

**Middlefield Township  
March 11, 2024  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Meeting Called to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Paul Porter.

Present were Trustees Paul Porter, Mervin Miller, Sophia Porter, Fiscal Officer Mary Ann Pierce, Secretary Heidi Snyder, Terry Warne, Tony Hylton, Don Rice o/b/o Metzenbaum (Geauga County Board of DD), Melissa Livingston, Brian Livingston and Melissa Channell.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Additions and or Deletions for the Agenda**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Merv Miller to accept the drafted minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting after review. Seconded by Sophia Porter. All in favor, minutes approved.

As per custom, before moving to other business, the floor is given to guests in attendance.

- 1) Don Rice is present on behalf of the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Metzenbaum). 1,188 people served last year. The board serves people from in utero, birth and beyond. Oldest person now is 96 or 97 years old and needing around the clock care. 309 are in the Early Intervention program (the little ones). Many working age are out in the community in the workforce. Numbers are increasing due to the changing definitions within the state. Some are initiative speech therapy, others are full care period last year approximately \$18.5 million but deficits spending last year of about \$2 million. The board has 59 employees. They are also using now Medicaid funding. 2003 versus 2023 statistics. The board will have to have a levy on the ballot in 2026. Mr. Rice requests that if we know of someone in the community who is in need of services that we please give them his number. 440-729-9406.
- 2) Melissa and Brian Livingston our present concerning the recent bus accident, March 1st, on route 87. Daughters were on the bus when it was struck from behind. The Livingston's wonder if there is any signage or flashing lights that can be installed on road indicating that there are frequent stops in the area. They shared that the glare is very bad in that area. The driver of the at fault vehicle allegedly attributed his issue due to sun glare. Mr. Porter, Mr. Miller and Mr. Hylton confirm that the state is responsible for the signage on State Route 87. Will seek input and assistance from ODOT by writing a letter of request to alert drivers to frequent school bus stops and perhaps flashing lights.

**Old Business**

- A. **Trax Machine.** Mr. Hylton shared the brochure on Case Trax Machine Model 57/Model 60. Any bigger would be too heavy. Approximate purchase price \$94,000. Available option to partial rotate the bucket just like the Gradall. The machine is in stock. A lot of options are available but also has easy

access to motor for servicing. 18 inch construction and ditching bucket. As opposed to financing, unencumbered fund balance would cover.

Motion by Mr. Miller to purchase the Trax Machine, seconded by Ms. Porter. All in favor. Purchase will proceed.

The old machine will go to the auction (1990 Gradall).

### **New Business**

- A. Emergency Services.** County situational awareness regarding eclipse. Expecting 192,000 extra people.
- B. Township Dinner.** Next dinner hosted by Claridon Township on April 10. Will include speakers regarding zoning. Claridon and Chester zoning legislation update.
- C. Middlefield Village Revenue.** Check received in the amount of \$5694.88 from Middlefield village for second-half of 2023. It has gone down in amount.
- D. Don Rice – Metzenbaum.** See above.

### **Reports:**

**Roads Superintendent:** Some big holes patched on Swine Creek. Also some mowing going on already.

**Garage:** Repairs and maintenance going on so all is ready for the spring work.

**Fire District:** Mr. Porter reported that the Fire District had a short meeting tonight to pass permanent appropriations. Got first check in from the levy.

**Ambulance Service:** Trustees did walkthrough before meeting tonight. The plumber will be setting fixtures. Some paint touch up and electrician finishing up. Should be done next week. Then final inspection and occupancy permit. Everything looks good.

**Sheriff's Department Report:** Report in Trustees' folders for later review.

### **Fiscal Officer Reports:**

Management report reviewed and signed. End of year closed out. January and February bank reconciliations also distributed. Signed. Waiting for final approval from auditor for permanent appropriations.

**Payment of Bills:** Bills were presented for payment in amount of \$68,646.83. Motion to pay bills, in the amount of \$68,646.83, made by Merv Miller and seconded by Sophia Porter. All in favor. Motion carried. Purchase orders and checks signed. Bills paid.

**Adjournment:** No further business before the Board. Merv Miller made motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Sophia Porter. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

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Paul Porter, Chairman

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Mary Ann Pierce, Fiscal Officer

*Minutes by Heidi Snyder, Secretary*