

## MINUTES OF REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD MAY 14, 2024

The Board of Trustees, Tate Township, met in regular session with the following member presents: Trustee John Wilson, Trustee Russell Durbin, and Trustee Christen Steimle.

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Wilson, starting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Wilson asked everyone to stay standing while Pastor Kyle said a prayer. Trustee Wilson said that prayer will be given at every regular meeting.

Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on April 28, 2024. Roll call: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the April, 2024 bills. Roll call: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the payroll, withholdings, and EFT's from April, 2024. Roll call: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

The trustees took a few minutes to sign paperwork. The public participation resolution was read aloud.

### Road/Cemetery

Trustee Wilson asked Ed Stanley to give his April report for the Cemetery and Roads. Ed Stanley reported that there were 4 burials, 7 footers ordered, and 2 graves purchased, both in the township. He also recommended keeping Turbo Lawncare and Landscaping to cut the main Tate Township Cemetery for \$2000 per cut. He had some bids that were twice that amount. Trustee Wilson motioned and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve paying Turbo Lawncare and Landscaping \$2000 per cut to mow the Tate Township Cemetery. Roll call: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Ed Stanley stated that they have 8-10 string trimmers that do not work. He needs to purchase one. Trustee Wilson made a motion to approve the purchase of a

string mower at a cost of up to \$500. Motion was seconded by Trustee Durbin. Roll call: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Ed Stanley stated that nineteen footers were poured and there are eight left to pour. The concrete is ordered for Friday.

The Gator has been repaired and is back from the shop. They have already put 4 hours on it.

Trustee Wilson stated that he got a bid from Edgar Philpot from M&E Roofing for gutter screens for the cemetery shelter house in the amount of \$700 installed. Trustee Wilson made a motion to accept the bid of \$700 for gutter screens, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Durbin. Roll call: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Wilson asked for an update on Moore Road. Ed Stanley responded they have a long list of residential culverts to install, and they are working on it. They are behind schedule because of the weather. He asked if the trustees would approve overtime for work on Moore Road so they could get it caught up. Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve overtime hours for the crews to work on Moore Road. Roll call: : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes. Trustee Durbin asked to be informed whenever the overtime hours are used.

All roads have been mowed. 150 tons of salt has been ordered for the 2024/2025 winter.

Brown Co. Construction is wanting to start grading tomorrow so they can lay blacktop on Thursday. : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Ed Stanley stated that his computer needs to be replaced and he has an estimate of \$1100 for a new system. Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the purchase of a new computer for \$1100 to be used at the township maintenance building. Roll call: : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Ed Stanley presented a list of all the costs for the Tate Township clean-up days that will be held June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Trustee Wilson asked it posted on the main page of the township website.

Trustee Wilson reported that Trustee Steimle has jumped right in to help with the roads (Vandament and Leonard) affected by the construction of the solar operation. Trustee Steimle explained that Tate Township has a road maintenance agreement with Clermont County. The solar company wants a list of needs to bring the roads up to par that we (Tate Township) provided to them. They are now reviewing it.

The trustees responded to a resident on Mound Street about a stop sign that is not enough for safety at the intersection of Hinch and Spring Streets. Clermont County suggested making the intersection a 3-way stop for safety. Ed Stanley asked the trustees to approve the change. Trustee Wilson made motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve adding stop signs to make the intersection a 3-way stop. Roll call: : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Durbin stated that he is trying to get grants for gravel and equipment for the cemetery. The grant would pay for 55% of the cost but they will need a special meeting with the grant writer on a day next week. The trustees agreed to meet at 7:00 PM next Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Trustee Wilson wants to start designing a veterans' memorial to be placed near or next to the new shelter in the Tate Township Cemetery. Trustee Wilson has floats and stamps that could be used when they pour the base for it. He recommends they start the process of planning a veterans' memorial. Milford has a memorial park that the trustees may want to look at.

Fire: Old Business

Chief Stowell presented the April 2024 fire report. There were a total of 161 calls (44 fire and 117 ems). The fire department had 31 members attend a walk-through training at the solar field. The fire department's protocol is to treat it exactly like they would and electrical emergency with Duke Energy. Duke Energy has completed the flaring operation. All went as planned with excellent communication between all parties. The fire department has received 3 quotes for blacktop sealing and stripping. Chief Stowell recommended Houck's Asphalt Maintenance to seal and stipe the parking lot per the specs in their quote at a cost of \$4633.00. Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the

motion to approve Chief Stowell's recommendation. Roll call: : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

#### Fire- New Business

Chief Stowell recommended accepting fire cadet Trevon Need's resignation from the department due to moving to Maysville, KY. Trustee Wilson made a motion to accept the resignation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee: Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Chief Stowell recommended donating twenty-five sets of expired fire gear that BTFD is no longer permitted to use because they are over 10 year old to Matthew Ministries. They take these sets to countries that have little to no equipment and do not have restrictions to prevent them from using the equipment. Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the donation. Roll call: : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Chief Stowell swore in the newest full-time firefighter/medic, James Whalen.

Chief Stowell stated that due to his retirement date set for July 31, 2024, he recommended the Tate Township Board of Trustees appoint Assistant Fire Chief Chris Cooper to Fire Chief, effective midnight, August 1, 2024. "I have been working with Chris for a year and a half now. He has stepped up into a leadership role and has worked hard to get to the level he is now. I feel he is ready to lead the department." Trustee Wilson made a motion and Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the appointment of Assistant Fire Chief to Fire Chief effective midnight, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Roll call: : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Wilson asked about his last day at the fire house and if he would be helping at all after his retirement. Stowell replied that he will be required to not be involved with the department for 60 days according to Ohio Police and Fire. He will then be able to work at some capacity.

#### Officer Pike-Old Business

April 2024 report was presented. 72 calls were handled, 15 reports were taken, 1 accident report was taken, assisted other departments 23 times, conducted 19 investigations, and closed 11 reports.

### Officer Pike-New Business

Officer Pike presented the new sheriff's contract that would begin July 1, 2024 for a term of 3 years. Trustee Wilson made a motion to accept the contract, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Durbin. Roll call; : Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Wilson announced that the current levy will be expiring and it will be necessary to put another levy on the ballot.

### Zoning-Old Business

April 2024 report was presented. 8 new permits were issued. Trustees were updated on violations.

There was a discussion regarding the newly built storage units.

Trustee Wilson made a motion to link the recording of the meetings to the website within 24 hours of the meetings. Trustee Durbin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Roll call:

Ms. Steimle, yes, Mr. Durbin, yes, Mr. Wilson, yes.

Trustee Steimle explained her progress on the small solar zoning plan. Some other townships are handling it as a conditional use process and we are learning from everyone else. She has spoken with Dale Arnold about the clarity of the resolution. Dale Arnold complimented Tate Township on the clarity we have used. He gave some ideas and statutory authority. They spoke on several occasions. She talked with Julia Carney from the Clermont County prosecutor's office over the weekend. Trustee Steimle will make changes that were suggested. Trustee Steimle reviewed the timeline of the zoning amendment process. She added that the dates in this process need to be watched closely to coordinate with the county meeting dates. We are trying to get through the approval process efficiently and give the public an opportunity to review it as quickly as the process allows.

### Public Participation:

Jodi Wilson volunteered to take pictures of the Milford veterans' memorial as she will be in the area soon.

Lynn Buede thanked Rick Stowell for his service.

Emily Wichman, on behalf of the Clermont County Library, described the renovations to the library and presented services that the library offer, upcoming events. She invited the public to visit library.

Shawn Cashner expressed concern regarding safety on Sugartree Road. He asked if it would possible to put speed humps on the road to slow down speeding cars. There was a discussion of whether speed humps are possible or other potential alternatives.

Amy Campbell expressed concerns regarding the unofficial meeting minutes still showing on the township website and other general concerns regarding the website pictures/minutes being unofficial or outdated; she also raised an issue with an article run by the Clermont Sun listing trustee names incorrectly in the January 17<sup>th</sup> issue. She is concerned with videos of the trustee meeting being posted on You Tube as "Tate Township meeting". She suggested that the name should be changed so people are not confused.

Mary Durbin stated that she loved starting the meeting with prayer and appreciated seeing everyone supporting the community and thanked the trustees for their work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

