

**Board of Trustees of Sandusky Township  
Sandusky County, Ohio**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 19, 2023**

The Trustees of Sandusky Township met in regular session at Sandusky Township Hall at 6:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Paul Lotycz, Gilbert Overmyer, and Kyle Amor.

Fiscal officer, Alexis Brickner was in attendance until 6:25 pm.

The minutes from the September 5, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes with no additions or corrections by Chip. Kyle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

The revenues and expenditures were reported by Alexis as follows:

	September 6- September 19	YTD
Revenue	\$26,340.09	\$999,763.86
Expenditures	\$26,457.40	\$808,342.35

Kyle made a motion to accept and pay the bills. Chip seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Barbara Bristley attended the meeting. Ms. Bristley advised that she had come to hear what Mrs. Hasselbach had to present regarding the medical insurance. She also advised that she researched Sandusky County's insurance plan, along with reviewing national insurance plans. She hopes that the board will consider the national averages when deciding on the townships medical plan and be good stewards of township funds. Chip advised Ms. Bristley that he had also done research regarding the county's medical plan and contacted their agent. The agent advised Chip that the plan the county is on is unable to insure a group with less than 100 employees. He has contacted another agent who insures municipalities and was again advised that they do not insure small groups. Ms. Bristley stated that she was not suggesting the township go with those specific companies but would like them to look at other alternatives. Chip and Paul both advised that they will review all options provided by Mrs. Hasselbach.

Rudy Sprenger attended the meeting. Mr. Sprenger wanted to check in on the electric aggregate because there was a glitch in the system with his account. He called to get in the aggregate and the representative that he spoke with had a difficult time even finding his account. He was able to get confirmation that he was in the aggregate now but wanted Joe Garrett from Trebel LLC's contact number to confirm when it would take effect. Kyle provided the number to Rudy. Rudy also wanted to inform the board that in the past, several members of the Chamber of Commerce were able to get together to get a group rate for workers comp. He wondered if that may be an option for the township health insurance as well.

Don Bixler attended the meeting to observe.

Julie Hasselbach with Sprouse Insurance Agency attended the meeting. Mrs. Hasselbach advised the board that she had the medical mutual renewal for the township. The renewal is due on November 1, 2023. The township insurance will increase by 0.01%. The township is able to renew the current plan or move to a new plan. To get the best rates for a new plan, the board members and full-time employees would need to complete Form Fire questionnaires to gain more accuracy. Julie also advised that if the township moves to a new plan, she would like

them to look into Health Reimbursement Accounts. The board asked Julie to forward a link to the Form Fire questionnaires and they would fill them out and re-evaluate the plans that are generated from there.

Brian Woods with the zoning board attended the meeting. Brian advised the board that he is having trouble getting payment and permits completed at the same time when applications are sent through the mail. He asked the board if they would agree to let him require applications and payment be turned in to him in person, when possible. He advised that he has to inspect the property for the permit anyway so he would be able to secure the application and payment at that time as well. The board agreed to allow Mr. Woods to require applications and payment be hand delivered, when possible.

Alexis shared the following updates:

- Inquired about the status of public use of the meeting room. The board advised that we are unable to allow public use of the board meeting room but are still considering the option of allowing the public to use the meeting room next door. They will follow up.
- Jerri Miller advised of the steps that were necessary to take in order to correct the issues of the 21-22 audit. Alexis will work with Attorney Barney to create a resolution and have it ready for the next meeting.

Dean Schneider, Fire Department Chief, attended the meeting and gave the following update:

- 13 emergency calls were received by the department.
- The new Computer Aided Dispatch and 911 systems are scheduled to go live on September 26. At this time the Automatic Aid system will go into effect as well. When this happens, any confirmed structure fire, smoke in a building, etc. would cause an automatic dispatch to be sent to multiple departments. Those departments are determined by where the structure falls on a predetermined map. This transition may create a need for a new reporting system as the current one may not work properly. The state of Ohio has already created a new program and it is free for departments to use so if the current system doesn't work, we can utilize the State's system.
- Unit 2's compressor and pressure switch are having issues. GCM's technician is off for training so the truck couldn't get in. Chad from the road's department came in and was able to replace the pressure switch though and it appears to be working now.
- Unit 7 is set to go to Gibsonburg for final measurements and decals on September 22. All essential medical supplies will be pulled from the truck and placed on the engine so the truck can stay for 3-4 days while it is completed.
- Ladder testing was completed and everything passed. Pump testing is set for September 28 in conjunction with Fremont Fire. Hose testing is set for October 11 and pictures were taken with the boat motor for completion of the grant.
- The dedication of the Theresa Miller Martin highway was on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a nice event that was well attended.
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> is the annual Spaghetti Dinner.
- A new refrigerator was purchased for the station, the other one quit.
- Smoke detectors were donated to a senior citizens event at the YMCA.

Brent Saionz advised that a letter was received regarding the Marcs radios. A reauthorization fee is going to be implemented on a certain model of the radio. The models that are affected need to be serviced and a fee be paid or they will not work.

Paul inquired about the status of the new truck being built by 4 guys. Dean advised that a change order meeting needs to be held. He will contact the committee chairman and have him set that meeting.



Chad Bender of the roads department attended the meeting to observe. Paul thanked him for coming in on Sunday to help fix the fire truck.

Brent Saionz of the roads department attended the meeting and gave the following update:

- M & B Asphalt called regarding the strip of road that needs patched on Ream and North River Road. They are going to come out this week and complete the project.
- Contacted Coleman Heating and Plumbing after the last meeting regarding the a/c unit not working properly. The serviceman determined that the unit froze up and fried the motherboard. The furnace was installed in 2006 and they recommended that we replace the entire unit because everything within it is outdated. He gave a quote for an entire new Trane unit. The board would like to get additional quotes before deciding.
- The phone lines are up and working on both the trustee and fire sides of the building.
- Another round of road mowing is complete on the west side and the east side will be starting next week. They are going to get the leaf vac around and ready for the upcoming season.
- Work with Adkins Sanitation is still underway to correct catch basins and plugged tiles.

Kyle shared the following updates:

- Representative Gary Click provided the township with a plaque commemorating the dedication of the Mary Miller Martin highway. It will be displayed in the meeting room.
- Shafferly Construction continues to do work in the areas of 130, 136, Napoleon, Muskellunge Creek, and Christy roads. They are running fiber optic from the AEP substation in Fostoria to the Fremont substation.
- AEP emailed and would like to add 3 phase power to the east side of Everett Road. They will add and replace current poles with new poles and requested information about building set backs and the location of some trees that are in the road right away.
- County Engineer, Carlos Baez, advised that the survey of the Cook Street alley was complete.

Chip shared the following updates:

- Ludwig Propane reduced the price of their pre-buy program to \$1.69/gallon. Sunrise is currently at \$1.69 for the tanks we own and \$1.79 for the leased tank.

Paul made a motion to purchase propane from Ludwig Propane for \$1.69/gallon. Kyle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

- There is high grass at Melody Drive again. A letter will be sent to Alexis to mail to the property owner.

Kyle and Paul both wanted to compliment and thank Chip for his work on getting the new picnic tables in the shelter houses. They look very nice and he did a great job securing the grant for that project.

- Two signs will be coming to place in the shelter house stating that the tables were funded by a grant from the Solid Waste District and Sandusky Township.

Kay Saionz attended the meeting. Kay wanted to comment on the Health Insurance Issue and stated that she sees both sides. She understands the costs that are associated with our current plan but also wanted to remind the board and residence that it is part of the compensation of the employees. Those who are not at the township daily do not see the additional work that is done by the employees, such as repairs and excavation, that are typically hired out by other townships. She believes the employees are saving the township money by being able to do this type of work themselves.

Paul advised that he understands her position and knows that Brent specifically has allowed the township to utilize his grass seeder and straw blower to seed the park at no cost.

Chip advised that Brent also brought his personal brush grinder in to use at the 4 Mile House Cemetery. He spent several hours cleaning up trees with his own equipment. He also commented that Brent and Chad are outstanding workers and operate a lot of expensive equipment without damaging it. They service all of the machines and take good care of everything.

Ms. Bristley advised that her complaint is not with the hourly employee's health insurance, but instead, with the township trustees. Paul advised that he did not believe that the township could have two separate insurance policies.


Rudy Sprenger inquired about how the employees' wages were set after listening to both sides of the argument. He believes the employees should be compensated for their time and use of their personal equipment but that health insurance is a different topic. He wondered how many times their pay was reviewed and had the possibility for increases. He doesn't believe that a comparison can be made with health insurance and wage compensation though as he feels it is an apples and oranges comparison.

Paul shared the following update

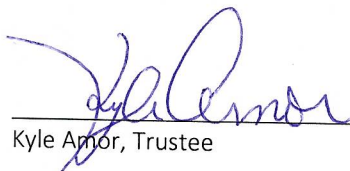
- The park committee met and would like to expand the park further to the east. They would like to be able to plant grass this year after the beans have come off and plant some new trees.
- Inquired about the status of a fabric building from Chip. Chip advised that the company that was mentioned in the last meeting was where he got his second quote from and they were extremely high.
- The Artz property has had some progress on clean up. The County Prosecutor is working on the situation as well.
- Would like to paint the restrooms on the trustees side this winter.

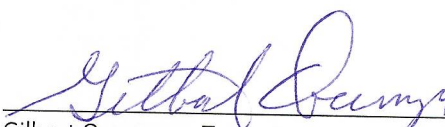
Next meeting is October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm.

Chip made a motion to adjourn. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

  
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Paul Lotycz, Chairman

  
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Alexis Brickner, Fiscal Officer

  
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Kyle Amor, Trustee

  
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Gilbert Overmyer, Trustee