

# Eden Township

Licking County, Ohio  
10431 Purity Road St. Louisville, Ohio 43071

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dave Baker, Chairman  
Chuck Dunlap  
Leonard Laughman

## FISCAL OFFICER

Robin McKee

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, by Chairman Dave Baker, with all present standing to recite the pledge of allegiance. In addition to Mr. Baker the following Eden Township personnel were present; Trustee Leonard Laughman, Fiscal Officer Robin McKee, Citizens Jackie Laughman, Larry & Erin Finkes, MaryAnn Twp Fire Department, Newton Twp Fire Department, Harry Farley, Christa Walton, Randy Nethers, Kyle Broseus, Nora Bullock, Nancy & Dale Sapp, Jim Melick, Joe Shannon, Dan & Sherry Tatman, Matt Sutyak, Bryce Ramsay-Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and nonresident Randy Workman.

If others were there and did not sign in I apologize for not including you on this list.

Trustee Dunlap moved to waive the reading and approved the minutes from the January 29th, 2024 meeting. Trustee Baker seconded the motion.

VOTE: Trustee Baker -yes; Trustee Dunlap -yes ; Trustee Laughman -yes  
Motion carried

### Public Participation:

Bryce Ramsay-Eden Township Prosecuting Attorney introduced himself.

\*Harry Farley said neighbors had asked why the first snow was not plowed until 10:30am.

Trustee Baker responded that the heater was broken in the truck and you could not see out the windows, once he got the heater fixed he started plowing.

Henry Farley had plowed Tarlton Road and part of Blacksnake Road---Thank you Henry.

Randy Workman also commented that Painter Run, Billman and Baker Roads were not plowed when he went through at 9am.

Bodle Road washed out with last rain and portions are a mess.

\*Randy Workman explained he attended a meeting last summer and complained about Baker Rd, he tried to give information to help with prep since he had worked for ODOT. The Twp did not stabilize the road, he told the trustees he they could talk to the county and make them fix it. They would need to hire an attorney and take the case outside of Licking County to have a fair case.

A tree had fallen on the road and was going to pull onto his property so he could cut for firewood, twp came out and cleaned it up.

He recently received an email from Waste Management that he should be taken off the Eden Twp contract price since he does not reside in Eden Twp.

Trustee Dunlap said Randy does not reside in Eden Twp. therefore should not be getting the discounted price.

Randy said they make an attachment for a skid steer that would till up the chip and seal left behind on the roads.

He said he has been called out as a (Karen) for trying to help the Twp.

Trustee Dunlap asked if Fallbury Twp roads are good, since that is Mr. Workmans Twp.

Randy also explained he has been bared from the Eden township Facebook page.

Fiscal Officer McKee explained that the Facebook page is ran by citizens of the township and the board has nothing to do with that.

Trustee Baker explained to Randy that he had received a call from Waste Management about complaints on Facebook of people getting the discount that are not in the township. The Waste management rep told Trustee Baker that they will be looking into those who border the Twp and non Eden Township residents will no longer get the discounted price.

Randy said the email he received said "per the Trustees"

Trustee Baker responded it was because he received the phone call and was aksked.

Randy said we are here to help one another, he is here to help everyone.

\*Jim Melick said the roads are rough under the chip and seal, but at least they are chip and seal and not dirt and mud.

\*Randy Workman replied, wait until the township has to figure out how to fix Baker Rd and the cost.

Trustee Dunlap replied to Mr Workman-you do not live in this township, you contribute nothing here.

Trustee Baker replied- the township can take everything back to dirt or maybe we could add a levy so we could afford to put down asphalt on all the roads. We have approx.. 27 miles of roads at \$125,00.00 per mile.

We have looked for grant writers, we found one lady who had agreed to help but then back out.

Trustee Baker asked around and found another who is keeping her eyes out for anything relating to roads that we may be able to get. Since Covid hit there is not much out there.

If we could get a grant we would be responsible for around 30% of the cost. Chip and Seal would be a good thing, limestone is now \$38 per ton and gravel is only \$17.50 which would be better than nothing.

Dale Sapp explained that the work that was done on his road was better than before but the rest of the road is still bad.

Trustee Baker said the asphalt grindings built a much better base on his road than was there prior.

Mr. Sapp said, asphalt roads require attention so they don't fall apart and we might gain a couple of years. We can't grade chip and seal roads. The road from their house to the township line is falling apart and very bad and it is not the only road in the township that is like that, they are dirt

and mud. He thinks Randy was correct in suggesting tax money should not just go to the township you live in.

In regards to the trash contract some residents have overpaid for 5+years that were not aware of the contract.

Mr. Farley said this was the most people he has seen at a township meeting in several years and he wished more people came to the meetings all the time.

Trustee Baker explained that we have only one road person and he makes only \$21.50 per hour and has no benefits, there are not many people that would do the job for that. The trustees help out regularly. Danny worked for the township for 28 years and the previous trustees did not help as much as the current ones do. We are not the best but we are trying, fair, and honest.

Jim Melick said he appreciates everything the trustees do.

Trustee Laughman said thank you and we do have a great team.

Nancy Sapp asked if we had checked with Bryce to see if the county knows of anyone who could write grants for the township.

Trustee Baker said his daughter-in-law wrote a grant for the township for the playground, but we did not get it.

Mr. Snedden even posted on Facebook that we are looking for a grant writer and got no response at all.

Christa Walton said that Debra Kenny wrote the grant for Graceland Lane and The McCoy edition.

#### Old Business:

Fire & EMS responses are at 73 opinions for 1 department and 29 opinions for 2 departments, 1 was received that said the trustees should make that decision.

Trustee Baker informed the citizens on what is going on.

In 2018 there was an increase of \$2500.00 per department, nothing has been asked for since 2018.

Newton approached the board at the November meeting and asked for a \$10,000.00 increase per year—costing the township \$20,000.00 between the two departments. MaryAnn did not ask for an increase, but would get a \$10,000.00 increase since we are to pay both departments the same amount.

We currently have a 3.5mill continuous levy and a 1mill levy that will expire in 2025.

MaryAnn has offered to cover the entire township which would be backed by mutual aid. The trustees went to two Newton Twp meetings to talk with the trustees but were told that they wanted the \$10,000.00 increase, when asked if there was any room for negotiation, there was no response.

After Trustee Baker talked with the prosecutor he was told we could do whatever we thought was in the best interest of the township. Fiscal Officer McKee created a mailer so the board could get feedback from the citizens.

Newton Twp is wanting a 2 year contract, which the could ask for another increase in 2 years.

We will wait for the mailers to come back and see what the residents of the township would like and we will go with the highest number of opinions.

Erin Finkes said with increase that would only leave the township with approximately \$11,000.00 for all other fire and ems services, including dry hydrants and tornado sirens.

Fiscal Officer McKee let the residents know that if they or anyone they know did not receive a mailer they can email their name and address along with their opinion to her prior to the April meeting.

Nancy Sapp asked if we could in good faith offer Newton Twp and Bladensburg \$10,000.00 for their mutual aid efforts.

Trustee Hindel with Newton Twp said their fiscal officer pulled the amounts from the auditors website and they know how much money we get and that we can afford the increase. They are wanting what we have instead of us banking the money. We have enough money to cover the increase for 2 years with both departments and if the levy doesn't pass in 2025 we just keep putting it on the ballot until it does. They need the money to offer better wages to employees. Erin Finkes replied that Newton Twp wants us to spend 100% of the money brought in, leaving us nothing for dry hydrants and tornado sirens or any other incidentals that may occur. Newton Twp has agreed to a \$2500.00 increase with a 6 months contract until things can be figured out.

Harry Farley asked where is the credit for all the money past trustees have given to Newton and not to MaryAnn. No answer was given.

Joe Shannon said he would like to see the numbers.

Trustee Dunlap said he had asked years ago why we needed two departments and was told by past Trustee Glover that Newton Twp could cover the entire township if only one was needed. Trustee Glovers brother was the Chief of Newton and past Fiscal Officer Little was part of Newton Fire Department, they knew more about it. The current trustees are not.

Mr. Turner with the Newton Twp Fire Department brought numbers to the December meeting showing the percentages increases, including wages, utilities and equipment.

Over the past 3 years 9.5% of runs were for Eden Twp (9.5% of Newtons tax would be \$55,000.00) this is where they have gotten the increase to \$55,000.00.

He also addressed the residents at the meeting with what will be lost if the decision is to go with MaryAnn alone.

(29 members with a combined 281 years' experience, 10 members that are full time outside of Newton Twp with combined 147 years' experience, 5 members that are chief officers, roster of 14 paramedics, 8 specialty rescue, 9 instructors, up to date equipment, a staffing model of 3 people around the clock with no delay in transport)

MaryAnn Twp saying that service will be the same is inaccurate. Mutual aid agreement will change, we will be non-residents and hard billed.

MaryAnn Twp cover 100% of MaryAnn and Fallsbury Twp then want to add 100% of Eden Twp.

Fiscal Officer McKee reminded them that the 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr of 2023 out of the 54 runs MaryAnn Twp made in Eden Twp, 25 of those were supposed to be Newton Twp runs but their department was not staffed.

Erin Finkes said that people are not hard billed on mutual aid.

Sherry Tatman asked what staffing for MaryAnn Twp is- MaryAnn replied they have 2 people around the clock.

Sherry also asked the board, since there is no zoning in the township is there anyway to keep someone or a business from buying up land and starting a landfill. Trustee Baker said there is nothing we could do with no zoning.

New Business:

Fiscal Officer McKee presented the board with the quote from Mow-tivated Mowers with a 3-year contract. All prices will remain the same as last year with the 3-year contract.

Trustee Baker moved motion to accept the pricing and 3-year contract. Trustee Dunlap seconded the motion.

VOTE: Trustee Baker -yes; Trustee Dunlap -yes ; Trustee Laughman -yes

Motion carried

Fiscal Officer McKee will contact Mow-tivated Mowers and let them know.

Fiscal Officer McKee presented the board with a notice from LTAP for a safety sign grant.

Affordable Portable emailed and wanted to know if we would like the port-a-john delivered again this year for the playground.

Trustee Baker said we would like it from June to September.

Fiscal Officer McKee will let them know.

The old International dump truck has been sold on GovDeals for \$6050.00. Trustee Baker said that wasn't bad for a truck that the township purchased in 2018 for \$5000.00

Matt Sutyak from Billman Road introduced himself to everyone.

Road Report:

Fixed a big washout on Graceland Lane, hope it holds

Changed water filter at the school

Not a lot of chip and seal left on roads—Baker South

Lots of soft spots, putting in stone

Sometime we need to put a new culvert in on Swick-Holton before chip and seal

Cleaned ditches

14-2024	BWC	91.55
15-2024	Windstream	106.74
16-2024	The Energy Co-op	107.76
17-2024	The Energy Co-op	111.98
18-2024	The Energy Co-op	134.34
19-2024	The Energy Co-op	46.85
20-2024	Park National Bank	1887.24
22-2024	OPERS	2015.12

23-2024	EFTPS	955.27
24-2024	Ohio Deferred Comp	100.00
25-2024	School District	46.14
26-2024	Ohio Tax	143.89
12170	City of Newark	2730.00
12171	Licking County Eng	1112.96—VOID
12172	Licking County Eng	360.00
12173	Gannett Ohio	102.50
12174	Ohio Health Consortium	109.75
12175	Co-Alliance	662.43
12176	Glenns Market	529.21
12177	Gear Gas Corp	111.25
12178	Kleem	146.95
12179	Martin Trucking	8681.56
12180	Dave Baker	741.45
12181	Mike Baker	2693.43
12182	Chuck Dunlap	727.34
12183	Leonard Laughman	910.93
12184	Robin McKee	<u>1360.00</u>
		\$26,726.64

I certify there are sufficient funds on deposit for the payments of foregoing bills when obligated and funds are now on deposit to pay the above expenditures

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Robin McKee, Fiscal Officer.

Trustee Baker moved a motion to adjourn. Trustee Laughman seconded the motion.

VOTE: Trustee Baker –yes; Trustee –yes; Trustee Dunlap –X

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned 8:23 pm

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Dave Baker, Chairman

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Chuck Dunlap, Trustee

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Leonard Laughman, Trustee

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Robin McKee, Fiscal Officer