

The Mad River Township Trustees met in regular session Monday, June 17, 2019.

Present: Trustees Bob McClure, Joe Catanzaro, and Kathy Estep. Fiscal Officer, David Rudy absent.

Trustee McClure called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Estep moved to suspend the reading of the minutes of the June 3, 2019 regular meeting, the June 13, 2019 special meeting, and the June 13, 2019 Records Commission Meeting, seconded by Trustee Catanzaro. Motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Estep moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2019 regular meeting, the June 13, 2019 special meeting, and the June 13, 2019 Records Commission Meeting, seconded by Trustee Catanzaro. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Special Report**

Joe Garrett, of Trebell presented information regarding the gas and electric aggregation. He explained that First Energy is reorganizing from bankruptcy. It will not have any impact on our contract in rates or services provided. Since Futures Markets are down, he believes he can negotiate lower rates for our residents. He requested that the trustees authorize any one of the trustees to approve a new agreement with a natural gas supplier for the renewal of the gas aggregation agreement at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.41 per Ccf or a variable rate not to exceed NYMEX Month End Settlement plus fixed adder of \$ 0.118 per Ccf. He also requested that the trustees authorize any member to execute an agreement with an electric supplier for the renewal of that aggregation program at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.05 per kWh. This will allow Trebell to have the flexibility to lock in the lowest and best possible rate for our residents in a rapidly changing marketplace.

### **Department Reports**

#### Hustead Fire

Chief Larry Ridenour reported 67 runs so far this year and 5 runs in the last 2 weeks. The Department will have a presence at the Clark County Fair. They also plan to help with the Enon fireworks, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, and the Barnstorming Cruise in at the airport on July 13 and 14. They will also have a presence at the Clark County Fair.

#### Hustead EMS

Gary Coy represented the Hustead Department due to the absence of Chief Kaufmann. He reported 14 runs this month, 181 for the year so far. Ten runs on part time paid, 4 mutual aid, 1 Madison, 2 for Mad River, 8 Green. They have been collecting items for victims of the Memorial Day tornadoes in Harrison Twp. Two carloads have already been taken and they are still collecting food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Plans are being made for the Pancake Breakfast at the barnstorming event at the airport and the annual Hog Roast.

#### Road and Cemetery

Don O'Connor reported that things were quiet on the roads. They have replaced some culverts in Parkridge Acres. Ditching has begun on Broadway Road and the project should actually start on Wednesday, weather permitting. There will have to be some brief road closures during that work due to the large culverts that will be replaced. He will contact Dispatch regarding the closures. He also warned public regarding road closures due to high water. In

the cemetery, they are mowing and weed eating. He noted that the VFW was removing flags earlier than past years.

#### Sheriff Deputy

Deputy Baldwin reported that there were several incidents where items were stolen out of unlocked cars in Holiday Valley and Green Meadows. There was security camera footage and detectives are working to catch the culprits. People were reminded to lock their cars and turn on outside lights. If you see anything suspicious, please call the Sheriff Department. He reported that he has been dealing with several nuisance properties including one on Marion Drive, and properties on Collier & Shank.

#### **Old Business**

Trustee McClure reported a list of actions taken by the Mad River Township Board of Trustees to address issues that were identified by the report which they received on May 20, 2019 in addition to public concerns recently brought to our attention.

Our hiring process has changed to provide additional safeguards. In addition to criminal records checks and simple requests for information from employers, we are now requiring complete personnel files from previous employers (within legal constraints.) Also, new hires are being vetted by professionals at Clemans-Nelson.

Department policies, procedures, and organization are being reviewed. There will be changes that will create more efficiency and effective operations. These will include additional checks on payroll, scheduling, handling of personnel files, and communication within the department.

Comprehensive mandatory training will occur in the area of sexual harassment and hostile work environment. This training will be developed and delivered by a former Assistant to the Ohio Attorney General who worked with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Additionally, training in this area will be included in the training for all new hires in the future.

A Township Records Commission has been established. Policies have been written in accordance with guidelines established under Ohio Revised Code. The Records Commission had its first meeting and the documents have been sent to the appropriate agencies (Ohio History Connection and Auditor of State) for review.

In regard to training of department members, our policy has been and will continue to be that the member must continue to serve on the department for at least one year after training has occurred, or they must reimburse the township for the cost of their training.

Trustee Catanzaro addressed the issue of calling Hustead for mutual aid after 6pm. He explained that the policy was that if two units are available to respond from Hustead in a timely fashion, they need to contact Dispatch and they will be used.

#### **New Business**

Trustee Catanzaro discussed a ditch issue on Broadway that was brought to his attention.

Trustee Estep asked the Trustees for permission to apply for an OPWC Grant for the purpose of repaving the remainder of Fowler Rd. She explained that given the competitive nature of the grant, it would be a long shot, but she wanted to try. Trustee McClure commended her for her work in obtaining grants for the township.

Trustee Estep moved to authorize any of the three trustees to execute an agreement with a natural gas supplier for the renewal of the Mad River Township Natural Gas Aggregation Program at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.41 per Ccf or at a variable rate not to exceed NYMEX Month End Settlement plus a fixed adder of \$0.118 per Ccf. Seconded by Trustee McClure. Motion passed 3-0. (Resolution 2019-018)

Trustee Estep moved to authorize any of the three trustees to execute an agreement with an electric supplier for the renewal of the Mad River Township Electric Aggregation Program at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.05 per kWh. Seconded by Trustee McClure. Motion passed 3-0. (Resolution 2019-019)

Estep moved, McClure seconded adding Devon Adams, Paramedic and Shawn Cochran, EMT to the Enon Fire/EMS Department. Motion passed 3-0.

### **Audience Comments**

Ned Clark asked about items that were thrown out on June 26, 2019 during a work day at the station. He requested a copy of the manifest and asked if any public records were destroyed. Chief Wendling explained that the items disposed of were old unusable and outdated items and no public records were destroyed. He then asked if all trustees lived in the township. Each Trustee answered affirmatively.

Chris Price questioned the handling of a letter sent by Mrs. Jordan regarding the Cadet Program and questioned the trustee's response to the investigation. Trustee McClure explained the legal restrictions in dismissing Fire/EMS personnel. A handout (see attached) was provided to interested members of the audience outlining those legal restrictions based on ORC 505.38.

Kathy Clark questioned the disposal of equipment. She was assured that it was Fire equipment that was over 10 years old. She questioned missing recordings.

Joy Heishman stated that she had received professional care from members of the department and questioned why there was so much discord and so many resignations. She stated that it looked like we were trying to address issues, but it should have been done sooner.

Brook Whitacre stated that she was pleased to see that policies were changing, but she thinks we need changes in leadership.

Mr. Jones questioned the process that was used to sell the old trailer valued at \$200. Chief Wendling stated that he had consulted with Fiscal Officer Rudy and was told that a sealed bid auction was appropriate. Trustee McClure stated that we would look into a more public process in the future.

Chris Price asked if we would be selling our old outdated turnout gear. Chief Wendling told him we could not do that because of liability issues.

Kyle Bussey asked about recordings made by department leadership and the department policy on recording conversations. He also asked about the inventory of supplies and equipment.

Brook Whitacre asked for statistics comparing response times and mutual aids this year versus last year.

Maxine McKee commended everyone on the department, especially longtime volunteers for their devotion, time, and pride in their work. She was a member for 43 years, and recently resigned. She stated that she felt there are morale issues.

Brook Whitacre stated that she felt it was important to have members of the community on the department.

Debbie Ingram stated that she thought the trustees should have foreseen the mass exits.

Robin Coy asked for a round of applause for Maxine McKee in honor of her service. Audience and Trustees applauded her for her service.

Ned Clark asked if anything had been done about the Assistant Chief or allegedly laughing when a young man resigned from the Cadet Program.

Trustee McClure moved to Adjourn. Trustee Estep seconded. Motion passed 3-0.