

MAD RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Session – March 15, 2021

The Mad River Township Trustees met in regular session Monday, March 15, 2021 via Facebook Live from the township road department building due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Present: Trustees Bob McClure, Todd Pettit, Jay Young and Fiscal Officer David Rudy.

Trustee McClure called the meeting to order at 7:57 pm.

Trustee Pettit moved to suspend the reading of the minutes of the March 1, 2021 regular session, seconded by Trustee Young. Motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Pettit moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 regular session, seconded by Trustee Young. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

##### **Enon Fire and EMS**

Chief Tim Wendling was on a run at the time of department reports. Upon his arrival, he reported the department was holding daytime trainings. There will be a training event at the new gorge park with the Park Rangers. The new medic has a leak in the rear seal that was covered under warranty. A road closure at Route 235 and Route 4 will affect transports to Grandview and Children's hospitals for a number of days. The department is working on the annual protocols and the drug licenses need renewed this year. Chief mentioned the applications for Kolby Wooten, Kristin Koester and Josh Hohenstatt that had been presented to the trustees for hire. One is a level 1 firefighter who lives in the area and the others are FF1/EMT-B. Chief noted there have been 60 runs in March 2021 with 1 mutual aid given and 0 mutual aid received. Year to date runs are 371 with 18 mutual aid given and 12 mutual aid received.

##### **Hustead Fire**

No report from Chief Matt Hirtzinger.

##### **Hustead EMS**

No Report from Chief Heather Kaufman.

##### **Sheriff Deputy**

Deputy Brandon Baldwin reported 48 calls, 10 arrests, 15 traffic stops and 14 assists of other departments from February 16, 2021 to March 15, 2021. He has handled multiple complaints from brush on the roadway left by a tree company in Lindair to parking complaints on Raymond for vehicles in the street with no license plates. Arrests are up in the township ranging from wanted persons on traffic stops to on-view criminal charges. Brandon has noticed an increase in the number of speeding infractions in a school zone and asked the public to slow down in the school areas during school hours. The new cruiser reached 15,000 miles is running smoothly with no issues.

##### **Road Department**

Don O'Connor was not present as he is recovering from surgery. Trustee Pettit noted the surplus items would be on Govdeals. Trustee McClure stated that Don was working on locations of the settled payment from county utility repairs.

Fiscal Officer Rudy presented the January 2021 bank reconciliation and monthly reports to the trustees and the most recent credit card statement for Trustee McClure to review. He also asked the trustees to approve a motion for the permanent appropriations for the rest of calendar 2021.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Pettit asked if one of the trustees was going to attend the County Township Association meeting online. Trustee Young stated he was.

Trustee Young moved to list the old medic as a surplus vehicle and place the medic on Govdeals. Seconded by Trustee Pettit, motion carried 3-0. (Resolution 2021-005)

Trustee McClure noted that fiscal officer Rudy and he took part in a conference call with a representative from 7-11 regarding the pending merger with Speedway. The representative stated there were currently no changes to the structure of the company at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Young moved to approve the 2021 Permanent Appropriations of \$4.7 million dollars. Seconded by Trustee Pettit, motion carried 3-0. (Resolution 2021-006)

Trustees started a conversation about the roads including the pending repairs with the two OPWC grants. The discussion included prioritizing road repairs going forward, including grinding and repairs, chip and seal and crack sealing. It was noted that some of the recently paved locations were not holding up as well as they used to and some maintenance should be done to prevent the deterioration of the roadway. Other items discussed were road sweeping and roadway grass mowing that might need to be contracted out. The condition of the roads in the plats were also discussed.

Trustee Pettit made a motion to approve the hiring of Kolby Wooten, Kristin Koester, and Josh Hohenstatt. Seconded by Trustee Young, motion carried 3-0.

The trustees stated they would address questions from the public.

A resident had concerns about the gas bills going up under the aggregation program. There was an increase proposed by Columbia Gas for upgraded transmission lines. Another catalyst for the increase was the winter storm in Texas. Gas had to be purchased from another source, which increased the cost. The Trustees noted that a resident with an average bill of \$200 would see an increase of approximately \$15.00.

There was a resident asking about the flooding on Green Meadows, Arnold and Blough. Trustees noted that Clark County would be replacing the trunk line on Enon Xenia as part of the new school construction. When the trunk line is completed, other undersized lines in the plat would need to be upgraded as well.

One resident asked about the mitigation letter. It was determined they were looking for the Eggeman Engineering study.

A resident asked about snow removal on Green Street. Trustees noted that the road department considers the safety and convenience when pushing and removing snow.

A resident asked about the medic behind the fire department. The medic will be placed on Govdeals.com.

A resident asked if there was an option better than Spectrum or AT&T for internet.

A resident asked if the trustees would grind down all the roads and repave. The trustees noted that would be very costly, but did discuss patching and paving. They also told the public to notify them of potholes.

There was a question about the roads in the cemetery needing repaired. Trustee Pettit noted he was meeting with a contractor.

Trustee Pettit read a letter from a concerned citizen regarding the trustees changing from the local home based dispatch to the county dispatch for the Enon fire department in Mad River Township, while the Husted department is still on the home based system. Trustees noted the Husted department is governed by a Joint Board of six members, that requires a 2/3 majority from each Green and Mad River Township when it comes to financial matters. No formal agreement can be found that governs dispatch including the 70-30 split that is in place for the dispatch costs. Trustee Young noted that Husted Fire was a fully volunteer organization and Husted EMS had part time paid members. The letter brought up the belief that the home based dispatchers at will employment would be ending. Trustees noted that they did not vote to end their employment just to end the use of the home based system to switch to the county. The letter mentioned the possibility of the local dispatchers applying for jobs at the central county center and the fact that Mad River Township is paying for county dispatch as well as the local dispatchers. The letter asked three questions. First, why has the township continued to pay for the home based dispatchers after ending the relationship? Second, is this fiscally responsible? Third, why is the eastern half of the county not receiving the benefits of the enhanced county system and could the savings be used to pay for an overnight shift at Husted? The reason the dispatchers are being paid is due to the obligation of the joint board and the members of Green Township want to wait until the new county dispatch center is open. Green Township received \$40,000 for Husted and \$35,000 for Pitchin for MARCS radios. The radios need to be received and installed so the county can dispatch for Green Township on MARCS. Trustees noted two main reasons for the switch of the Enon Fire department: financial and the fact that the phone lines went down multiple times in 2020 for a total time of almost 2 hours during the year. It was noted that since the switch was made to the county dispatch, response times for the department have dropped significantly.

Trustees asked the public to continue to email them with their concerns. The next meeting, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, will be an open meeting with social distancing. Once the seats are filled, no one else will be allowed in. The meeting will be online. All attending will have to wear masks and have their temperatures taken upon entering.

At 9:15 pm, Trustee Young moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Pettit. Motion carried 3-0.