

**December 7, 2023**

**The Margaretta Township Trustees met on December 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

Present were Mr. Pooch, Mr. Riesterer, and Mr. Bias. The pledge of allegiance was recited

Mr. Pooch moved, seconded by Mr. Bias to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting as presented by the Fiscal Officer Robert Day. Vote: all ayes

Mr. Bias moved, seconded by Mr. Pooch to approve and sign the warrants and EFTs submitted for payment by the Fiscal Officer. Vote: all ayes

Mr. Pooch moved, seconded by Mr. Bias to approve the financial reports submitted by the Fiscal Officer. Vote: all ayes

**Edward Cullen, Newly Elected Margaretta Township Trustee:**

Mr. Cullen was present as an observer.

**Barb Weyer, Village of Castalia Council Member:**

Mrs. Weyer was present as an observer. Nothing to report from the Village of Castalia

**Keith Kreager, Northern Ohio Rural Water/Crystal Rock Homeowners Association:**

Mr. Kreager inquired as to whether there were any water issues. None were reported.

**Richard Cockrell, Township Resident:**

Mr. Cockrell inquired as to where the Township is dumping the wood chips from the recycling dumpsters. Mr. Biglin informed him that local farmer Darren Kuns takes the wood chips for bedding for his livestock.

Mr. Cockrell reported a dimming street light at the intersection of Parker Road and Laurel Drive. Mr. Biglin indicated that the issue has already been reported to Ohio Edison.

**Colin Armstrong, Margaretta Township Firefighters Association:**

Mr. Armstrong provided an update on the purchase of an outboard motor for the new inflatable boat for the Fire Department. The Association received a grant from the Mylander Foundation for \$4,300 to help cover the total cost of \$4,750 to purchase a 25 HP Jet Motor from Dubbert's Marine. The Association is requesting the Township to cover the remaining \$450. Mr. Bias moved, seconded by Mr. Pooch to approve the remaining \$450 expenditure to cover the balance to purchase the boat motor from Dubbert's Marine. Vote: all ayes.

**Chris Schaeffer, Zoning Inspector:**

Mr. Schaeffer reported that the Kendra Didion Conditional Use permit hearing was held on Monday November 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM. All concerns were heard and the determination by the Zoning Board of Appeals has been tabled until Monday December 18, 2023.

**Bob Biglin: Road & Cemetery Department:**

Mr. Biglin requested to increase the cost of plaques for the niches by \$20.00 for 2024 and increase the cost of plaques for crypts by \$30.00 for 2024. Mr. Bias moved, seconded by Mr. Pooch to approve the increases effective 1/1/2024. Vote: all ayes.

Mr. Biglin provided an update on the amount of yard waste dropped off at the Township Maintenance Building this fall. The Road Department chipped 31 dumpsters full of branches and had Cyclone Services haul away 8 dumpsters of yard waste.

Mr. Biglin requested to purchase/install 3 overhead garage door openers for the maintenance shop at an approximate cost of \$1,000. Mr. Pooch moved, seconded by Mr. Bias to approve the purchase and install of 3 garage door openers. Vote: all ayes.

Mr. Biglin will apply for a grant to install a tarp on the new dump truck. His department will install.

Mr. Biglin discussed the Erie County Commissioners Infrastructure Grant for 2024 and will identify what projects will be submitted to Erie County.

Mr. Biglin presented Resolution 2023-24. A Resolution certifying 37.809 miles of Township roads to the Erie County Engineer's office. Mr. Pooch moved to approve Resolution 2023-24, seconded by Mr. Bias.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Pooch – yes; Mr. Bias – yes; Mr. Riesterer – yes.

Mr. Biglin provided an update on the new dump truck. He and other Road Department employees will visit Glenhill to inspect the truck and delivery is expected by 1/1/24.

Mr. Biglin requested to hire Ben Barnette to fill a full time vacancy in the Road Department. This position will assist with the maintenance of the Village of Castalia. Mr. Pooch moved, seconded by Mr. Bias to approve the hiring of Ben Barnette to a full time position in the Road Department effective 12/7/23 at a rate of \$20.00/hour with full benefits pending the passing a drug test, physical, and the proper submission of paperwork to the Fiscal Officer. There will be a 6-month probationary period and a review of the hourly rate upon Mr. Barnette obtaining his CDL. Vote: all ayes.

**Thomas Johnson, Fire Chief:**

Firefighter Rob Street reported that the chassis and frame for the new squad is in process.

Mr. Street also reported that a grant from BWC is in process for the purchase of the hose bed. He is working with Sutphen to schedule the install.

Mr. Street indicated that he will provide the amount of the AGF Grants to the Trustees and Fiscal Officer by 1/1/2024 to allow for appropriations.

Chief John is working with Buckeye Telesystems to update the auto-attend system.

**Board Items:**

Mr. Bias moved, seconded by Mr. Pooch to approve a vacation request for Matt Studer (32 hours) and to allow the cash-in of 47.5 hours of unused vacation leave. Vote: all ayes.

Mr. Biglin discussed the purchase/installation of a dual grinder pump/precast pump station at Lions Park. This will be a joint effort with the Margaretta Booster Club and the Township at a total cost of \$19,229.00 from Norwalk Concrete.

Mr. Riesterer reminded all of the ECTA Dinner on Thursday 12/14/23 at 5:00.


Mr. Bias announced that the Township employee luncheon will be held on 12/22/23 at noon at the Township Hall.

Mr. Riesterer discussed the future of the Fire Department with impending retirement of Chief Johnson effective 8/1/2024. He indicated that the Board has had discussions with Groton and Oxford Township regarding Kerry Jett. Mr. Riesterer requested to be excused from his role as Chairman of the Board to allow for him to recommend the hiring of Kerry Jett as the next Fire Chief of Margaretta Township. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pooch. The hiring of Chief Jett will be effective 1/1/2024 pending the proper submission of paperwork to the Fiscal Officer and will include a starting salary of \$68,000/annually along with the full benefit package. Vote: all ayes.

Mr. Day discussed the pending union negotiations with the Fire Department. Specifically items reported in the Sandusky Register that were incorrect. It was noted that the Register, with information provided by the Firefighters Union, indicated that there was a tentative agreement (which there is not one in place) and that the employees were now asked to pay more of their insurance (which is incorrect as employees have never cost shared with the insurance premiums). Mr. Day will keep the Board apprised of future developments.

Mr. Pooch moved, seconded by Mr. Bias to adjourn. Vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

  
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Chairperson

  
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Fiscal Officer