

**COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
5686 KENWOOD ROAD CINCINNATI, OHIO 45227**

**Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 13th, 2021
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Due to COVID, this meeting is open to the public but will be streamed live on Vimeo. It will also be available for viewing on YouTube.

Live@ <https://vimeo.com/497381711>

After Meeting@ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLfD5afKymmzsH8L5mLpDaQ>

Columbia Township residents and businesses were also invited to email or call with comments or questions to be read and answered during "Open Forum". GrowingTogether@ColumbiaTwp.org; 513-561-6046.

The Columbia Township Regular Board meeting was called to order by Trustee David Kubicki at 4:00 p.m.

In attendance

Those Trustees in attendance were Susan Hughes, Brian Lamar and David Kubicki. Township Administrator Melissa Taylor, Fiscal Officer Caroline Heekin and Police Lieutenant Enderle were also in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Approval and Signing of Minutes –

Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamar to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 9, 2021. All Present voted yes.

Open Forum –

Resident Jennifer Sharp posted a photo on Facebook of her Columbia Township economic stimulus gift card to Patron Mexican Grill next to her chips and salsa along with the message "Thanks for the gift card!!! We got to try Patron for the 1st time and we will definitely be back...hello margarita and enchiladas! Thank you again for the generosity ♥"

All the trustees shared that they are receiving very positive feedback on the program and thanked Ms. Sharp for her post.

Resident Mike Tighe sent an email regarding the Waste Levy. "Thanks again for sending me your agenda and keeping me informed and being transparent. I noticed that the waste levy is on tonight's agenda. As I've asked before why not either suspend the levy for a year or more. The second option, cut the levy in half to maybe 1.6 mils, during the process picking up the new valuations. This would substantially cut everyone's taxes, especially during these trying times when many are having trouble making ends meet. And most importantly maintaining our quality of services to the residents. This is possible due to the surplus in the general fund because of the JEDZ funds and the additional cannabis funds. The 1.6 mils should pay for the Rumpke contract and the employees can be paid out of the general fund, as most local communities do."

Mr. Kubicki thanked Mr. Tighe for his positive comments regarding recent economic development successes and thanked all those involved in making the decisions that have led to additional revenues. A "softening of the taxes" is something that has been discussed and is always on the minds of all the trustees and administrator. With the support of Ms. Hughes and Mr. Kubicki, Mr. Lamar brought forward a proposal which will be presented in detail by Ms. Taylor later in the agenda.

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Open Forum – (cont.)

Resident Carl Jones sent an email regarding the Little Miami Fire District. "Columbia Township Trustee's, I hear a lot about the Little Miami Fire District problems in the Madison Place/ Plainville, Seven Hills areas, with the addition of the Village of Mariemont in some sort of way. Will we get less service or Higher Taxes? The Madison Place/Plainville, Seven Hills areas is already paying higher taxes than the Golf Manor firehouse area. Also, I have not heard of any solutions to the removal of Village of Golf Manor from the district in December 2021. How this will affect the whole Township? Will it raise our taxes? How will the loss of equipment be solved? What will be the cost to the Township? Will the Deer Park/Silverton Fire Department be a part of the solution? Has the Township Consultant solved these problems yet, after a year? Yes or No? Why is the Township extending a contract with very little results? These are the issues for the Township Administrator to solve, which is already compensated. She has been at this type of work for many years and I believe she can do it. Please solve these important questions, give the residents good answers not vague ones (like, I don't know yet!). That's why you Trustee's were elected."

Mr. Kubicki explained that Mr. Lemon has brought strategy, administrative knowledge, financial expertise and trust to the fire district's two-year assessment. Mr. Lemon's contract will extend to the end of 2021 when the LMJFRD's reorganization plan should be finalized. Mr. Kubicki added that due to Mr. Lemon's vast experience in this specific arena negotiations continue to progress smoothly with Mariemont as a possible new member of the fire district. There will not be a final decision until next year. Mr. Kubicki reiterated that Ridgewood will continue to be serviced contractually by Golf Manor fire/EMS after that fire department leaves the LMJFRD on December 31.

Department Reports –

Fiscal Officer's Report

Ms. Heekin's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection.

Road Superintendent Report

Mr. Servizzi's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection.

Administrator's Report

Ms. Taylor's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection. A few Highlights from Ms. Taylor's report include updates on the revitalization of the Madison Place Firehouse. Citizen feedback has been favorable; there is a community wide Zoom meeting Friday, April 30th. Our Covid Economic Stimulus program has already distributed nearly 1,000 \$25.00 Gift Cards redeemable at 10 participating restaurants in Columbia Township since the program launched Valentine's Weekend. The new Maserati/Alfa Romeo building is complete and the construction fencing is down with landscaping to come next.

Economic Development Quarterly Report (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct)

Mr. Montgomery's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection. Highlights from the report included a new breakfast café, Scramblers, will open this week in the former Flip Daddy's on Wooster Pike. The Restaurant Gift Card program has been very popular.

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Department Reports (cont.)

Police Report

Lt. Enderle's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection. Lt. Enderle added a reminder that Hamilton County Sheriff's Office drug take-back program takes place Saturday, April 24, 10 am-2 pm, at Silverton Administration Building, 6943 Montgomery Road. Lt. Enderle also asked residence to remember to lock their cars as there have been some vehicles rummaged that were all unlocked. Lt. Enderle also reminded citizens to pay attention to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

LMJF&R Fire District Report

Mr. Lamar noted that he feels privileged to serve on the Fire Board. He has visited all the stations that service Columbia Township and met with the Firefighters to discuss their needs and hear their thoughts. The overall theme of these visits is that these are really good people. The Firefighters are trapped in their work environment like the rest of us due to Covid, so say "hi" if they are out with the station doors open. Mr. Lamar reiterated that providing service to residents is the boards primary job and this service will not be interrupted.

Deer Park-Silverton Fire District Report

Covered in LMJF&R Report

Trustees' Reports

Mr. Lamar commented on the Bike Path construction which will connect the "islands" that should be mostly completed by the summer. The westbound segment from Fifty West on Wooster Pike in Columbia Township through Mariemont is overseen by Mariemont and it has been great partnering with them. The adjoining Murray Avenue segment is directed by Fairfax. The third segment along Wasson Way between Madisonville and Xavier University is directed by City of Cincinnati. Landscaping will receive public input. Mr. Kubicki noted that he is pleased with the new revenue streams which help the community with great projects.

Communications –

- Mariemont Seeks Feedback on Murray Path Extension Landscaping
- New FEMA funeral funds for COVID-related deaths
- CARES Eviction Financial Assistance for Renters/Landlords, *Hamilton Co. Job & Family Services*
- New Podcast Series "Making It Happen" and YouTube Channel Video Series
- New Facebook Posts

Resolutions –

One Reading Only (Appropriations):

Ms. Taylor provided the 1st and only reading of a Resolution Authorizing a Resolution to Supplement Res. 21-01, 2021 "Columbia Township 2021 Annual Appropriation" and Supplemental Appropriation Resolutions 21-04 and 21-08. Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes to pass the **Resolution 21-15** . All present voted yes.

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Resolutions – (cont.)

1st Reading:

Ms. Taylor provided the 1st reading of a Resolution Creating Full-Time, At-Will Position Of Customer Service Coordinator/Event Center Coordinator And Adopting Job Description For Such Position. The 2nd Reading will take place in May.

Ms. Taylor provided the 1st and only reading of a Resolution Reappointing C. Michael Lemon as Special Advisor to The Board of Trustees for June 1 To December 31, 2021, Dispensing with The Second Reading and Authorizing the Terms of Appointment. Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes, to pass the **Resolution21-17**. All present voted yes. Ms. Hughes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kubicki to suspend the rules and to declare an emergency.

Ms. Taylor provided the 1st and only reading of a Resolution Declaring The Necessity Of Levying A *Renewal* Tax In Excess Of The Ten-Mill Limitation Within The Unincorporated Area Of Columbia Township, Hamilton County, Ohio To Provide For Collection And Disposal Of Garbage Or Refuse, Including Yard Waste, And Collection Of Materials For Recycling In The Columbia Township Waste District And Requesting The County Auditor To Certify Matters Required Under R.C. 5705.03(B) and Dispensing with the Second Reading. Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamar, to pass the **Resolution21-18**. All present voted yes. Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamar to suspend the rules and to declare an emergency. All present voted yes.

Emergency:

Ms. Taylor provided the 1st reading of a Resolution Authorizing the Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with the Hamilton County Engineer to Improve the Plainville Rd. Pedestrian Crosswalk at Grace Ave. with Flashing Safety Lights, Enhanced Striping & Signage, Dispensing with the Second Reading, and Declaring an Emergency. MS. Hughes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kubicki to pass the **Resolution 21-19**. All present voted yes. Ms. Hughes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kubicki to suspend the rules and to declare an emergency. All present voted yes.

Ms. Taylor provided the 1st reading of a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One 2022 International HV607 Dump Truck to Replace 2005 Truck for Snow and Ice Removal, Road Maintenance and Heavy Hauling, Dispensing with the Second Reading, and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes to suspend the rules and dispense with the second reading. All present voted yes. Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes to adopt the **Resolution 21-20**. All present voted yes. Ms. Hughes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kubicki to declare an emergency. All present voted yes.

Approve Payment of Bills, Bank Reconciliation and Financial Reports –

Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar and Ms. Hughes to approve payment of bills, Bank Reconciliation and Financial reports for March. All present voted to approve.

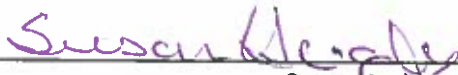
Signing of Minutes and Resolutions – Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to sign the Minutes and Resolutions. All present voted yes.

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Adjournment –

Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to adjourn. All present voted to adjourn.



Susan Hughes Date



David Kubicki 4/13/21
Date



Brian Lamar Date



Caroline Heekin 4/13/21
Date