



**GERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2024**

The meeting was held at the German Township Hall located at 12102 St. Rt. 725 West, Germantown, OH 45327 and virtually using WebEx.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Dr. Mark Cross at 7:00 pm. In attendance were:

President Dr. Mark Cross	Vice-President Jacob Stubbs	Trustee Louis Potter
Fiscal Officer Mark Heistand	Police Chief Shane Birch	Road Admin. Jeremy Holbrook
	Zoning Inspector Shauna Close	

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Deb Cross	7444 S. Stiver Road	David Gehron	14239 Kiefer Road
Scott Hamilton	9412 Coleman, Mbsg.	Ken & Jean Evanchuck	7640 Conservancy Rd
Carrie Scarff	409 Monument, Dayton	Kurt Jacoby	12955 Harris Road

ONLINE ATTENDEES:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Name</i>
KC	Abigail	Call in User 1	

The Germantown Press was notified of the Regular Meeting on 10/10/24 at 9:54 am.

Dr. Cross led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

- **Carrie Scarff, Chief of Planning, Five Rivers Metro Parks, 409 E. Monument Avenue, Dayton:** Ms. Scarff discussed the Five Rivers 1.0 mill additional levy that is on the 11/5/24 ballot. The levy will generate \$14 million annually. Metro Parks manages 18 parks, 8 bikeways, the Second Street Market in Dayton, and 16,000 acres of natural habitat. She noted that Twin Creek is the second cleanest waterway in Ohio. She stated that the parks have brought back species such as the bobcat that left our area decades ago. She acknowledged that the Township land owned by Five Rivers reduces the Township's real estate tax revenue. She noted that Five Rivers has \$58 million in deferred maintenance needs. The parks have 3 million visitors each year, of which 300,000 are from Montgomery County. She stated that Five Rivers uses state grants whenever it purchases farm land. She noted that if the levy fails, next year's capital budget will be reduced from \$8 million to \$750 thousand.

- Ms. Scarff was asked various questions by the Trustees and Fiscal Officer. Discussing the status of Old Mill Road, Mr. Holbrook noted that even though Five Rivers owns all the parcels along the road, the road can't be vacated since it would leave some of the parcels landlocked. Ms. Scarff indicated that she would be willing to discuss potentially combining all the parcels to allow Five Rivers to take possession of Old Mill Road.
- **Visitor Comment: Ken Evanchuck, 7640 Conservancy Road:** Mr. Evanchuck stated he couldn't understand why Five Rivers would need the additional levy.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

- Mr. Heistand submitted minutes for the 9/9/24 Regular Meeting. Dr. Cross made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Potter, to approve the minutes as presented. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- He presented the September Financial Reports: (1) 9/30/24 Fund Status; (2) YTD 9/30/24 Cash Summary by Fund; (3) Month of September 2024 Cash Summary by Fund; (4) September 2024 Receipt Listing; and (5) September 2024 Payment Listing. He noted the following items:
 - Receipt #252-2024 for \$492,424.10, less fees of \$5,650.36, from the Montgomery County Auditor was the second half tax settlement. On 10/2/24 the Township received the second half homestead and rollback payment of \$84,859.54 from the State of Ohio. He stated he would remit the appropriate tax payments to the City of Germantown.
 - Receipt #257-2024 for \$10,098.57 from Valley View Joint Economic Development District was the quarterly distribution of income taxes withheld from the high school employees and construction workers.
 - Warrant #50797 for \$1,155.00 to the City of Germantown was for the purchase of five Knox boxes for the resident lending program.
- Dr. Cross made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to approve the September financial reports and authorize the payment of September bills (warrants 50794 through 50798 and vouchers 733 through 826 for payroll direct deposit, payroll tax withholdings and other electronic payments). The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- Mr. Heistand reminded everyone that the Township would have a 4.0 mill additional Fire/EMS levy on the 11/5/24 ballot. The continuous levy will be considered by both residents of the unincorporated portion of German Township as well as residents of the City of Germantown.
- He noted that remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds total \$10,664.01. These funds must be earmarked by 12/31/24 or the funds will be returned to the Treasury Department.
 - Chief Birch noted that he would ask the Trustees later in the meeting to approve using \$2,360.50 of ARPA funds to install new radios in the police cruisers.
 - Mr. Holbrook suggested that the remaining ARPA funds could be used to help pay for the new dump truck.
 - Mr. Stubbs noted that a quote was received about a year ago for a new yard sign.
 - After discussion, the Trustees asked Mr. Heistand to prepare an ARPA Resolution for the November meeting to use the remaining funds for the dump truck purchase.
- Mr. Heistand reminded the Trustees that the annual Holiday Gala for the Montgomery County Township Association would be held at the Mandalay Banquet Center on 11/21/24. Tickets are \$45 and must be reserved by 11/5/24. He stated that he did not plan to attend.
- He announced that the November Trustee meeting will be held on Tuesday 11/12/24. This is one day later than normal due to Veterans Day falling on the regular meeting night.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- **Visitor Comment: Ken & Jean Evanchuck, 7640 Conservancy Road:** Mr. and Mrs. Evanchuck, co-coordinators of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), reviewed the current status of CERT. They stated that they will soon be stepping down as the CERT leaders. Chief Birch stated that he was proud that the Township has a CERT group. A Resolution will be prepared for the November meeting to thank the Evanchucks for their leadership of the Township CERT group.
- Chief Birch reviewed the Department's September statistics.
- He announced that he accepted the resignation of Reserve Police Officer Adam Gabor on 10/8/24. He wished Mr. Gabor well in his future endeavors. Mr. Stubbs made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Potter, to accept the resignation. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- As mentioned earlier in the meeting, he asked the Trustees to approve ARPA funds for the MARCS radio project. This is for the two-step verification security required to be in place by 7/1/25. He noted that the radios will arrive in mid-November. He recently learned that installation of the radios in the cruisers was not included in any of the quotes he received. P&R Communications has quoted \$2,360.50 for the radio installation to complete this project.
 - Using the standard ARPA format, Dr. Cross introduced **RESOLUTION 2024-64**, seconded by Mr. Stubbs: **A RESOLUTION TO PAY \$2,360.50 TO INSTALL FIVE POLICE CRUISER MOBILE RADIOS TO BE PAID BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND.** The roll was taken and the adoption vote was as follows: Dr. Cross-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes; Mr. Potter-Yes. **RESOLUTION 2024-64 WAS ADOPTED.**
- Chief Birch noted that he and Ms. Close attended an Ohio Department of Homeland Security Program Grant meeting on 8/21/24 that was sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Emergency Management. This meeting was a workshop to assist with writing a grant for a CERT Emergency Response Trailer and related equipment. Grant requests could be between \$25,000-\$200,000. A \$58,767 Township grant request was written and submitted. He noted that if the grant is approved, the Trustees would need to loan the Police Department funds to purchase the equipment before 12/1/25 and be reimbursed when the grant funds are received at a later date.
 - Mr. Stubbs stated that the Trustees would certainly loan the Police the needed funds.
- Chief Birch announced that National Night Out went very well. He thanked the Trustees for attending and showing their support. He thanked the Road Department for bringing their equipment, thanked all the officers for their hard work, thanked Ms. Close and Sergeant Jones for their extra effort in putting the event together. He thanked School Resource Officer Marsden for being a good sport as the Dunk Tank victim and Township resident Matt DeGroat for donating water for the dunk tank. He thanked Officer Stevens for leading the Hay Rides. He thanked Valley View Schools for allowing the event to be held at the high school. His last thank you was to all the community members who attended and made the evening worthwhile.

ROAD/SERVICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Mr. Holbrook reported that his department had started annual fall/winter road right of way tree and brush trimming. They are using the Bombford reach mower for this trimming.
- He noted that Township roads sustained a fair amount of damage from the 9/27-9/28/24 wind storm. His department worked Friday night during the storm clearing roads of trees and debris. They also worked on Saturday clearing roads and removing limbs hanging into the roadways.
- He thanked Wally Stiver for clearing several trees on Little Twin Road and Trustee Potter for removing several downed trees on Puddenbag Road.

- He reported that Randy King began tuckpointing the Township Hall exterior walls earlier that day. Over 500 linear feet needed tuckpointing. Although Mr. King's contract only included 200 linear feet of tuck pointing, he will not charge anything additional for the extra tuckpointing work.
- He reported that vermiculite was sluffing off the exterior of the Township Hall's east wall. Upon examination, water damage was found, along with an ant infestation. An exterminator has sprayed for the ant problem. His department will repair the outside walls and reseal the joints.
- His department continues to mow the rural cemeteries and has prepped equipment for winter.

ZONING & TRASH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Ms. Close reported that she issued one permit in September for a garage on Astoria Road.
- She thanked the Road and Service Department for handling the telephone migration from Spectrum to TSC and also for dealing with the recent ant problem.
- She reported that Acrisure (formerly known as Burnham & Flower) informed the Township that Medical Mutual insurance rates would have an overall decrease of 1.37% for 2025.
 - Dr. Cross introduced **RESOLUTION 2024-65**, seconded by Mr. Stubbs: **A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RENEWING THE EXISTING HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR 2025 WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL THROUGH ACRISURE.** The roll was taken and the adoption vote was as follows: Dr. Cross-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes; Mr. Potter-Yes. **RESOLUTION 2024-65 WAS ADOPTED.**

TRUSTEE POTTER'S REPORT:

- Mr. Potter reported that Parks Board members Jim and Bobbie Williams are resigning at the end of the year. Official word has still not been received from the State on the requirement to install automatic external defibrillators (AED's) in all the parks. He noted that the Pretzel Festival was negatively impacted by the 9/27-9/28/24 wind and rain storms. First Baptist Church handled Festival parking at the MMI Park. A church representative plans to give a report at the next Parks Board meeting.
- He attended a 2025 parks budget meeting with the Parks Oversight Committee, Tom Geglein, and City employees Jonathan Moore, Ben Amburgy, Judy Gilleland, and Pat Shively. At the meeting he discussed the Parks Levy that expires in 2026 and his concern about the budget effect if a renewal/replacement levy does not pass at that time. He suggested that the City suspend charging employee salaries to the Parks budget, with a 50% reduction in 2025 and 100% reduction in 2026. He felt that this might help generate support for passage of the future levy if residents knew that all their tax dollars would go to maintaining/improving the parks. He asked the attendees what will be the plan if the levy doesn't pass and what can be done to help pass the levy. He noted that he didn't get much of a response from those in attendance.
- He contacted SRM Concrete who agreed to donate a large boulder for the entrance of the MMI Park. The boulder will eventually display park signage. The 8'x7'x4' boulder has been delivered. He planned to place on 10/16/24 the smaller boulders that will honor the seven Miami Military Institute cadets who were killed in action while serving our country.
- He was contacted by Stacy Vallance, Special Projects Administrator/IT Director for Montgomery County about the Township's Little Twin Creek grant application. She had several questions and also needed another report submitted. He asked Ron Wine to send Ms. Vallance what she needed, which he did by the deadline. He received a letter confirming the grant application filing. Along with Mr. Wine, he will attend a grant review meeting at the County on 11/6/24.

- He received an end-of-season report about this year's pool operations. The pool continues to improve each year. The next big purchase will be a new slide to replace the current slide which is at least 25 years old. Pool slides normally last 15-20 years. The estimated cost is \$100,000.

TRUSTEE STUBBS' REPORT:

- Mr. Stubbs noted that cemetery operations are going well. There was minor damage from the 9/27-9/28/24 storms. No monuments were damaged. He stated that the ceremony honoring Revolutionary War veteran Phillip Negley on 9/21/24 went well with a good attendance.
- He felt that the Police Department's recent National Night Out event went well. He thought holding the event at Valley View High School was a great idea.
- He noted that Julia Smith has stepped down from the Sonshine in a Bag program at Germantown First Church of God. Going forward, Angie Smith will be the contact for the food ministry

TRUSTEE CROSS' REPORT:

- He attended the 10/7/24 Fire/EMS Oversight Committee meeting. A quorum was not present so no action could be taken.
- He attended the 10/7/24 Germantown Council Meeting. There was nothing new to report.
- He attended the 10/10/24 Senior Oversight Committee meeting. Highlights included:
 - Cheryl Patterson was hired as a part-time bus driver. All the programs are doing well, especially the bus trips.
 - The parking lot was resealed and restriped in September at a \$6,345 cost to the Senior Center. Quotes are still being obtained for other repairs.
 - Germantown Police Chief Matt Burns and the Ohio Attorney General's Office have partnered to present a program on senior scams during the 10/25/24 breakfast.
 - All Senior Center events are listed on the Senior Center webpage.
- He suggested potential dates for 2025 reorganizational meetings: (1) 1/2/25 for the Board of Trustees; and (2) 1/6/25 or 1/7/25 for a combined Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. Mr. Heistand noted that a special meeting will also be needed at the end of December to approve year-end items.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Visitor Comment: Deb Cross, 7444 S. Stiver Road:** Mrs. Cross asked about the School Resource Officer (SRO) status after the new Valley View school building opens in early December. Chief Birch stated that SRO Officer Marsden will continue to work with the high school and junior high. Valley View will contract with an outside company to provide a retired Oakwood police officer as SRO in the primary and intermediate schools. However, any criminal issues in those grades will still be handled by the Township police.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Dr. Cross made the following MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs: **I move to go into Executive Session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(G)(1) to consider the compensation of a public employee.** The roll was taken and the vote was as follows: Dr. Cross-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes; Mr. Potter-Yes. The MOTION was approved. The Trustees entered into Executive Session at 8:25 pm.
- Present in the Executive Session were: Trustees Mark Cross, Jacob Stubbs, and Lou Potter; Fiscal Officer Mark Heistand; Road/Service Superintendent Jeremy Holbrook; and Scott Hamilton.
- The Trustees held discussion under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22(G)(1).

- At 8:36 pm, Dr. Cross made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to reconvene into Regular Session. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- Mr. Potter introduced **RESOLUTION 2024-66**, seconded by Dr. Cross: **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE HAMILTONS' OUT OF POCKET MEDICAL INSURANCE COSTS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THEM THE SAME ZERO COST MEDICAL COVERAGE AFFORDED TO THE REST OF THE TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES. IT IS FURTHER NOTED THAT THIS RESOLUTION DOES NO CONSTITUTE A BLANKET POLICY AND ANY SIMILAR FUTURE SITUATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.** Mr. Heistand explained that Debra Hamilton recently turned 65 and is now covered under Medicare. Should the RESOLUTION be adopted, Mrs. Hamilton will leave the Township's healthcare plan. Her Medicare premiums, her supplement insurance, and any out-of-pocket expenses will then be reimbursed by the Township. This will make her whole and return her to the same position she enjoyed when she was under the Township's plan and all her medical expenses, including prescription drugs, were paid by the Township. He noted that this change would save the Township hundreds of dollars each month versus paying Medical Mutual for her Medicare supplement. The roll was taken and the adoption vote was as follows: Dr. Cross-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes; Mr. Potter-Yes. **RESOLUTION 2024-66 WAS ADOPTED.**

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- With no further business, Mr. Potter made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to adjourn. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote. The Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Signed: Mark Cross
Mark Cross, President, Board of Trustees

Attest: These minutes were approved by the Board of Trustees at the November 12, 2024 meeting.

Signed: Mark A. Heistand
Mark A. Heistand, Fiscal Officer