

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Regular Session on February 3, 2025, 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, Mr. Cramer, Mrs. Destefani, and Mr. Moeller in attendance. Also, in attendance were Barry Tiffany, Cara Tilford, Chief Doug Buffenbarger, Chief Mike Brown, Thomas Kathmann, Louise Schatzberg, Trish Euganeo, Denise Moore, and Jim McGinley.

3) All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Reports

Administration

Mr. Tiffany reported that last week he, the Trustees, Mr. Demko, and Mrs. Tilford attended the OTA Winter Conference in Columbus. He also noted that while a federal freeze was placed on all funding and grants, a temporary restraining order was issued in response to legal challenges. Mr. Tiffany has been assured that existing funding for the I-675/Wilmington Pike Project remains secure. Additionally, the RAISE grant application has been submitted.

Zoning

Mrs. Tilford reported she attended a VZ meeting last week. She noted that while in Columbus, a rezoning request was filed for the Ramble Farm relocation to Dayton Road. Mrs. Tilford has a meeting with the applicant tomorrow and will provide an update afterward.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Demko reported that year-end reporting is nearly complete. He noted that the John Deere tractor and Chief Buffenbarger's vehicle were paid off in January. While there was consideration of paying off the fire truck, that decision has been postponed until after the ladder truck payment in April. Chief Brown will be purchasing two cruisers, which will be partially financed, with outfitting costs offset by cell tower funds.

Fire

Chief Buffenbarger reported that the new LifePak 35 monitor defibrillators have delivered, with training scheduled for the last week of February. The thermal imaging cameras were also delivered today.

Police

Chief Brown had nothing to add to his report.

Roads and Service

Mr. Windsor had nothing to add to his report.

Information Technology

Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report. Mr. Cramer inquired about the progress of the camera installation at the police station. Chief Brown reported that the team is scheduled to start on the 14th or 15th, but an estimated completion date for the new system has not yet been determined.

Trustees

Mr. Moeller mentioned that he attended the OTA Winter Conference last week and felt it was a valuable experience, providing both informative sessions and excellent networking opportunities.

Mrs. Destefani mentioned that she attended the OTA Winter Conference where she was re-elected to the Executive Committee for the Greene County Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Cramer attended his first meeting as Mrs. Destefani’s alternate.

Mr. Cramer also mentioned that he attended the OTA Winter Conference. He found the experience valuable for networking with other townships and realizing how many share similar challenges.

5) Public Comments – Agenda Items

Denise Moore inquired of Chief Brown why the police report did not include the ICE incident. Chief Brown answered that traffic stops are not included in police reports.

Tom Kathmann asked if the board was aware of the 5 to 6 houses near Swagger Road and Carpenter Road intersection that are in poor condition, including one that appears to have burned down. Mrs. Tilford is aware of the burned house and will inspect the area tomorrow to determine if any other properties need attention.

6) Old Business

Mr. Cramer noted that they just had their community meeting where the school district, park district, city, and Sugarcreek Township provided updates on their current initiatives.

7) Consent Agenda Items

A. Payment of Bills

B. Minutes

C. Resignation of Fire Department Staff – Daniel Butterbaugh, Tyler Black – 2025.02.03.01

D. Transfer of Appropriations – 2025.02.03.02

E. Year 2025 Temporary Appropriations – 2024.12.16.03 - AMENDED

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.02.03.01

IN RE: Resignation of Fire Department Staff – Daniel Butterbaugh and Tyler Black

WHEREAS, Part-time Firefighter/EMT, Daniel Butterbaugh has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Daniel Butterbaugh was hired as a member of the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department on July 22, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, Part-time Firefighter/EMT, Tyler Black has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Tyler Black was hired as a member of the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department on October 15, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Doug Buffenbarger recommends we accept the resignations of Mr. Butterbaugh and Mr. Black.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Sugarcreek Township Trustees officially accepts the resignation of Daniel Butterbaugh effective January 31, 2025 and Tyler Black effective February 4, 2025.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS
General
RESOLUTION #: 2025.02.03.02

<u>Debt Fund Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Credit Fund Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1000-951-0000	Sale of Fixed Assets	1000-910-910	General Fund Transfers Out	\$509,366.50
100-910-910	General Fund Transfers out	2917-931-0000	Martin Funds (Sale of Real Estate) Transfers In	
2917-931-0000	Martin Funds (Sale of Real Estate) Transfers In	2917-110-360	Martin Funds (Sale of Real Estate) Contracted services	

Explanation of Transfer(s): Allocate funds

RESOLUTION NO. 2024.12.16.03

IN RE: Year 2025 Temporary Appropriations *AMENDED

WHEREAS, the need exists to adopt temporary appropriations for the Year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, this temporary appropriation shall be in effect commencing at the close of business December 31, 2024, and extending until the Year 2025 Permanent Appropriations are approved no later than March 31, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, this temporary appropriation will permit the Township Offices to function without interruption as well as allowing ample time to establish exact carry-over figures,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Year 2025 Temporary Appropriations are as follows:

1000	General Fund	
	Wages	\$ 495,000.00
	Employee Benefits	\$ 232,450.00
	Other Services	\$ 242,050.00
	Health Districts	\$ 35,000.00
	<i>Total General Fund</i>	<u>\$ 1,004,500.00</u>
2011	Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 100,000.00
	Gasoline	
2021	Tax	\$ 400,000.00
2031	Road and Bridge	
	Wages	\$ 439,000.00
	Employee Benefits	\$ 154,100.00
	Other Services	\$ 662,150.00
	<i>Total Road and Bridge</i>	<u>\$ 1,255,250.00</u>
2081	Police District	
	Wages	\$ 1,910,600.00
	Employee Benefits	\$ 868,000.00
	Other Services	\$ 535,900.00
	<i>Total Police District</i>	<u>\$ 3,314,500.00</u>
2112	Fire District	
	Wages	\$ 2,039,600.00
	Employee Benefits	\$ 764,300.00
	Other Services	\$ 632,400.00
	<i>Total Fire District</i>	<u>\$ 3,436,300.00</u>
2231	Permissive Motor Vehicle Gas Tax	\$ 600,000.00
2281	Ambulance and Emergency Medical	
	Wages	\$ 114,000.00
	Employee Benefits	\$ 41,850.00
	Other Services	\$ 134,450.00
	<i>Total Ambulance and Emergency Medical</i>	<u>\$ 290,300.00</u>
2902	Jim Martin Memorial Fund	\$ 25.00
2904	Centerville Fire Ancillary	\$ 202,319.96
2906	Police Trust Fund	\$ -

2907	Police Cell Tower Receipts	\$ 27,106.53
2908	Fire Cell Tower Receipts	\$ 27,068.58
2909	MEP	\$ 4,550.00
2911	American Rescue Plan Fund	\$ 128,560.38
2912	Veterans Memorial Fund Martin	\$ 22,920.53
2917	Funds	\$ 509,366.50
3901	Clyo Road TIF II	\$ 24,100.00

Total Temporary Appropriations **\$ 11,346,867.48**

0.00

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the above aggregate amounts be appropriated based upon the attached submittals (hereby incorporated) and a copy shall be sent to the Greene County Auditor.

Mr. Moeller made a motion to accept agenda items, excluding item B. Mrs. Destefani seconded.

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

8. Discussion Agenda Items

None.

9. Public Comments

Denise Moore revisited the ICE incident, stating that she received numerous calls from concerned residents when it occurred. She also expressed interest in understanding the township’s policies and stance on immigration. Chief Brown clarified that the traffic stop followed standard procedures. The officer initiated the stop and found that the driver and passenger did not speak English. To verify their identities, the officer contacted an ICE agent, who determined that the driver’s visa had expired in 2023 and that the passenger was also in the country illegally. Chief Brown emphasized that this was not part of an ICE operation or sweep but rather a routine traffic stop that led to the proper authorities being notified. Ms. Moore inquired how the township handles immigration enforcement. Mr. Tiffany clarified that Sugarcreek does not enforce federal immigration laws or actively pursue such matters. Ms. Moore raised concern about the growing movement to eliminate DEI and questioned how the Township, as a government agency, would respond if directed to eliminate DEI policies and observances. In response, Mr. Tiffany emphasized that these are primarily federal issues, not matters directly within the township’s jurisdiction. He noted that if such a directive were ever presented at the local government level, the township trustees would review and consider it at that time. However, as of now, the township continues its operations as usual.

Louie Schatzberg shared his appreciation for the recent community meeting that involved representatives from Bellbrook, the schools, the township, and the park district. He found the exchange of information valuable, fostering stronger collaboration among the various entities and demonstrating to the public that these groups can work together.

Jim McGinley prepared a letter for the trustees which addressed concerns about the issues of immigration and disagreed with the view that this is solely a federal issue, arguing that it is a national security matter that affects everyone. Mr. McGinley requested a response to his letter by February 13th and expressed appreciation for the trustees' attention to the matter.

Tricia Euganeo asked the trustees to reflect on their positions and moral stance when faced with potentially unjust government actions, such as rounding up certain groups. She also criticized a statement made at the earlier meeting suggesting that police and firefighter recruitment struggles were due to the "Defund the Police" movement, arguing that the real issue lies in the lack of proper police training, particularly in de-escalation. Ms. Euganeo suggested reallocating funds to social services and better training for officers rather than simply increasing police budgets.

10. Trustee/Staff Discussions

Mrs. Tilford acknowledged the challenges of securing funding from the RAISE grant, given the political factors and limited funds. She emphasized that even if the project is not funded this time, gaining visibility with legislators and agencies is crucial for future opportunities.

Mr. Tiffany recommended engaging a lobbyist but discussing cost-sharing with other benefitting communities first. Mrs. Destefani believes the trustees should hold off on hiring a lobbyist until next year. Mr. Cramer agrees but suggests keeping the project on the legislators' radar in the meantime. Mr. Cramer expressed his desire to issue a proclamation recognizing Oakwood's mayor as the longest-serving in the city's history. He proposed attending an Oakwood City Council meeting to present the proclamation. Since the meeting conflicts with the township's meetings, the trustees discussed rescheduling one of their meetings.

After confirming no conflicts, Mrs. Destefani made a motion to reschedule the March 3rd meeting to March 4th. Mr. Cramer seconded.

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

11. Adjourn

Mr. Cramer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Destefani. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

Mr. Cramer – Yes
Mrs. Destofani - Yes
Mr. Moeller – Yes