceed \$21,230.28 from Capital Fund #4904

Pick-up truck is still waiting on upfit. The back-ordered cap is causing the delay. The graphics package was finalized

Misc.

July 4th celebration including the parade was a success. No significant incidents occurred

Miami Township Trustees
Zoning Administrator Staff Report
June 2026

- **Zoning Permits Issued: 0**
- **Zoning Commission:**
 - Met twice since last Trustees meeting.
 - Held public hearing for Article 2 (Definitions) and forwarded to Trustees. Recommend July 20th for Trustees public hearing on this text amendment.
 - Completed text amendment adding a new section – 509 (Farm Stands, Farm Markets and Farmer’s Markets) and forwarded onto RPCC for approval.
 - Completed text amendment as a follow up of 3 sections of the Ohio zoning reform grant and forwarded onto RPCC for approval. The 3 sections include:
 - **Section 602 (Off-Street Parking Design Standards)**
 - **Section 513.5 (Public Events)**
 - **Section 1004 (Variances)**
- **Board of Zoning Appeals:**
 - Did not meet this month
- **Zoning Violations:**
 - No violations to report
- **Additional Information to Report:**
 - All members of the Zoning Commission have received a printed updated version of the zoning resolution following the June 4th effective date. BZA members copies are in my office, ready to be issued at the next meeting.