

Miami Township Trustees
Greene County, OH
Minutes of July 20, 2026
**see acronym glossary following minutes*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chairperson Moir, with Trustee Mucher and Trustee Askeland present.

Fire Chief James Cannell, Fiscal Officer Cyndi Pauwels, Zoning Administrator Bryan Lucas, and Road Department Supervisor Dan Gochenouer were in attendance.

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

Trustees Agenda Approval

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

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Mucher **moved** to **adopt the minutes** of June 15, 2026, as presented. Trustee Askeland **seconded**, and the **motion carried unanimously**.

The **July 6, 2026, minutes** will be available by next meeting.

Correspondence

Trustee Moir reported there will be **no August 3, 2026, meeting** due to lack of a quorum with Trustee travel.

Citizen Concerns

No comments

Public Hearing

A public hearing was opened at 5:08 p.m. to review the **proposed Zoning Text Amendment 2026-002-T Article 2 (Definitions)**. Mr. Lucas presented the text changes and explained their development, noting input from the Zoning Commission, RPCC, and legal review by the Greene County Prosecutor's Office.

There being no changes offered by the Trustees or comments from the public, Trustee Mucher **moved** to adopt **Resolution 2026-28 proposed Zoning Text Amendment 2026-002-T Article 2 (Definitions)** as presented. Trustee Askeland **seconded**, and **the motion carried unanimously**.

Fire Department Report

Chief Cannell opened his **staff report** (attached below) by requesting **approval to hire Ross Higbee and Teresa Himes as part-time FF/EMTs at the rate of \$19.05/hour.**

These additions will bring the department to full staff for now. Trustee Moir so moved, and Trustee Askeland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Highlights from his report include:

- Seven hundred forty-two (**742**) **runs year-to-date**, averaging 3.6/day.
- As reported last meeting, the **new Chief's vehicle will need a new engine** (under warranty).
- The **new medic** should be ready for final inspection ~August 8, 2026.

Cemetery and Road Report

Cemetery:

Mr. Gochenouer reported **no burials** since last meeting, with one (1) scheduled for Wednesday. Crews will deal with Pine Forest weeds this week.

Mr. Lucas presented his requested **report on the potential opening of Pine Forest Cemetery section** (attached below).

After extended discussion on the quotes presented for bulk pine needles, Trustee Askeland **moved** to accept the proposal from **Southern Pickup from Franklin for 465 bales at a cost of \$4,725.** Trustee Moir **seconded**.

An **extended discussion** was held re: previous work at the Pine Forest area.

Trustee Mucher said he had previously presented photos to the Board (from the website?) after he had “personally eradicated” weeds and errant grass in the area before “personally” covering the area with **~50 bales of pine needles**, “hand spread,” leaving the area “close to perfectly sculptured,” at a **cost of “probably \$500 for the whole thing”** including weed eradicator.

He decried the current consideration of **spending more than \$10,000 to do the same, including the cost of having Bryan “look into all the things that I did myself.”** “It was totally up to the edge of the western border, and the north and the south, and were...in my opinion totally covered.”

Further **debate and calculations ensued over how many bales would be needed** to cover the ~40,000 square-foot area (2/3+ of which has already been covered), and to what depth.

Trustee Moir asked Trustee Mucher, “Would you suggest that it’s sufficient now to open without any more?”

Trustee Mucher said, “It’s gotten so far out of control that all you’re going to see is dead weeds and dead grass. ...it would certainly need some touch-up at the very least, and I couldn’t image having to throw more than 50 bales on it.”

Spraying for weeds was also discussed, both in time and cost, utilizing Roger (no last name)’s services as before, with **Trustee Mucher** noting, “He did it once, and then the Board decided to quit doing any additional work on it.”

Trustee Moir said, “I just want to make it very clear: The Board did not stop maintenance on it. We voted to not have ornamental grasses or to continue the fence at the back.”

In a debate over **what work was funded** or not, **Trustee Mucher** stated, “We need to be fiscally responsible and not waste the taxpayers money needlessly...[with] **a cemetery section that has a potential of raising about \$400,000 in sales** over a period of time.”

Trustee Moir noted, “It’s a great start, but that’s why we’re doing all the numbers, to see...what the price should be and how long we can maintain” the area. “**There’s a difference between deciding as a group and appropriating legally approved funds.**”

After more discussion over the scope of the work, **Trustee Moir** said, “My original idea was to get it to a place where it looked like it looked last fall...very nicely maintained and welcoming. ...That was my plan, but **whatever the Board decides.**”

Trustee Mucher said, “**My ideas have been removed on this consideration.**”

Trustee Moir disagreed. “No...we’re considering this as a Board. That’s the difference.”

Trustee Mucher responded, “Well it does appear **my ability to make any of these decisions...has been taken from me and handed to an employee.**”

Mr. Lucas interjected. “The employee **asked you to help me with this and you told me you would not.**”

Trustee Mucher replied, “I made this plan based on...had this been my responsibility, I wouldn’t have needed you...to give all that information over.”

Trustee Moir said, “**Making it collaborative is not taking it away.** It’s saying this is a full responsibility of the whole Board...and with budgets that are written out. What I appreciate about what Bryan has done here is **he has given me clear numbers so I know what’s needed and what’s being spent.** He asked for your input. It would have very helpful for him to hear that fifty (50) bales seemed to cover it last time.”

After additional exchange, Trustee Moir added, “We’re at a new evolutionary point where we can’t expect that...all three of us aren’t going to be here forever and probably not for long. We have to deal with the fact that **this needs a management plan both financially and physically because you can’t expect that somebody become responsible for a cemetery business.**”

Discussion returned to how many bales of pine needles were needed to open the section. **Mr. Gochenouer said he has forty (40) bales (intact and broken in bags) now.** It was decided to **deal with the vegetation, put down the pine needles on hand, and reevaluate what more is needed.**

Given that decision, Trustee Askeland withdrew her motion for the purchase from **Southern Pickup.**

Further review will be held at the August meeting.

Roads:

Mr. Gochenouer reported the crew will focus on **trimming and mowing** ditches this week.

Trustee Moir asked that he attend the **Harbison Road bid opening** with her; she will check the date/time.

Trustee Mucher said the **roads look “really good,”** and “vegetation is normal for mid-July.”

Fiscal Officer’s Report

Current payment listing: **7/4-7/17/2026 - \$80,976.05**

Ms. Pauwels reported the **advance on the second-half tax advances has been announced** and should be deposited ACH tomorrow.

Miscellaneous documents are still needed for the auditors; US Bank has been difficult to communicate with.

Trustee Moir commented on the **Greene County Auditor’s request for unencumbered balances versus budgets.**

Zoning Administrator's Report

Mr. Lucas presented a suggested **update to the Zoning permit fee schedule** and explained its rationale. Trustee Moir **moved** to adopt the proposal, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Standing Committee Reports

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission: **no report**
- Greene County Regional Planning & Coordinating Commission: **Trustee Mucher** reported they discussed two (2) **Beavercreek Township subdivisions**, and **hired an administrative assistant and a planner**.
- Clifton-Union Cemetery: **no report**
- YS Development Corporation: **Trustee Moir** said she has a **possible volunteer for the Township's open seat**.
- Greene County Township Association: Trustee Moir commented on the **Greene County Engineer's annual report** presented at the meeting, noting **required Road Department trainings**. Greene County has been **relocated to ODOT's District 8**, which aligns with MVRPC.
- YS Active Transportation Committee: **no report**

Old Business

Nothing discussed.

New Business

Trustee Askeland requested an **Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(6) Specialized details of security arrangements** where disclosure of the information to be discussed in executive session might reveal information that could be used to commit, or avoid prosecution for, a violation of the law by division 26-28 (G)(6) of section 121.22 of the ORC. Trustee Mucher so **moved**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The meeting **recessed at 6:44 p.m.** At **7 p.m.**, Trustee Moir **moved to reconvene**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**.

Trustee Moir asked for a motion to adopt **Resolution 2026-29 Authorizing the Implementation of the Township's Cybersecurity Plan** and declaring an Emergency, effective July 1, 2026. Trustee Askeland so **moved**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

After explaining a questionable issue faced at the BOE when she tried to file the MTFR levy paperwork after the last meeting, Trustee Moir **moved to rescind Resolution 2026-26**, and Trustee Askeland **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Trustee Moir then asked for a motion to **adopt Resolution 2026-30 – Resolution to Proceed of the Taxing Authority**. Trustee Askeland so **moved**, and Trustee Mucher **seconded**. The **motion carried unanimously**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting will be **Monday, August 17, 2026****
- note *there will not be a meeting on Monday August 3, 2026, due to lack of a quorum.*

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-

Two new part-time hires hire recommendations, Higbee and Himes

48/96-hour rotation schedule has been a smooth transition, personnel are favoring it

Changed over to ESO for staffing, going well, keeping shifts staffed above 90% at three

Operations-

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

Building-

Fire alarm panel and detectors inspection bill due in

Apparatus/Vehicles/Equipment-

The Chief's vehicle will have new engine installed and is under warrantee.

E82 delivered to Fire Manufacturing Innovations (FMI) for the fabrication and installation of custom compartment shelving, approved last month

Pick-up truck will go out for upfit in next two weeks, graphics will follow it returns

Ambulance will be finished mid-August and ready for final inspection around Aug 8

FYI Items- Capt. Ayers daughter's surgery went well, slow recovery

Opening of Pine Forest Cemetery Section

(1) Clear Weeds

- Clear weeds from entire cemetery section including gravel path and redefine boundaries of the cemetery. Completion date July 24

(2) Add Additional Pine Needles/Straw

- Cover floor with pine needles (40,000 sf) – roughly 700-800 bales or 250 rolls.
- Local and Regional Quotes:
 - Siebenthalers (750 x \$14 = \$10,500) local pick up
 - Custom Pine Straw (\$7,931) – full truck load, 1540 bales delivered at \$5.15/bale Includes delivery
 - Creech's Lawn and Landscape – Lebanon (\$11,700) 24 skids of 48 bales – totaling 1,152 bales. \$450 per skid. Delivery is \$900.
 - Southern Pickup – Franklin. (\$7,570) 740 bales at \$10/bale. Delivery fee \$85 x 2. First delivery would be 465 bales (first load = \$4,725). Willing to give option of second delivery bale count after confirming how much the first load covered. South Carolina long pine needles.
 - Dean's Eco Green Recycling - Fairborn. Do not carry pine mulch.
 - Champion Mulch and Landscaping Supply – SW Ohio. (\$14,716) plus \$350 delivery. Mulch that resembles pine needles.
 - Asked for quote from Try Pine Straw website has pine rolls for \$22 (covers 130 sf) or bales for \$10 (covers 50 sf) – estimated to be \$6,600.
- Need 1 week lead time after order is placed. With approval, delivery could happen first week of August, with the spreading completed by August 31.

(3) Plan for Fencing Boards

- There is approximately 300+ feet of fencing purchased and available
- Suggestion:
 - Use 220 feet to fill gap in Oak Grove between existing trees and newly built fence on eastside of cemetery
 - Use 30-40 feet to fill gap at traditional – prairie line between existing trees
 - Cemetery crew can build during the Fall of 2026 with anticipated completion date by end of 2026
- Would not need to be completed to open Pine Forest Cemetery Section

(4) Establish Standards, Rules and Pricing for Cemetery

- Tentative rules
 - Each plot is marked on the ground at the front left corner when viewed from the gravel path. (4' wide and 5' deep)

- Each plot can be broken down into 4 quadrants, label A-B-C-D. From left to right and front to back.
- A memorial marker may be placed on each quadrant. Size of marker may be no larger than 6" x 12" and stick out of the ground no more than 4".
- Need to establish rules regarding what may or may not be placed on each plot. Still a work in progress, but anticipated completion date of August 15.
- Pricing
 - Working on a plan to update the fee schedule of all cemetery services

(5) Open Pine Forest Cemetery

- Start selling plots on September 1st.