

Minutes

May 11, 2021

1. **Opening of Meeting**

Mr Rajagopal called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

All Trustees and Fiscal Officer were present.

2. **Executive Session 6:00 pm**

Mr Milz recommended the Board of Trustees go into Executive Session in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss the employment, compensation, potential dismissal, discipline, promotion or demotion of public employees and also in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(3) to discuss pending or eminent litigation with the township attorney and also in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(8) to consider confidential information relating to specific business strategies and to discuss negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance and also in accordance with ORC section 121.22 (G)(2) to consider the purchase or sale of township property.

Motion - Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert.

No discussion

Vote - Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Mr Rajagopal called the meeting back to order at 7:00pm

All Trustees and Fiscal Officer were present

Mr Milz had nothing to report from Executive Session.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance 7:00 pm**

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

4. **Meditation (Moment of Silence)**

5. **Fiscal Office – Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustee meeting April 27, 2021

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Rajagopal.

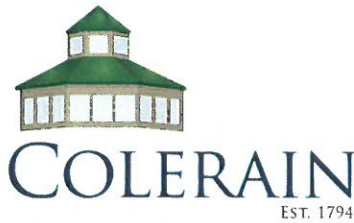
All voted Yes. Minutes approved.

Motion to amend agenda to include a presentation by Metro

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert. All voted Yes.

Agenda Amended.

Presentation given by Metro (Darrel Haley)



6. Presentations

- a. Letter of Gratitude - USDA Farmers to Families - Catholic Charities, Volunteers, Public Services Staff, Police Department Staff

Mr Unger read the letter into record

Motion to approve letter Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Rajagopal

All voted Yes.

Letter of Gratitude available in agenda packet on line.

- b. Letter of Commendation - Employees of the Public Services Department

Mr Wahlert read the letter of commendation into record.

Motion to approve letter Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Rajagopal

All voted Yes

Letter of Commendation available in agenda packet on line.

- c. Proclamation Recognizing May 8, 2021 as Matt Croxton, Sr. Day in Colerain Township

Mr Unger read the Proclamation into record.

Motion to approve Proclamation Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

All voted Yes

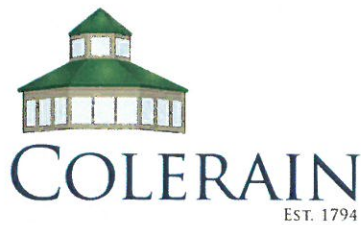
Proclamation available in agenda packet on line.

7. Citizens Address

George Ritter - Thanks the Colerain Police Department for the recognition they gave him for his service overseas. He would like to ask why he was charged \$863 for his ride from his home to Mercy Fairfield Hospital? Also, on Niagara Street near Pippin and Gibraltar it is a drag strip and he's afraid a kid is going to get hit. He's been trying to get speed bumps installed. He says something has to be done.

Rich McVay - Mentioned the contract with Rumpke left a lot to be desired. He says there was no discussion regarding the Cost Management charge signed on April 17th. He says there is money in the budget for the Colerain Township sign over I-275 and not for landscaping. He said that thanks to Raj we were able to secure funds for sidewalks on Pippin Rd. He says the Board has the authority to get the sidewalks done on Joseph Road they just don't have the will. He said it's unclear as to what we're asking for on the Colerain corridor study. He asked why the board is researching into becoming a city?

Keith Miller - He said we shouldn't put a firehouse on Rumpke's property.



Kathy Mohr - She has several questions. Did we have cameras at Colerain Park during the vandalism? Says years ago there were cameras installed at the parks. You hired a new intern, paying them \$15/ hour for 20 hours a week. What is this intern doing? Regarding Resolution for sidewalks and curbs, my question is, if there are change orders to the contract, they have to be approved by the board. You signed a contract with OpenGov. She would like to know what they do that the CSR cannot provide. On April 13th, the board signed a contract with Rumpke. And now the ten cents isn't in there, but wasn't the contract already signed?

8. Administrative Reports

Chief Walls - For the month of April there were 718 EMS runs, 133 Fire incidents and 30 responses into Springfield Twp. Response time 5:24 for first unit on scene.

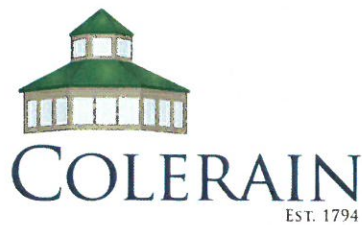
Chief Denney - In April the Police Department received 3,515 calls for service, which was an increase of over 800 from last April. Response time dropped to 2:15 for emergency calls. There were 80 traffic stops, 4 OVI arrests. You will soon be able to see data regarding every use of force on OpenGov. In 5 days on the street the, the environmental crimes investigator has conducted 38 investigations and closed 18 of them. He's being very active.

Jackie O'Connell - Park usage is up. Litter collections for April were down due to rainy weather. May should be a better month and we're still looking to hire a second position in litter collections. The Ohio Department of Aging featured Colerain Township twice this past week. We're getting closer to the Fort Colerain opening. We have a winner in the flag design contest and we'll release that soon.

Geoff Milz - Responding to Mr McVay's comments. Regarding why we're looking into becoming a city? That is found no where in the strategic plan because we are in no way looking into it. Regarding cameras in Colerain Park, I believe we had a camera there to take 1 picture a day for a time lapse. Regarding what the intern is doing. He's doing a lot. Producing the second season of the podcast "Hey Colerain" and doing special projects with Mr Weckbach. What does OpenGov do the CSR doesn't? Also a lot. It will feel similar to the customer, but on the back end it will be much better. We'll be able to do more with less. Regarding the Rumpke contract, the board authorized me to sign a contract with Rumpke, and that final contract is in the agenda tonight. We received word that Colerain will be receiving 7.5 Million dollars through American Rescue Plan Act. The hard part now is figuring out what we can use this money for.

Discussion

Mr Wahlert - I'm concerned about the safety of Cricket. The thing is really hard and it whips around and there's been a number of deaths. I'm concerned about any kind of legal



issues or things that would come with Cricket. The thing goes about 120mph.

Mr Rajagopal - I've played in India. It's actually a world famous game. The ball is a little bit harder than a baseball. The deaths are usually from someone hitting the wicket. It's a very safe game.

Mr Wahlert - I was shocked at the number of cities and townships that were sued for moving donation boxes or suggesting they be moved.

Mr Sollmann - I know John Deters looked into that for our firm and he indicated that it's alot more complicated than it initially appeared. There are first amendment rights attached to it.

9. **Trustees' Report**

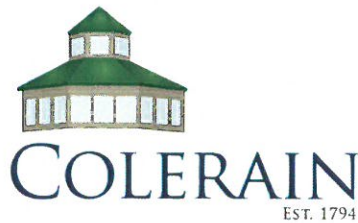
Mr Unger - received emails and wanted to address them. One is from Carrie Davis. Some of the items she mentioned is that Rumpke is seeking another expansion and I no idea what she's talking about. She mentioned the Rumpke contract has substantially changed since it was first brought to the board. She asked why we are paying more than Harrison. I gave her a couple reasons that the houses are closer together there and also the city of Harrison pays for all of their residents out of one of their funds. She asked us to take on issues going on out in Whitewater Township and that's something we're not going to do. Another email was from Brooke Shirley and she had an issue with one of our code enforcement officers and would ask that Geoff Milz would look into that. And then I got an email from Cathy Hunter which she asked me to read during the meeting tonight. It was in regards to a coffee table left outside a Mathew 25 box and tires left on Blue Rock Rd. The coffee table and the tires were gone within 12 hours. There's something about Mr Unger doesn't et things done and I do and I don't. Sometimes it takes things a little longer. So yes all those things I was asked about at the last meeting were taken care of. We are working on the trash and litter problems here and that's great. The right of way on Joseph is only so wide frankly it's my understanding that we would need a construction easement meaning we would have to take private property and frankly we would have to have equipment on the private property. I've spoken to Rumpke and they're going to start their tours as soon as possible. They have their own fire department. We're not building a fire department to serve Rumpke.

Discussion:

Mr Rajagopal - We talked about cameras at Heritage Park right?

Mr Milz - Yes, we do have cameras there and it helped us solve the crime there this past year

Mr Wahlert - Congrats to those getting ready to graduate. At McDogs Saloon on May 15th they're having a flag retirement. Earlier that day there's a fallen soldier ride and ceremony. On June 12th is the annual charity golf outing. Also regarding sidewalks on Joseph. I wasn't here but I remember it was a pretty contentious fight. It was pretty ugly. And I get it, we have to figure out some kind of resolution. The other thing that I noticed. We have meeting rules that I wrote most of. If you look at public comment and citizens response. Most townships don't have those rules but cities and other municipalities do. If



you answer questions as you go along you can eat up the time of people asking those questions. It becomes adversarial when it's question and answer. Other than that I'm happy that summer activities are starting soon.

Mr Rajagopal - I was very proud of the fire department for the help they gave with vaccinations. I contacted the health department and they are going to provide mobile vaccines. I talked with the coordinator John and they are going to do it the week of May 23rd. My hope is that everyone in Colerain gets the vaccines. One thing we know is that Colerain has a lot of diversity. We will make it possible for anyone to be able to be vaccinated.

10. **New Business**

Public Safety

a. Motion to Dispose of Surplus Property

Chief Denney recommends ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: The property to be disposed of consists of (4) police bicycles that are in excess of 15 years old and are not serviceable. Each bicycle has a current value of less than \$50.

Gary Fisher Bicycle: Serial #WTU164C1068E

Trek Bicycle: Serial # WTUE014111R

Trek Bicycle: Serial # WTUD014041R

Trek Bicycle: Serial # WL3166327

Motion Mr Rajagopal, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No discussion

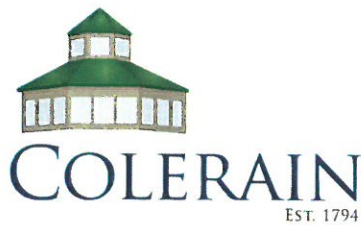
All voted Yes. Motion Passes

b. Motion to Purchase Protective Shields

Chief Denney recommends ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: The Police Department is in need of shields that protect our officers from high power ammunition and complete ballistic protection during close contact with armed suspects. The request is for one 2x4 shield and four 2x3 shields. In November 2020 during our officer involved shooting, we had to wait for another agency to bring shields to us so we could approach the armed suspect's vehicle to get him medical care. The total cost of the five shields is \$19,175.75 and matches state bid price which is 45% off of MSRP.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger



Discussion:

Mr Wahlert - So to satisfy my curiosity, who around here responded as well?

Chief Denney - Springfield Township.

Mr Rajagopal - Chief that's a great investment for our officers.

All voted Yes. Motion Passes

c. Motion to Approve a Noise Permit

Chief Denney recommends ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: St. John's Athletic Boosters seek a noise permit for their Spring celebration from 6pm to 11pm on May 28th.

Permit available in agenda packet on line.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger

No discussion.

All voted Yes. Permit approved

Public Services

Planning & Zoning

a. Resolution Declaring Nuisance and Ordering Abatement

Mr Milz recommends ADOPTION of Resolution #34-21.

Rationale: This resolution allows for the removal of uncontrolled vegetation and/or refuse at the following properties:

9491 Burgess 510-0052-0179-00

9929 Capstan 510-0111-0156-00

8300 Colerain 510-0060-0014-00

2966 Cranbrook 510-0014-0158-00

6662 Daleview 510-0350-0155-00

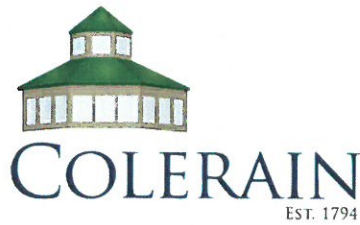
9970 Hollis 510-0111-0152-00

4519 Poole 510-0202-0006-00

3835 Springdale 510-0191-0081-00

All properties that are abated by the Township will have their property taxes assessed in order to reimburse the Township for the abatement services. This resolution and the Township's abatement process comport with the Ohio Revised Code for nuisance violations.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Rajagopal



No Discussion

Vote Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Resolution passes

Administration

- a. Motion Authorizing Township Administrator to Execute an Agreement with Emersion Design for a Facility Master Plan

Mr Weckbach recommends ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: In the 2021 Strategic Plan and Budget, the Board adopted and approved an initiative known as the "Facility Master Plan". This initiative contained a budget of \$150,000. To execute on this initiative, a scope of services was adopted by the Board at the March 9, 2021 Trustees meeting. Staff received three responses to this scope of services, which can be found at this link:

<https://www.colerain.org/DocumentCenter/Index/307> A memorandum is attached to this agenda item that outlines the importance of the Facility Master Plan and provides an overview of the staff recommendation, Emersion Design. The \$118,085 cost is well within the \$150,000 budget approved by the Trustees for this project for 2021. This project is critical to the short and long term future of the community and will leave an impact on this community for decades. It will also help to develop and establish a policy document for execution, similar to a strategic plan specific to our buildings. Staff facilitated a conversation with the Trustees at the April 27, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Based on these conversations and internal evaluations, staff is bringing forward an agreement with Emersion Design for a full facility master plan for Colerain Township. This plan will:

- ☐ Establish a prioritization process of Township facility needs in an actionable document that accounts for the Township's ability to pay
- ☐ Provide recommendations on energy efficiencies and other cost saving measures to improve our existing facilities
- ☐ Provide a document that would serve as a strategic plan for our major capital and infrastructure projects.

Agreement available in agenda packet on line.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger

Discussion:

Mr Wahlert - I think we're a little bit early with this document. and I'm not ready to support this now.

Mr Unger - I would prefer and independent firm.

Mr Rajagopal - I'm a strong believer of strategic goals and evidence based programs.

Vote - Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - No

Motion Passes

- b. Motion Authorizing the Township Administrator to Execute an Agreement with Cincinnati Bell for Public Wifi in Township Parks

Mr Weckbach recommends ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: Colerain was awarded \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars for the 2018-2020 allocation period. These dollars were originally set to be used in the following manner:

- ☐ \$150,000: Sidewalk Maintenance Improvements
 - ☐ \$50,000: Senior Center Improvements
 - ☐ \$25,000: Northbrook Strategic Investment Plan
 - ☐ \$75,000: Acquisition and Demolition of Blighted Properties
- These projects came in under budget during the 2018-2020 timeframe by approximately \$81,000. These remaining CDBG dollars can be repurposed for projects in low-moderate income areas of the Township. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the digital divide in various portions of Colerain, as many residents do not have access to reliable internet. COVID-19 also resulted in a heightened use of Township parks. These two factors seem to indicate that the construction of public Wifi in several of our parks is a suitable alternative for our existing CDBG dollars. Wifi in our parks would also provide a new amenity that could strengthen the overall marketability of the parks for future shelter rentals and events. Below are the parks that would be eligible for Wifi and would receive Wifi as part of this contract:

- ☐ Clippard Park
- ☐ Groesbeck Park
- ☐ Skyline Park
- ☐ Wert Park

Agreement available in agenda packet on line

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Rajagopal

Discussion

Mr Unger - The entire document is available in the agenda packet and this is a grant not from tax dollars

Mr Wahlert - Says he doesn't see this as a need

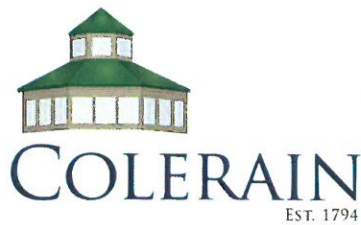
Vote - Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - No

Motion Passes

- c. Motion to Issue Request for Proposals - Public Private Partnership - Fire Station Construction

Mr Weckbach recommends ADOPTION of the Motion.

Rationale: Public Private Partnership's provide local governments with an opportunity to explore and take advantage of unique financing opportunities that are typically not advantageous to tax exempt entities. The Township has identified a need to replace



Station 26. This need was outlined in the Fire Department's needs assessment and 2021 Strategic Plan and Budget Book. This RFP would allow the Township to solicit proposals to explore the financing and construction of a new station 26.

RFP is available in agenda packet on line.

Motion Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Rajagopal

Discussion:

Mr Unger - when the BOE was downtown they were in a building with no parking now they moved to Smith Rd into an existing building. I think this is at least worth looking at.

Mr Rajagopal - When I first got elected, I went around to the fire stations and station 26 is in a sad situation that our guys are living and working in. I told them, "you're going to have a new fire station". Those guys need a new fire station. I talked to Fairfield about how they built a fire station.

Mr Wahlert - Thank you for this. I know I pushed hard for this and we may get nothing back. I think the accelerated depreciation introduced by the Trump administration should help with this.

All voted Yes. Motion passes

d. Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of Appropriations- CARES Act

Mr McElravy recommends ADOPTION of Resolution #35-21.

Rationale: At its April 27, 2021 meeting, the Board adopted Resolution 32-21 to appropriate funds from Fund 2272- Coronavirus Relief Fund- State, for \$101,534.46. There were several carryover encumbrances in addition to the carryover revenue, and as a result the resources available for appropriation were actually \$94,516.47. This Resolution updates the appropriations to match the resources available.

Motion Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

No Discussion

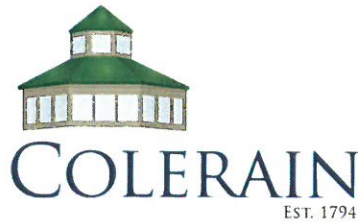
Vote Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Resolution passes.

e. Resolution Adopting Junk Vehicle Procedure

Mr Milz recommends ADOPTION of Resolution #36-21.

Rationale: In the fall of 2003, the Colerain Township Trustees passed its Junk Vehicle Resolution. Since that date, the township's Junk Vehicle Policy has not been updated. On March 5, 2008, the Ohio legislature enacted R.C. 505.871, which granted townships in Ohio new statutory authority to address junk motor vehicles located within a township. The provisions of R.C. 505.871 specifically vested township boards of trustees with the express statutory authority to actually remove or cause the



removal of junk motor vehicles from both public and private property located within the unincorporated area of a township. This statute was amended twice since, with the latest version becoming active April 12, 2021. This version is attached to this email as a .PDF. The law, when passed in 2008, specifically allowed a board of trustees, after adopting a written resolution and sending proper notice, to cause a vehicle that satisfies the statutory definition of a junk motor vehicle to be removed from property located in the unincorporated area of a township. Previously, a township board was required to make a determination that a nuisance exists. One of the primary benefits of R.C. 505.871 is that it does not require court involvement prior to removing a junk motor vehicle from a property located in the unincorporated area of the township. Instead, the statute sets forth a specific procedure that allows a board to move forward with the removal of a junk motor vehicle without the assistance of the courts while still providing some due process procedural protections for citizens of the township. Since the determination that a vehicle is a junk motor vehicle is factual in nature, it is extremely important that a board exercise care to accumulate sufficient facts to justify its determination that a vehicle is a junk motor vehicle and to ensure that all procedural requirements are followed. Prior to passing a resolution causing the removal of a junk motor vehicle, a township zoning inspector or other township official will inspect the property and document the existence and condition of the vehicle and preferably take pictures of the property and the junk motor vehicles for use as evidence and support of the board's decision. The zoning inspector or township official will then appear at a special or regular meeting of the board and provide the board with a written report documenting the existence of the junk motor vehicle and any pictures and/or other evidence regarding the vehicle in question. It is our recommendation that the township adopt a new, broad resolution implementing R.C. 505.871 so that residents are aware of the new junk motor vehicle removal authority. Once a township official or officer notices a junk motor vehicle, the board of trustees should then adopt an additional resolution each time it wishes to address a specific junk vehicle. A township may address multiple junk motor vehicles located on the same property with the same resolution.

Motion - Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Wahlert

Discussion

Mr Unger - I was contacted recently about the Kennedy Motors issue

Mr Wahlert - I've also heard this a lot and I'm glad to see this.

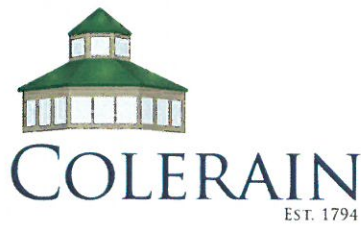
Mr Rajagopal - This plan is part of the strategic planning. The process is great. We're using the ORC guidelines for the process.

Vote - Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

Resolution Passes

11. Old Business

12. Consent Items



a. New Hire - Police Officer - Police Department

Mr Milz recommends approval of all consent items

A hiring process was advertised and included a written examination, physical agility test, oral board, background investigation, CVSA truth verification, and interview with the Chief. Summer Jenkins, if approved, would be eligible for employment on 5/12/2021 and will work 40 hours per week at a rate of \$25.48 per hour. She will serve a one year probationary period. This is contingent on the successful passage of a medial and psychological evaluation.

b. New Hire - Police Officer - Police Department

A hiring process was advertised and included a written examination, physical agility test, oral board, background investigation, CVSA truth verification, and interview with the Chief. Roger Epure, if approved, would be eligible for employment on 5/12/2021 and will work 40 hours per week at a rate of \$25.48 per hour. She will serve a one year probationary period. This is contingent on the successful passage of a medial and psychological evaluation.

c. New Hire - Seasonal Maintenance Worker - Public Services Department

The position of Seasonal Maintenance Worker was posted, applications were received and interviews conducted. A conditional offer of employment was extended to the following individual: Cody Brown. The wage for this job is \$12.50 per hour for 40 hours per week through the season. Contingent upon Board approval, he would be eligible to begin work on May 12, 2021.

d. Contract - Rumpke - Residential Solid Waste - Final Contract

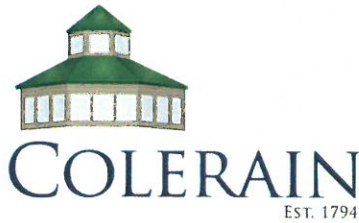
The Board of Trustees authorized the Township Administrator to execute an agreement with Rumpke for Solid Waste and Recycling services at the April 13, 2021 Board of Trustee meeting. The attached contract reflects the final, signed agreement with Rumpke.

e. Contract - Plattenburg - Accounting Services

This contract will allow the Finance Department to reach out to a CPA with questions as the year goes on.

f. Contract - KZF - SORTA Grant Writing

This service order will produce an application to SORTA for grant funds.



Motion to approve all consent items Mr Unger, Seconded Mr Rajagopal

Discussion:

Mr Unger - One of the other things about the Rumpke contract was that there was a third party for customer service issues. I think our citizens prefer contacting Rumpke directly.

Mr Wahlert - Good to see new hires in the Police Department. Likes the use of force data that we're going to see.

Mr Rajagopal - Looking at the contract on page 28 section 240 it says the Field Route supervisor will adjudicate issues. Is that something new?

Mr Milz - No I don't think so. We typically coordinate with our representative.

Vote - Mr Unger - Yes, Mr Rajagopal - Yes, Mr Wahlert - Yes

All consent items approved

13. Fiscal Office Report

We have fulfilled 90 public records requests so far this year. Secondly we received liquor control approval letters for the following businesses:

Peach Grove Market

Bob Evans

There were no objections to either.

Lastly, I want to mention the Wert Park Garden boxes. Information can be found on the web site under parks. It's a great opportunity to teach and learn to garden. They're only \$25 for the year and I encourage anyone who is interested in leasing space to contact the township and reserve their spot while they last.

14. Executive Session – if needed

15. Adjournment

Mr Unger wanted to mention that we lost a resident about a week and a half ago named Ron Emerson. He was a proud and active teamster. I would like to extend my sympathy to his family.

Motion to adjourn Mr Wahlert, Seconded Mr Unger

All voted Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Fiscal Officer

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

COLERAIN