

**ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

The Elizabeth Township Board of Trustees held a Regular Meeting on September 18, 2024 at 5710 E. Walnut Grove Road, Troy, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. Randy Mott, President, called the meeting to order and called the roll and the following members were present:

|                |                  |                                     |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President      | Randy Mott       | EMS/Fire-Adam Marchal/Art Blackmore |
| Vice Pres.     | Greg D. Dilts    | ETCC-Nic Rice-Absent                |
| Trustee        | John R. Ryman    | Zoning-Jim Cozatt                   |
| Fiscal Officer | Mary Ann Mumford |                                     |

Also in attendance: Leslie Kodysz-Then, Michael Then, Tom O'Malley, Cheri O'Malley, Lynda Mott, Keith Brown, Jason Jacobs, Jim Taylor, Tyler Dunivan, Taylor Dunivan, Ruth Ann Taynor, Mike Jess, Beth Dunivan, Nancy Sparks, Julie Harris, Gale Harris, Gregory Moyer, Tracey Moyer, Paul Hershberger, Ronda Hershberger, Bill Hershberger, Mike Godsey, RJ Benham, Brenda Frankford, Andy Lair, Deputy Zachary Sedarat

The following order of business was established:

ITEM # 1A Representative from Miami County Sheriff's Department

ITEM # 1B Tyler Dunivan

ITEM # 2 Representative from EMS/Fire

ITEM # 3 Meeting Representative from ETCC

ITEM # 4 Meeting Presentation of Bills-Presentation of bills for payment

ITEM # 5 Meeting with representative from Zoning

ITEM # 6 Presentation of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 4, 2024

ITEM # 7 Fiscal Officer's Report

ITEM # 8 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Randy Mott-Equipment and Cemeteries
- B. John R. Ryman- Buildings and Personnel
- C. Greg D. Dilts-Roads

ITEM # 9 Any other business to be transacted

ITEM #10 ADJOURNMENT

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**ITEM # 1A** Deputy Sedarat was present from the Miami County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Sedarat encouraged residents to keep their vehicles locked.

**ITEM # 1B** Tyler Dunivan was present to discuss his recent field fire. Tyler was curious as to why the Elizabeth Township engine did not respond to the call. Adam Marchal, ET Fire Chief, explained that the department is 100% staffed with part time employees. That particular day an employee had called off the night before, and the opening went unfilled. When the building is staffed by one employee the engine is taken out of service and the medic is left in service. Mutual aid from various departments was dispatched. There was no delay in the response. One employee can respond with the medic, while Mutual Aid is enroute. The call came in as a fire call and the EMS/Fire department did not have a tone drop, due to the engine being listed as out of service due to staffing. Due to it being a fire call, the tone did not drop for the medic. Mr. Marchal was notified of a fire in the township, called the employee at the department, and the medic went out.

## ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 CONTINUED:

The following topics between Tyler Dunivan and the board were discussed:

Weather variables.

What a pumper vs and engine can do.

Why out of 20 plus employees, no one filled the open void, as explained we are a part time department, and staff have other full time jobs, families, etc. Full time EMS/Fire departments are experiencing the same challenges. Chief Marchal sent out an email the evening before the fire to all fire department staff asking for a replacement but no one responded to fill that shift. Chief Marchal explained that the tone was never dropped at the ET Firehouse due to the engine being out of service.

A text message between Greg Dilts and Adam Bennett was shared by Tyler Dunivan that Adam Bennett sent Tyler. When asked by Adam Bennett why the EMS/Fire department did not respond to the field fire Mr. Dilts replied we didn't start the fire and you guys didn't want the levy. Mr. Dilts apologized to Tyler regarding the text message and explained that he and Adam have a banter humor between the 2 of them, but regardless, he stated it was an unprofessional response.

Tyler asked what good has the department done for him, he will never vote for a levy. Why would we support a levy when Casstown volunteer department responded when our department did not? We have a contract with Casstown to supply apparatus when needed in addition to ours. The system did work.

The fact is that the General Fund cannot fund the department forever, and a levy is inevitable.

Tyler: Part time vs full time hourly pay.

Chief Marchal: The department is 95% covered, vs 25 % when we contracted with the City of New Carlisle. All calls will not be answered by our township.

Tyler: What's the point of having a department? Chief Marchal: If no department, there will be no EMS service. Area departments were asked to go into an agreement, before starting the department. No one wanted to go in with us.

Chief Marchal: Unfortunately, this call was not answered by our department. We can't change it. The department is staffed to the best of our ability and we know it will not always be staffed 100%, 100% of the time. We are doing the best we can with operating a part time department, and again full time departments run into the same issues that we are experiencing. We cannot require mandatory call in for part-time employees.

Tyler: How much is a Grass Truck? Chief Marchal: Grass trucks run approximately \$200,000.00. Tyler: Why not buy used? Greg: Many times problems come with buying used equipment that can become costly. Even if the township owned a \$200,000 grass truck and we did not have the personnel on hand to operate it, we would not be any better off.

### **Other public comments heard and discussed with the board regarding the matter:**

Beth Dunivan: Can other departments come in and operate our equipment if they have the personnel but not the equipment? Chief Marchal: No, it is an insurance liability issue, they are not trained on the equipment we own. Water source locations were discussed.

Tom O'Malley: The trustees have attracted 27 people to join our department. Full time departments can't recruit full time employees. The trustees have done a good job to keep the department staffed. There are limitations to us being a rural setting. 4 fire fighters are now required to be present before entering a house fire. Farmers helping farmers is great. Is it better to close a department because only 1 person is on staff? No, 1 can go in the medic and start life saving measures while mutual aid is on the way. Greg: We appreciate that RJ Benham was there and other farmers. Art Blackmore: Farmers with a disc behind a tractor can do more quicker than a hose on a truck.

Mike Jess: How can a medic be dispatched with only one person if that is all that is in the station? Chief Marchal: Mutual Aid is dispatched immediately.

Mike Jess: Can trustees volunteer to work a shift? Greg: It is a possibility. We have asked for residents to join on a volunteer basis.

## ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 CONTINUED:

RJ Benham: What figure is the board going down to in the General Fund before placing a levy on the ballot? Greg: An amount has not been set. Randy: Public Safety has to come first, fire and EMS, good roads, snow removal, ditch mowing.

Tom O'Malley: Is there General Fund money received from the county and state? Local Government, Real Estate Taxes, Real Estate Rollback Taxes, Gas Tax, Road and Bridge, License Tax Roll Back taxes were explained by Mary Ann. It was discussed some of the above mentioned taxes are restricted in use and not expendable through the General Fund. Chief Marchal, noted that a full set of fire gear from head to toe is \$9,000.00. The costs to run a department are high.

Beth Dunivan: We are not eligible for grant money or use a capital lease for a grass truck? Chief Marchal: We have received some grant money, though a small amount compared to the budget.

Julie Taynor Harris: Feelings are hurt that a young farmer had a catastrophic event and the trustees did not check on him. Trustees drove by, but didn't stop to check on Tyler. He is scared to go to drive the combine again.

### Board Comments:

Mr. Mott apologized if he hurt someone's feelings. Mr. Mott said he didn't go by during the fire and Taylor Dunivan said she saw Mr. Mott go by. Mr. Mott asked are we wrong to drive by? Mr. Mott said he drove by after the fire was out and had been told no one was injured. It was noted that Tyler was in the church parking lot when Mr. Mott went by, however Mr. Mott stated he did not see him. Farmers can take additional precautions on their own as well, when dealing with dry/drought conditions like we're experiencing. Taylor Dunivan: This is a learning experience for all of us. Mr. Mott said his priorities as a trustee for the township is Public Safety, EMS/Fire Safety and Roads. If it comes to it, I would close the ETCC to ensure Public Safety priorities are met.

Mr. Ryman said if we had not received the estate tax funds years ago, we would have needed a levy long before now. We are trying to be good stewards of the money to ensure it lasts as long as possible. Mr. Ryman said one of the firefighters told him the fire was extinguished and there were no injuries.

- ITEM # 2** Mr. Blackmore-The signed 1-year EMS Village of Casstown Contract was received. A Motion by Greg D. Dilts, Seconded by John R. Ryman to accept the signed EMS Casstown Contract as presented as **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-016**. VOTE: Mr. Ryman-yes, Mr. Dilts-yes, Mr. Mott-yes. Randy Mott, President, declared RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-016 passed.
- ITEM # 3** ETCC- Mr. Rice-Absent. A report was shared as follows: \$710.00 was receipted in from September 5,-September 18, 2024. There are currently 311 members including spouses and dependents. School bus stop ahead signs have been installed on Rudy Road. Mrs. Knox was thankful to the trustees
- ITEM # 4** Bills submitted for payment totaled \$123,112.10, which includes noted ACH payments, for the payment of employee/employer taxes, and the Lowe's Account. A Motion by Greg D. Dilts Seconded by Randy Mott to approve the payment of bills for \$123,112.10 as presented, including all ACH payments. VOTE: Mr. Ryman-yes, Mr. Dilts-yes, Mr. Mott-yes. Randy Mott, President, declared the Motion carried.
- ITEM # 5** Mr. Cozatt-Two new home applications have been submitted on Dayton Brandt Road. County to determine the numerical addresses. Vandegrift is asking for a driveway easement. Family members to share a driveway. Mr. Mott asked Mr. Cozatt to check on this due to property boundaries. 7915 State Route 41 to build a garage where the old store was, once it is down. Gearhart Road has a gouge from someone pulling out of a field. Field entrances require a driveway permit from the county and are free of charge.
- ITEM # 6** Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 4, 2024 were approved as presented.
- ITEM # 7** Mrs. Mumford- Financial reports were shared with the board. The July Bank Rec was submitted as balanced and duly noted. A Motion by John R. Ryman, Seconded by Randy Mott to accept the Miami County Budget Commission's Rate of Tax for 2024 as presented. VOTE: Mr. Ryman-yes, Mr. Dilts-yes, Mr. Mott-yes. Randy Mott, President, declared the Motion carried.
- ITEM # 8** **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 CONTINUED:**

- A. Randy Mott-Cemeteries/Equipment
- B. John R. Ryman-Buildings and Personnel
- C. Greg D. Dilts- Roads

Mr. Mott-Cemetery gates look good.

Mr. Ryman-Quote of \$590.00 from OVIS for fire alarm system testing at the ETCC. A Motion by John R. Ryman, Seconded by Greg D. Dilts to accept the quote of \$590.00 from OVIS for testing the fire alarm system at the ETCC. VOTE: Mr. Ryman-yes, Mr. Dilts-yes, Mr. Mott-yes. Randy Mott, President, declared the Motion carried.

The call out button on the ETCC elevator phone was stuck. Repair has been made and the elevator has passed inspection.

Mr. Dilts-Paving cost of Weddle Road was submitted at \$129,919.92 in place of Mill Road. A Motion by Greg D. Dilts, Seconded by Randy Mott to accept the quote of \$129,919.92 from the County Engineer's Office for the paving of Weddle Road. VOTE: Mr. Ryman-yes, Mr. Dilts-yes, Mr. Mott-yes. Randy Mott, President, declared the Motion carried.

**ITEM # 9** Mr. Mott received notification that the Miami County Auditor's Office has hired a third party, Vision Government Solutions to provide property inspections for property values. They will go on your property to take pictures. The representative should be wearing a work badge and ID.

Brenda Frankford lives in the house next to 7915 State Route 41 and she has contacted the EPA about tearing down the structure, due to asbestos concerns etc. Curious as to what makes a historical structure. Mr. Mott said he would have Ben Sutherly reach out to her with information. Mrs. Frankford said she believes she found a tomb stone and a men's wedding ring in the back yard.

**Public Comments:**

Tracey Moyer: The east side of Pat Nevius' driveway where it was expanded on Tipp Elizabeth Road has had roots and debris dumped on it.

Mrs. Harris lives across from the grange and gravel has been dumped on the pavement, making it hard to walk. Mr. Mott said we received multiple complaints about the pot holes and gravel was used to fill the pot holes. We will not be blacktopping the area; it will remain stone. Mr. Ryman suggested to have it graded again.

Mr. Then said he has been coming to the board since 2022 and our problem continues. Section 410 was found unconstitutional to act on by the Miami County Prosecutor's Office. It is a safety issue that needs addressed. The wordage needs changed by the board to allow the sheriff's department enforce it. Now we have lights too with the noise. Now is the time to look at making zoning changes. Mr. Dilts asked Mr. Then why haven't you gone before the zoning board? If no Noise Ordinance we need words so the sheriff's department can act on it. The noise started yesterday, all day long. Mr. Mott said he would go back to the Prosecutor's Legal Opinion on section 410. Three stipulations were noted that needed to be done, for you to pursue it yourself and take it before the Zoning Commission Board. Mr. Paul Hershberger asked if anyone has spoken to this individual to be a responsible person and turn it down, or change their music. Yes, and the response is it's their property and as trustees we can't enforce it. 95% of the people won't experience it, but for those who do its bad. The people who don't want a Noise Ordinance are people who are not being bothered or they want to do the harassing. Mr. Then said the township has the words that we need for the sheriff to act. I will not go through this again.

**ITEM # 10** A Motion by Randy Mott, Seconded by Greg D. Dilts to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**APPROVED OCTOBER 2, 2024**

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Randy Mott, President

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Greg D. Dilts, Vice President

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John R. Ryman, Trustee

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Mary Ann Mumford, Fiscal Officer