

Middlefield Township

September 13, 2021 – Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting Called to Order

Present were Trustees Robert Troyer, Mervin Miller and Paul Porter, Fiscal Officer Mary Ann Pierce, Heidi Snyder and Tony Hylton. Chris Thomas from Windstream-Kinetic also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Troyer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions and or Deletions for the Agenda

Two* under new business.

Approval of Minutes

Review of minutes from August 9, 2021 meeting. Motion to accept minutes as written made by Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Troyer. Minutes approved as written.

Floor given to guest: As per custom, the floor was given to Mr. Thomas from Windstream - Kinetic, who introduced himself and is present to address fiber expansion issue. Mr. Thomas advised township lines are currently copper lines. Stated that people are getting away from copper and moving to fiber for phone/internet service. Windstream had filed bankruptcy and was purchased by a group of bankers. He cited upgrades in Middlefield Village to fiber and that rural townships such as ours are not at the top of the list for upgrade as it is not as densely populated. Rural areas have been suffering with slow internet due to COVID and increase in people working from home. Shared there are grants available for joint application. He advised they are looking for partners in the broadband expansion grant application process. The demographic of the township was also discussed as it pertains to the actual amount of customers that may or may not logically upgrade to fiber. Further discussion was had and a request for additional information on cost issues outside the grant process.

Old Business

a.) Township Grindings: Productive meeting. If Senators Cirino and O'Brien get this passed, it looks good for Middlefield Township.

b.) *ARP (American Rescue Plan) Application. American rescue plan dollars must be obligated by December 31st, 2024 and spent by December 31st 2026. Currently the scope is much broader than the first funds which could potentially complete the expansion ambulance building construction project.

c.) *OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission): Candidate nomination form is requested. Trustees will nominate PJ Cavanaugh. Motion by Mr. Porter to make said nomination, seconded by Mr. Miller. All in favor. Mr. Cavanaugh will be nominated as a representative to OPWC

New Business

a.) Fall Trash Day. Fall trash day is October 2, 2021. Received a quote from Penn-Ohio. Trash day will end at 1:00 p.m. department of aging partners are to pick up at eligible residences.

b.) September Road Project: Brief advisement (FYI) on September road project.

c) Resolution 2021-06: Resolution to Approve 2022 Budget per Budget Commission. Motion by Mr. Miller to adopt said resolution, seconded by Mr. Porter. All in favor. Resolution adopted.

d) 2022 Road Projects (wish list): Upcoming road projects for County. Wish list. Ranking priority Road for issue two dollars, would be in order, Nauvoo Road with a hot asphalt process, second priority would be Swine Creek.

Reports

Roads: Burton hasn't decided on Station Road speed limit. Chip and seal going on North Hayes and Peters West is upcoming but had a delay. Bridge Road patching looks good. One spot yet near Adams to be done after Hayes. Will put seal on Nauvoo where the eights were laid down. Focusing on keeping going on road work. Newcomb ditch work done. One needs gas line checked because it is visible, according to Mr Hylton.

Service Garage: All is well.

Fire District: Short meeting tonight. Language approved for ballot and some bills were paid, as attended by Mr. Porter.

Ambulance Service: Nothing new.

Sheriff's Department Report: No report again.

Fiscal Officer's Reports

Bank/Management Report: Bank reconciliation for July and August distributed and executed. Management Reports signed. Purchase orders reviewed and signed. Bills presented in the amount

of \$175,022.01 with motion by Mr. Porter to pay the bills (includes Martuccio), seconded by Mr. Miller. All in favor. Checks signed and bills paid.

Adjournment: No further business before the Board. Mr. Miller moved to adjourn meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Porter seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Robert Troyer, Chairman

Mary Ann Pierce, Chief Fiscal Officer

Minutes by Heidi Snyder, Secretary