

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MADISON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REGULAR

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

January 25, 2024, at 12:00 P.M.

Held _____

20 _____

Chairman Anderson called the Trustees' Regular Meeting of January 25, 2024, to order at 12:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting being held in the Trustees' Meeting Room at the Administration Building.

Mr. Anderson called for a roll call: Mr. Gauntner, Mr. Wayman, Mr. Anderson, Chief Hager, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Gerred-Ditchcreek, and Mr. Pasqualone were in attendance.

Mr. Anderson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Anderson stated at this time we will have a "Moment of Silence" to reflect on things and to remember family, friends, and neighbors, who are no longer with us. Please remember Madison residents' Norb Snopel, Sally Jean Poulson, Sharon Tamborski, Beverley Getzy, Magdalena Shears, Timothy Brainard, Nancy Cooper, and Daniel Kessler. Mr. Gauntner said he wanted to mention Norb Snopel, husband of Kathy Snopel who works for the Township. Mr. Gauntner extended his deepest sympathy to Kathy and thanked her for doing a good job. He said the Trustees would keep her in their prayers. Mr. Anderson said he spoke with Kathy yesterday and also thanked her for doing a good job for the Township.

Mr. Anderson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024, Trustees' Workshop Meeting and the January 9, 2024, Trustees' Regular Meeting.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024, Trustees' Workshop Meeting and the January 9, 2024, Trustees' Regular Meeting, seconded by Mr. Wayman. Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Anderson requested a motion to approve the bill list in the amount of one hundred ninety-four thousand, three hundred thirty-three dollars and fifty-four cents (\$194,333.54) (actual) for January 25, 2024.

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to approve the bill list in the amount of one hundred ninety-four thousand, three hundred thirty-three dollars and fifty-four cents (\$194,333.54) (actual) for January 25, 2024, attached to and made part of these minutes, seconded by Mr. Gauntner. Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mrs. Gerred-Ditchcreek stated Lake County Telecommunications was paid in the amount of four thousand, three hundred thirty-two dollars and forty-five cents (\$4,332.45), Dake Plumbing was paid in the amount of five thousand, four hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$5,458.00), and Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) was paid one hundred sixteen thousand, three hundred forty dollars and sixteen cents (\$116,340.16) for insurance. Mr. Gauntner asked about the charge for Absolute Software, Inc. Chief Hager said it is the new name for the software company that records their 911 calls.

Mr. Anderson requested a motion to approve payroll in the amount of one hundred ten thousand, four dollars and ninety-four cents (\$110,004.94) (actual) for January 26, 2024, and payroll in the amount of one hundred seven thousand, six hundred thirty-six dollars and forty-seven cents (\$107,636.47) (estimate) for February 9, 2024.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to approve payroll in the amount of one hundred ten thousand, four dollars and ninety-four cents (\$110,004.94) (actual) for January 26, 2024, and payroll in the amount of one hundred seven thousand, six hundred thirty-six dollars and forty-seven cents (\$107,636.47) (estimate) for February 9, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Wayman. Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Mr. Anderson: Yes

TRUSTEES:

Mr. Gauntner stated he asked Mr. Brown to put the Dock Road/Route 20 traffic study subject on the Agenda tonight along with a copy of the e-mail Mr. Brown received on January 11th from Jim Kusner, Traffic Planning Engineer for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Mr. Gauntner said there was a severe accident at the intersection of Dock Road and Route 20 a couple weeks ago along with other accidents that have occurred at that location. Mr. Gauntner said he wants to go on record as saying the Township had requested

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once again back in May of 2022 for ODOT to do a crash study at this intersection to see if a signal light is warranted. Unfortunately, there is just not enough crashes there to meet ODOT's standards for a traffic light. The Township keeps asking for a traffic study, and ODOT keeps telling us there is not enough crashes. The Township has had five (5) crashes since 2022, including the recent serious accident on December 15, 2023. The Township was told there must be a minimum of five (5) crashes in a twelve (12)-month period. Mr. Gauntner said there is not enough traffic flow there except for morning and evening rush hours. Route 20 curves slightly coming from the west, a building with a front porch built in the 1800's limits the view, and Arcola Road is straight across from Dock & Route 20 going south. Mr. Gauntner said people on social media blame the Township for not having a traffic light there. The Township has asked ODOT many times to no avail. Mr. Brown said as an example see the hoops ODOT makes you jump through to make a change, look at Route 528 and the I-90 interchange need for signal lights. Mr. Anderson stated we need traffic lights elsewhere in the Township, but it is very difficult to get ODOT to agree to add anything.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Hager stated he has two (2) new detective cars already included in the budget. Since cruisers cost about forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00), he wants to purchase two Chevy Malibu LS sedans with front-wheel drive. Classic Automotive has quoted him a price of twenty-five thousand, five hundred dollars (\$25,500.00) for each car. Chief Hager said he also received a quote from Tim Lally, Inc. for twenty-four thousand, twenty dollars (\$24,020.00) but it is for fleet cars which cannot be guaranteed to be delivered. Chief Hager said he would rather buy the cars from Classic, a local dealer, and be assured of delivery than to save a few dollars on fleet cars. Chief Hager said the Tim Lally quote is the State price, but they cannot guarantee when the cars would be delivered. Mr. Gauntner said he did not have a problem with ordering from Classic, a local business who can guarantee delivery. Mr. Anderson said maintenance would be in town and closer. Mr. Brown said he has no issues with his Chevy Malibu he drives. Chief Hager said he went over to the Lake County Narcotics Agency who has a Chevy Malibu, and they also love the car. Mr. Anderson said he did not have a problem with the purchase of the Chevy Malibu's. Mr. Wayman asked if the cars would need to be outfitted. Chief Hager said no, just a few lights would need to be added. Chief Hager said he would prepare a Resolution for purchasing the cars for the next meeting.

LEGAL:

Mr. Pasqualone, Solicitor, updated the Board on the two litigation cases pending. The C4 Shooting & Training Center case is still pending. The other litigation, a public records case, has filed a motion for Summary Judgment. Mr. Pasqualone said he has until the end of the month to file a response. He has a response ready but has to add some affidavits to the response which he will be circulating. Then he will just wait on the decision on the motion for Summary Judgment. Mr. Gauntner asked how long it usually takes for a decision on a Summary Judgment motion. Mr. Pasqualone said it normally takes a couple months.

FISCAL OFFICER:

Mrs. Gerred-Ditchcreek, Fiscal Officer, requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-021**, A Resolution accepting fifteen thousand, eight hundred fifty-two dollars (\$15,852.00) from the State of Ohio Attorney General for law enforcement continuing professional training, depositing into Line Item #2081-539-0000 Other State Receipts and appropriating into Line Item #2081-210-318-8214 Training Services (Continuing Professional Training).

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to approve **Resolution #021**, seconded by Mr. Gauntner.
Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mrs. Gerred-Ditchcreek requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-022**, A Resolution authorizing the Madison Township Fiscal Officer to issue a refund in the amount of three thousand, two hundred dollars (\$3,200.00) to Marut & Sons for a road opening at 1755 Green Road.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-022**, seconded by Mr. Wayman.
Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

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ZONING:

Mr. Ungers stated he had nothing to report for this meeting.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC WORKS:

Road Supervisor, Mr. Cook, stated he will have a schedule and plans for the 2024 Yard Waste/Chipper Program at the next meeting. Mr. Cook said he is trying to add some dates to the schedule this year. Mr. Cook also plans to talk to Mr. Brotzman regarding his plans for his leaf drop-off site for the coming year so the Township will know what to expect.

Mr. Cook, requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-023**, A Resolution to enter into an agreement with Midway Trailer Sales, LLC of Dayton, Ohio, not to exceed the amount of fifteen thousand, one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$15,165.00) for the purchase of a 2023 Sure-Trac 22' trailer for use by the Madison Township Service Department.

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-023**, seconded by Mr. Gauntner.
Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Cook stated this is nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) under State bid, and is on their lot.

Mr. Cook requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-024**, A Resolution to enter into an agreement with Chardon Welding, Inc. of Chardon, Ohio, not to exceed the amount of eighteen thousand, five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$18,565.00) for the purchase of a plow and spreader to outfit a 2023 F-350 truck for the use by the Madison Township Service Department.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-024**, seconded by Mr. Wayman.
Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Cook said this is a truck that the Township purchased last year off the lot. It is being outfitted and will be put into service in 2024.

Mr. Cook said he just received a call that the Emerson Road culvert has washed out upstream and is being investigated as we speak. He does not have any details on the problem yet. Mr. Brown said they will be going down to check the culvert this afternoon. Mr. Cook said both sides of the culvert are washing out, but the major problem is on the west side. Mr. Brown said the west side inlets collapsed. Mr. Gauntner said it has the potential to be Ford Road all over again. Mr. Cook said we are trying to avoid that. Mr. Gauntner said this is not good news.

ADMINISTRATOR:

Mr. Brown, Administrator, updated the Board on several projects. Mr. Brown said he and Mr. Gauntner attended a meeting on January 10, 2024, with Lake County Utilities and Barrington Consulting Group, Inc. Plans for the sanitary sewer on Route 20 are ninety-seven percent (97%) completed. The cost of the project will be approximately six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00). The Township is looking at different options and will have to decide how big a project to do. Mr. Brown said he also applied for another grant from the State to help with the cost. Community meetings will probably be started within the next couple months. This project is still moving forward. Mr. Gauntner stated the original plan was to do sanitary sewers from Burns Road to just west of Haines Road. Mr. Gauntner thanked Mr. Brown for applying for an Ohio Department of Development Grant that the Township just learned about. Mr. Brown only had three or four days to get the application completed, and he did an excellent job completing the application in time. Hopefully, the Township can get some additional funds from this grant for the Route 20 sanitary sewer project.

Mr. Brown stated the Township opened bids for the Stanton Park Trail Improvement Project. Six (6) bids were received ranging from eighty-seven thousand dollars (\$87,000.00) to one hundred thirty-one thousand dollars (\$131,000.00). The Township budgeted the project at one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000.00). Mr. Brown said the Township should receive a recommendation from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. in a week or two as to who will receive the bid award. This project is also moving forward.

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Mr. Brown said he was asked at the last meeting to look at the acoustics in Banquet Hall as some complaints were received. Mr. Brown stated he and Mr. Cook met with an engineer from Ketchum & Walton Company from Richfield, Ohio, who should have a report to the Township of their findings within a few weeks. Sound panels may have to be added to the walls in the Banquet Hall to improve acoustics.

Mr. Brown stated on Monday he met with Katie Burger who is Representative Joyce's contact person for local government entities regarding the 1.1 million dollars (\$1,100,000.00) grant sitting in committee at the Federal level for Stanton Park's bluff. Mr. Brown said as long as the Federal government continues to pass the short-term spending bills, the hundreds of projects that are sitting in committee will not come out of committee until the Federal government gets a permanent budget done. Mr. Brown said it sounds like the Township would receive these funds if this ever comes out of committee. The grant has been sitting in committee since April of 2023.

Mr. Brown attended a meeting yesterday, January 24th, with the Local Government Funding (LGF) ad hoc Committee which is a group of representatives from Lake County local villages, cities, and townships made up of lawyers, politicians, retired policemen, etc. Mr. Brown stated the committee has a lot of work to do to come up with a new formula for funding before the end of March. The Auditor has to put a new formula in place in April. If a new formula is not received by June, the local governments will be forced to use the State formula as spelled out in Ohio Revised Code. Each entity must justify its needs if the state formula is used. There are eighty-eight counties in Ohio, and only one (Coshocton County) uses the State formula which is a very cumbersome tool. Mr. Brown said the committee will meet again in a week and a half. Hopefully, the committee will come up with a new formula soon.

At the next meeting, Mr. Brown will request a Resolution to put out for bids the annual sand by-pass project at Madison Township Park Beach. Mr. Brown said there are two (2) companies that usually bid on the project, CIR Inc. and Star Excavating, but the bid will be presented for anyone else who wishes to bid. The Township is required by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers to replenish sand annually back into Lake Erie from the beach at Madison Township Park.

Mr. Brown stated about once a year, he receives a call from a resident who wants to take a tree that is in the Township road right-of-way down immediately and wonders if the Township could reimburse them for the expense. The Township currently pays about eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) for a tree removal. Mr. Brown said new language will be written into the Madison Township Policies & Practices Manual for removal of trees within the road right-of-way. The new language will state: "If a tree is greater than fifty percent (50%) dead and awaiting removal from the road right-of-way by the Township, and a property owner removes the tree, the Township may reimburse a property owner. The reimbursement will be 50% of a paid invoice, not to exceed \$400.00. The invoice shall be paid in full by the property owner, with proper documentation provided which fulfills the Fiscal Officer's requirements, before reimbursement occurs."

Mr. Brown requested a motion to change the language in the Madison Township Policies & Practices Manual if the Board and Mr. Pasqualone have no issues with this change. Mr. Wayman presented a motion to allow the Township Administrator to change the language in the Madison Township Policies & Practices Manual regarding removal of dead trees in the road right-of-way, seconded by Mr. Gauntner. Roll Call: Mr. Wayman Yes: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Gauntner stated paying four hundred dollars (\$400.00) instead of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) will save the Township some money so he is in favor of the idea. The property owner will get the tree down faster than waiting on the long list of residents requesting dead tree removals, and the Township will save a little bit of expense.

Mr. Brown said the Emerson Road culvert issue has been discussed earlier in this meeting. The Lake County Engineer is working on plans and a bid spec for the Emerson Road culvert replacement. Mr. Brown said he has a Resolution to be presented later on asking the County Engineer to bid out the project on the township's behalf. One good thing is it is fairly easy

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to go both north and south on Emerson Road. Mr. Brown said the Lake County Engineers Office will send out the bid which will be included with two (2) other similar projects which will save the Township a little bit of money. The site surveys are completed, and the Lake County Engineers Office is working on the preliminary engineering. Mr. Brown said hopefully, whatever is going on with the culvert now will not drastically change the plans.

Mr. Brown stated Innovative Sports has stated the new pickleball courts at Veterans Park cannot be installed until the weather is consistently above fifty (50) degrees. They are hoping to start the courts in late April or early May, weather permitting.

Mr. Brown requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-025**, A Resolution entering into an agreement with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. of Mayfield Heights, Ohio, at a cost not to exceed fourteen thousand, two hundred dollars (\$14,200.00) for the construction management of the Stanton Park Trail Improvement Project.

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-025**, seconded by Mr. Gauntner. Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Brown requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-026**, A Resolution entering into an agreement with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. of Mayfield Heights, Ohio, at a cost of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to provide design, bidding, and construction management for Madison Township's Road Program.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-026**, seconded by Mr. Wayman. Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Brown stated the Township will work with Perry Township on road programs as was done last year. Doing so saved the Township quite a bit of money. The Township and the Fiscal Department had no issues with this arrangement.

Mr. Brown requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-027**, A Resolution approving an agreement between ESI Employee Assistance Group for all qualifying bargaining and non-bargaining unit Madison Township employees.

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-027**, seconded by Mr. Gauntner. Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Brown stated ESI Employee Assistance Group is Medical Mutual's assistance group. Both Mr. Brown and Chief Hager agree this is a plus for Township employees. Chief Hager stated employees can get medical, financial, and counseling help when they need it.

Mr. Brown requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-028**, A Resolution to renew the annual Property, Casualty, Automobile & Liability insurance coverage with the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) effective February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-028**, seconded by Mr. Wayman. Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Mr. Brown stated there will be a seventeen percent (17%) increase in the cost this year. Mr. Gauntner stated he discussed the increase with the Township's agent of record, Peter Richmond of Richmond & Richmond Insurance. The Township paid ninety-nine thousand, two hundred sixty-three dollars (\$99,263.00) last year. This year the premium will be one hundred sixteen thousand, three hundred forty dollars (\$116,340.00). The value of Township buildings has been increased by ten percent (10%) which is a common practice in the insurance industry this year. Mr. Richmond advised the market this year is tough right now because of all the weather related disasters happening everywhere. Mr. Gauntner said even homeowners' insurance premiums have increased. Mr. Brown stated Mr. Richmond does not sell this insurance to the Township. He is just the townships agent of record working with the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) on behalf of the Township.

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Mr. Brown requested a motion to approve **Resolution #24-029**, A Resolution requesting the Lake County Engineers' Office design and manage the bid process and supervise the Emerson Road Culvert repair.

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to approve **Resolution #24-029**, seconded by Mr. Gauntner. Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

OTHER:

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to have the February 13, 2024, Trustees' Workshop Meeting begin at 6:00 P.M. instead of 6:30 P.M. in order to have additional formal discussions concerning a Police Department pay increase, seconded by Mr. Wayman. Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

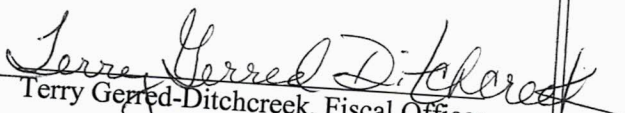
Mr. Anderson stated the next Trustees' Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. preceded by the Trustees' Workshop Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Anderson asked if there was any other business, and with no further business to discuss, requested a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wayman presented a motion to adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Gauntner. Roll Call: Mr. Wayman: Yes Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes

Chairman Anderson adjourned the Trustees' Regular Meeting at 12:40 P.M.


Max Anderson, Jr., Chairman


Terry Gerard-Ditchcreek, Fiscal Officer