

**The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Regular Session on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 PM.**

- 1) **Mr. Cramer called the session to order at 7:00 pm.**
- 2) **Mr. Demko called the roll with Board Members**, Mrs. Destefani, Mr. Moeller , and Mr. Cramer were in attendance. Also, in attendance were Louis Schatzberg, Donna Hellmann and Denise Moore.
- 3) **All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4) **Reports**

**Administration**

Mr. Tiffany was present. Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report.

**Zoning**

Mrs. Tilford was present. Mrs. Tilford had nothing to add to her report.

**Fiscal Officer**

Mr. Demko was present. Mr. Demko provided an update on the audit. He stated that there have been three people on site throughout the week, but they plan on taking a couple weeks off.

Mrs. Destefani asked how often the auditors were on site.

Mr. Demko stated they were here daily.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Demko stated that there are 5 auditors who often included a leader, a trainee, trainer, etc. But added that the audit has been going good so far and everything they have needed has been able to be provided.

Mrs. Destefani stated she knows there is a pre-briefing and post briefing and asked to be informed when the post briefing will occur.

Mr. Demko stated he can do that and would expect it to happen at the end of July or early August.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Demko added how important he feels the audit is as Ted was in the role for a long time and did a nice job, but he is curious to see if there is anything moving forward to improve upon as he is transitioning into the role.

Mr. Moeller asked if it was unusual for them to send this many people down.

Mr. Tiffany stated not anymore.

Mr. Moeller stated that everyone has their own opinion on how things should be done, and he hopes they are not going to be a problem if someone did something differently than they would like things to be done.

Mr. Tiffany asked who was in charge.

Mr. Demko stated there are three: Sylvia, Tyler, and Donna and there are three under them.

Mr. Cramer added all the trustees would like to be apart of the summary.

**Fire**

Chief Learning was not present. There was nothing to add to his report.

Mr. Moeller stated the fire department has been helping a lot of other jurisdictions. Mr. Tiffany stated everybody has. Some discussion continued on the staff shortage of the fire department and how many calls they have been running.

Mrs. Destefani asked why on the ladder truck has the shelving equipment not come in. Mr. Tiffany stated it got delayed. Ms. Hellman asked how many orders they got for that truck. Mrs. Destefani stated 6. Mr. Cramer stated station 71 is out of service and we do not know when the ladder truck is supposed to be here. Some discussion continued on the repairs of 71. Mr. Cramer asked what they were looking for on the grant of the recruitment of first responders. Mr. Tiffany stated he did not know if there was a certain amount asked for or just money in general. Some discussion continued on when the trucks would be done.

### **Police**

Chief Brown was not present. There was nothing to add to his report.

Mr. Moeller stated he saw on the news that Dewine was giving money to different police departments and wondered if Chief Brown was getting into that.

Mr. Tiffany stated we do not know yet, but he believes most of the money will go to inner city departments like Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and possibly Springfield.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Tiffany stated Chief Brown was at 41% of his budget at the end of May which is good as the target is 37.6%.

Mr. Cramer agreed, and some discussion followed.

### **Roads and Service**

Mr. Owens was not present. Mr. Owens had nothing to add to his report.

Mrs. Destefani asked what no call outs for this time period means.

Mr. Tiffany stated it means they were not called out after hours for anything.

Mr. Moeller stated he heard the two new employees were working out very well, they are hard workers and getting their jobs done.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Destefani asked if our sweeper was loaned to Beavercreek and if so, does Beavercreek every reciprocate.

Mr. Tiffany stated yes once a year, and we get their burn box and durapatcher.

### **Information Technology**

There was nothing to add.

### **Trustees**

Mr. Moeller stated he had followed up regarding the healthy hero veterans' program, and two representatives will be following up with a presentation for the next meeting.

Some discussion followed on the date for the next meeting with the Juneteenth holiday coming up. Mr. Tiffany stated since there are additional holidays coming up where meetings will have to be missed, he does not see any reason to no go ahead and move forward with healthy hero's and get started. Mr. Cramer agreed but added he would like to hear the presentation. Mrs. Tilford stated she does not think the public knows what healthy hero's is, therefore, Mr. Moeller went on to explain it: A Premier Health program open to

all Sugarcreek Township employees that provide free weight loss programs, addiction programs, physical therapy, new hire screening, etc. It does not cost the township nor the employees anything. It is once a week now, but Mr. Moeller stated he was going to consult with Bellbrook and get them into the program as well and up it to twice a week and feels it will up retention with the part time fire fighters and police officers.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Moeller continued to say that there are 30 other areas around that utilize it: Beavercreek, Huber Heights, Fairborn, Washington Township, etc.

Mr. Cramer asked if there were any downsides or if there were only upside risks.

Mr. Moeller stated no.

Mr. Cramer stated that like Mr. Tiffany said, to not wait and sign up and get it implemented, but advised he still wants to hear the presentation, know who is involved, etc.

Mr. Moeller stated he does not feel it is fair for the residents to have to wait 40-50 days for a next board meeting to voice a complaint. He feels there should be a rescheduled meeting.

Mr. Tiffany stated citizens are still able to contact the township.

Mr. Cramer added hopefully things can be resolved without a meeting.

Mr. Moeller asked how long can bills go without being signed.

Mr. Cramer stated they will still be doing that.

Mr. Tiffany stated there are some townships that have their last summer meeting in May and do not meet again until September.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Tiffany stated residents are still able to voice concerns and if a meeting needs to be scheduled then they will schedule one.

Mr. Cramer agreed and stated if they need to hold an emergency meeting, he sees no reason why they would not be able to do that.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Moeller stated he is concerned about the school shootings. He has spoken with Chief Brown and found that the ALICE training is occurring every once in a while, but wonders how prepared the township is for this type of problem. He feels the township is not prepared for an actual emergency.

Mr. Tiffany stated the police and fire department has done all the required training once a year. He stated the better question is are the schools prepared. He stated the schools have taken steps on hardening the buildings. He stated for more to be done there needs to be more money coming in from the State of Ohio, the Feds, etc. He added that he feels confident our departments are ready for an emergency like that.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Destefani added although all other schools doors except the entrance have been locked, there are a lot of windows and she heard about this film schools have been using to place on entry way windows so when a shooter was to shoot the window it would not break the glass.

Mr. Moeller stated he does not feel that Sugarcreek Township is prepared. The police department, fire department, or administration. He would like there to be some form of training for all departments so that employees will have an idea of what is going on and how to handle this.

Mr. Cramer asked if it would be for Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township police.

Mr. Moeller stated fire or police could coordinate an effort like that.

Mrs. Destefani stated there is an emergency folder guide that they have that goes over the phone chain of command, how to get notified, etc.

Mr. Moeller stated that is a partial plan, but asked if they know how to actually implement that plan.

Mr. Tiffany stated if there was a school shooting today, the responsibility of the trustees is to remain available and that is it. It is based on the conditions at that time.

Mr. Moeller stated he just does not feel there is a plan in place and does not know how a situation like that would be implemented.

Mr. Tiffany stated the township is in better shape than ever. There is a shared radio frequency with Bellbrook with police and fire, and there is a shared dispatch with everyone. The communication is the best and easiest it's ever been. There is never enough training, but we are prepared.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Moeller stated he feels tabletop training would be beneficial. To role play the difference scenarios on a table using toy fire trucks, police cruisers, actual radios, etc. By doing this you learn the language, ideas, terminology, etc. It could be done with the police department, fire department, schools, etc.

Some discussion followed.

Mr. Cramer stated he does not feel we could ever be prepared enough so he sees no reason to not do that.

Mrs. Destefani stated she knows after emergent situations the first responders go through what they could improve on, what they did good, lessons learned, etc. but she feels it may be beneficial but feels the first responders play a larger role than local officials.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Destefani stated she would like to talk to the police and fire chief to see how prepared they feel.

Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Hellman stated she feels that would be reassuring for residents. She asked if the doors to the school's sensors on them have that alert the office that the doors are open.

Mr. Cramer stated he and Mrs. Destefani can attest when you go to the school you can not get past the front door.

Some discussion followed going into detail of Mrs. Hellman's question.

Mr. Moeller stated he will speak with the school board on this matter.

Some discussion followed on school safety.

Mr. Moeller asked if when Mrs. Destefani and Mr. Cramer were at the river cleanup meeting if they mentioned anything about the curb appeal in the township.

Mrs. Destefani stated they said getting volunteers to come help with the community cleanup/beautification project would not be a problem.

Mrs. Tilford stated we did get a roads clean up grant, but she is unsure if we could use it for anything besides what it was given for.

Some discussion followed on what would be done to help improve the curb appeal.

Mrs. Destefani updated on the Veterans memorial project she has been working on. She met with the park district on 5/2/22 and they voted to give 1.2 acres for the project which

will be on pine court. She did get \$90,000 of capital improvement funds for the project, and there are rough plans for the project which will be a drive through cul de sac.

Some discussion followed on pulling up a picture of the plans.

Mrs. Destefani stated she attended the legislative breakfast, chamber meeting, veterans' memorial meetings. Some things that came up were that they are going to rename part of Route 35 for Gene Fischer the former Greene County sheriff. 8/2/22 is primary voting. The Marshall's grand opening occurred. The road surfacing program will be starting in August and locations will be determined based on road gradings and assessments. The Little Miami Watershed clean up is 6/11/22.

Some discussion followed on the Veterans Memorial plan/site when Mr. Tiffany presented an image of the Veterans Memorial site.

Mr. Cramer asked if there was timing limit on when the memorial is open.

Mr. Tiffany stated dawn to dusk.

Mr. Cramer stated he talked to Larry Connor (Gentlemen who went to the bottom of the ocean and then the international space station) about putting together a plan on celebrating him and Mr. Connor would let them know if he was going to attend. Mr. Cramer has spoken with Mike Turners office about attending as well. 50 guests would be the maximum number of attendees.

Mr. Cramer stated he is concerned that the township is being sued.

Mr. Tiffany stated that can not be discussed at all.

Mrs. Tilford asked if we could utilize the Larry Connor event as a fundraiser for the veteran's memorial.

Mrs. Destefani stated she has thought about this, but she does not want to change the tone of it if Mr. Connor is not a veteran. But she is still going to contemplate it.

Some discussion followed on matching trustee shirts.

### **Public Comments – Agenda Items**

#### **5) Old Business**

#### **6) Consent Agenda Items**

A. Payment of Bills

B. Approval of Minutes

C. Appointment of Fire Department Staff – Stephen Jensen – 2022.06.06.02

WHEREAS, the continuing need exists to maintain proper staffing within the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, vacancies exist within the classification of Part-time Firefighter II/Paramedic; and,

WHEREAS, Stephen Jensen has the necessary qualifications to serve in the capacity of Part-time Firefighter II/Paramedic for the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose within the Fire Department's 2022 Operating Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Stephen Jensen shall be appointed to Part-time Firefighter II/Paramedic within the Sugarcreek Fire Department at the rate of \$19.95 per hour; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the above-mentioned appointment for Mr. Jensen will have an effective date of May 23, 2022, with a one (1) year probationary period ending on May 23, 2023.

**D. Resignation of Roads and Service Seasonal Worker – Joshua Robinson – 2022.06.01**

WHEREAS, Temporary Part-Time Seasonal Worker, Joshua Robinson has indicated his desire to resign from Sugarcreek Township Roads and Services Department and,

WHEREAS, Roads and Services Director Dale Owens recommends we accept the resignations of Mr. Robinson.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Sugarcreek Township Trustees officially accept the above mentions resignation effective May 23, 2022.

**E. Resignation of Fire Department Staff – Anthony Straight and Benjamin Norrod**

WHEREAS, Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic, Anthony Straight has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Part-time Firefighter, Benjamin Norrod has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Anthony Straight was hired as a member of the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department on September 5, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Benjamin Norrod was hired as a member of the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department on April 27, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Jeffrey A. Leaming recommends we accept the resignations of Anthony Straight and Benjamin Norrod.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED that the Board of Sugarcreek Township Trustees officially accept the above mentions resignations effective June 18, 2022, and May 19, 2022 respectively.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items all as stated except Agenda Item B. Mrs. Destefani seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Moeller – Yes  
Mr. Cramer – Yes  
Mrs. Destefani – Yes

Mr. Cramer made a motion to accept the minutes as stated. Mrs. Destefani seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Moeller – Yes  
Mr. Cramer – Yes  
Mrs. Destefani – Yes

7) **Discussion Agenda Items**

No discussion items.

8) **Public Comments – Discussion Agenda Items**

Ms. Moore stated she would like to thank the trustees for allowing her to use the facility for her antiracism conference. She reported one attendee at the conference had stated they were shocked the conference was being held at Sugarcreek. Mr. Tiffany asked if she asked them what they meant by that. She stated they did not think that type of thing would ever be talked about in Sugarcreek. Mr. Cramer asked if it was because they did not think we were open minded to that type of thing. Ms. Moore stated right. Some discussion followed on what more attendees commented. Mr. Tiffany asked if Ms. Moore thought that was a statement on Sugarcreek or a statement on our population as a whole. Ms. Moore stated she thinks it's our community. Ms. Moore stated the conference was recorded and will be posted publicly. Some discussion followed on the community and who attended the conference.

Ms. Hellman asked if someone is heading north bound from Eagle Stone, there is a sign that says end of speed zone sign, if you turn off Feedwire onto Little Sugarcreek going southbound, the first time you see the 40 MPH sign is past Eagle Stone and Sugar Ridge Road. Ms. Hellman asked if that something that is code as to how fast to turn the corner. Mr. Tiffany stated it is because of the through traffic coming south through the traffic light. There must be space given to decelerate. Ms. Hellman asked is it possible to put a 40 MPH sign across from the end of speed zone going the other way. Mr. Tiffany stated it is probably posted at the earliest point it can be. Ms. Hellman stated coming down Little Sugarcreek there is not a posting. Mr. Tiffany stated this is because there is a 55 MPH posting. Ms. Hellman asked if there is some way to change that. Mr. Tiffany stated they speed limits are set by The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Some discussion followed clarifying. Mr. Moeller asked if there could be a sign with an arrow that says, "40 MPH Ahead" or "Speed Zone Ahead." Mr. Tiffany stated they could possibly look at a sign that states "Speed Zone Ahead." Some discussion followed on signage. Mr. Tiffany stated the signs are as stated by the manual.

9) **Trustee/Staff Discussions**

Mr. Moeller asked if there needs to be a resolution for the Healthy Heroes program. Mr. Cramer stated no because it is free. Mr. Moeller stated Mr. Tiffany will sign the contract. Mr. Cramer asked if they need to go into executive session to discuss the litigation. Mr. Tiffany stated not at this point.

10) **Adjourn**

Mr. Cramer made a motion to adjourn the Trustee meeting, Mr. Moeller seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Cramer – Yes  
Mrs. Destefani – Yes  
Mr. Moeller – Yes

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Richard J Demko, Fiscal Officer