



Madison Township
4575 Madison Lane Groveport, Ohio 43125
Telephone (614) 836-5308 Fax (614) 836-5370
www.madisontownship.org



Madison Township Express

March 26, 2024, Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

Presentations

Police Chief Gary York thanked the following police personnel for their dedication and service to the Township. Officer Brandie Kranz, 5 years; School Resource Officer Brian Schwotzer, 25 years; and Police Commander Vic Boyd, 20 years. Congratulations to all.

Administrator Brobst clarified several items regarding the Township Aggregation program prior to Trebel, updating the Board. The voters approved the ballot language for both programs in the Spring of 2013. The opt-out versus opt-in programs provide greater savings potential for the program. The Township has always required that residents not be charged a fee to join or leave our program, and the supplier must offer complete budget billing, not all suppliers are willing or able to offer these options.

There has been some confusion on “eligibility” for the Township Aggregation program and receiving the opt-out mailers. Eligible residents and small businesses in Madison Township, including those in the Cities of Groveport, Canal Winchester, and Obetz, that receive utilities from AEP or Columbia Gas are potentially eligible for the Township Aggregation program. If the consumer is already under a contract for services of their choosing, or they participate in the PIPP program, they would not receive information on the current program. If an eligible resident changes their mind or does not receive the opt-out form, they can ask to be removed from either program at any time by calling 1-844-795-7491, weekdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Trebel LLC, consultant Erin Schmerschneider updated the Board that while shopping since the February meeting, a slightly lower electric rate was found for the 2025-2026 term, about 10 days after the last meeting, \$.06629 Kwh for the second year’s aggregation. She also offered to continue to shop for rates before the April 23rd Board meeting, to see if more savings might be available. If no lower rate is found in the next month, the .06629 kWh could still be locked in with Archer Energy. As mentioned last month, should rates drop in or near the second year of the agreement, a “blend with lower rates” could take effect earlier in the contract.

Several things can influence the electric rate. While the extended frigid temperatures have not been the issue this winter, having two rounds of severe storms throughout central Ohio and surrounding service areas has had an impact, along with recent news of growing demand for electronic vehicles, reduced

battery prices, etc. A concern in looking at 12 months out, is that rates could continue to rise at various intervals, as the anticipated demand on the electronic grid contributes to the increasing prices.

During the discussion, the Board stated they have been contacted by a few residents who have lower rates and are upset the Township has locked in "higher pricing". Erin shared that since she does not know the terms of their agreements, she can only share that, many factors go into energy commodity contract prices. Items like start date, contract term length, fixed rate versus variable rate, budget billing, and termination fees can all contribute to your price.

The natural gas rate secured by Madison Township provides a competitive, fixed price that allows residents to enter and exit at any time without penalty. As it pertains to the Columbia Gas of Ohio SCO rate, it is important to remember that this rate changes every month. While current market conditions have allowed gas prices to remain very low, just last year, rates were 2-3 times higher. The fixed rate secured by the Township provides residents an "insurance policy" to be protected against fluctuating market prices.

SWACO Communities Program Administrator Karen Seidel shared and clarified information on the SWACO Recycling Grant Program, including that there no longer needed to be a decision made by tonight's meeting regarding participation in the program. The input from the Township survey on this issue was helpful.

Old Business

Administrator Brobst summarized the presentation on the electric aggregation and confirmed that the Board wanted to wait until the next meeting to lock in a rate. Regarding the SWACO Recycling Toter Program, the Board felt it was in the Township's best interest to wait and see what options are available when bids are received for the new trash agreement in the summer of 2025.

New Business.

Administrator Susan Brobst announced that Franklin County Public Health has asked to partner with Madison Township for a June 1st tire collection, to be held at Brobst Park from 9 a.m. - noon. A maximum of 10 rimless tires will be accepted per address. A grant from the EPA was received to assist with the cost of this event, which also means that residents of Madison Township, the City of Columbus, Groveport, Canal Winchester, Obetz, and all those in Franklin and surrounding counties may participate. More information will be posted closer to the event.

Public Comment - none

Department Reports

Assistant Fire Chief Chas Adams asked the Board to approve the resolution allowing the department to continue mutual aid services for Pickaway County.

Police Chief Gary York informed the Board that a resolution was on the agenda for a range agreement at Rickenbacker. Chief asked for support in declaring items as surplus and selling them for \$1.00 to Eastland Police Academy for training purposes.

Public Works Superintendent Dave Watkins shared the Franklin County Engineer report that the three county bridges in the township range from very good, good, and satisfactory condition. The County Engineers have asked for our list of roads to be included in their bid resurfacing process for 2024. After the bids are received, the Township would evaluate the cost and make a final decision as to exactly which roads would be included, a resolution is on the agenda. The roads, outside of our OPWC project, include Benham Court, Loeffler Drive, Marlowa Drive, Wyncote Road, and speed tables at the intersections of Wingate and Trenton and Walburn and Trenton (as part of our speed reduction pilot program).

Administrator Susan Brobst provided a quick recap of the Franklin County Drainage Engineer's public meeting regarding Hott Ditch clean-up, which was held earlier this afternoon.

Fiscal Officer Laurie Vermeer reported the total cash on hand to be \$11,338,980.87. Funds available by department are listed below. Any discrepancies in the reported total and combined funds are due to the existence of several other small, specific funds not mentioned.

Fire \$ 5,739,568.49	General \$ 2,271,142.09
Public Works \$ 814,700.52	Police \$ 1,040,871.88

Public Comment - none

Business of the Board

All resolutions presented were approved by the Board.

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