

## OHIO TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

January 12, 2026

The trustees met in regular session with all members present.

Also present were Jason Barger, Cpl. Rich Wallace, Asst. Chief Watkins, PTFD, Scott Smith, Wendy Kangus, Meagan Kangus, Les Smith and Emily Supinger

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Vogelsang.

***Mr. Gilpin made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2025, regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Wolf. All members voted "yea"***

***Mr. Wolf made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2026, special meeting, seconded by Mr. Gilpin. All members voted "yea"***

Scott Smith spoke to the trustees about the campers on the Willis property on SR 132, noting that the intention is to continue cleaning up the property and remodel the house for his mother-in-law; noted he understands the zoning code, hopes to find a property to move the campers to soon and does not wish to have a court related issue with the township. Emily Supinger noted that the township has filed for an injunction on the matter. Les Smith reported that the township has only had one other zoning issue with the property in the past. Emily Supinger reported that mediation is no longer available for a solution as it was in the past, so a case is filed, the defendant responds and the case is heard in court. Mr. Vogelsang asked how much time is needed. Scott Smith asked for as much time as possible to continue cleaning up the property and find a place to relocate the campers to, also noting that he does want to be subjected to the possible \$500 per day fine for non-compliance. Emily Supinger suggested agreeing to a commitment to bring the property into compliance that can be reported to the court within the next 90 days. Mr. Wolf asked in more than 90 days can be granted. Emily Supinger that at some point the case will have to be tried. Scott Smith agreed to have the property cleaned up in 90 days. The consensus of the trustees was to allow the additional 90 days' time to continue cleaning up the property.

Tom Niehaus spoke to the trustees about re-naming the walking trail in the township park in honor of trustee Rick Hinson who recently retired after 32 years of service to the township, noting that Mr. Hinson was proud of being able to install a walking trail in the park during that time. Possible sign designs were reviewed. Tom Niehaus offered to assist with the project if needed. The consensus of the trustees was to allow Tom Niehaus to continue working on the project in communication with Rick Hinson.

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Asst. Chief Watkins, PTFD, gave his report (on file). Reported that all of the equipment repairs have been completed and all are back in service.

Cpl. Wallace, CCSO, gave his report (on file).

Les Smith gave his zoning report (on file). Reported that the recent BZA variance request was approved at the meeting. Mr. Vogelsang asked about the zoning issues at 1305 Libby Lane; response was that there are 3 trailers loaded with junk as well as an inoperable truck on the street and junk in the yard. Mr. Vogelsang asked what of that is a zoning violation. Emily Supinger noted that it would not be considered for a nuisance consideration, but a letter can be sent from her law firm notifying them of the zoning issues. Les Smith will forward his file to Emily Supinger for further action.

Jason Barger gave his maintenance report (on file). Reported that the tanker truck repair is ongoing, hopefully to be resolved in the next day or two; squad 1 is still out of service.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Letters received from the county recorder and farm bureau were noted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*BZA Appointment:* Bill Gilpin noted that Chris Henderson's term expires in March. Les Smith will contact him to see if he is interested in remaining on the board.

*Hall Rental Policy:* A resolution was reviewed that institutes a rental fee for use of the township hall.

***Mr. Wolf made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-20 establishing fees for township hall rentals. Seconded by Mr. Gilpin. All members voted "yea"***

*Squad Purchase Discussion:* Bill Gilpin reported that since 2024 and 2025 did not result in any major unexpected expenses in the fire levy fund it may be possible for the township to purchase a re-chassisied squad with funds on hand. Asst. Chief Watkins will look around to see what type of squads might be available, noting that it is important to make sure the truck is very similar to what is being purchased new.

***Mr. Wolf made a motion to authorize trustee Gilpin to work with Asst. Chief Watkins on purchasing a new squad. Seconded by Mr. Gilpin. All members voted "yea"***

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*Park Discussion:* Covered previously in the meeting.

Mr. Vogelsang noted that there is still the need for someone to take care of the township hall rentals for 2026. Tom Niehaus explained the process and noted that the time required is not excessive. Mr. Gilpin volunteered to take care of the reservations for the hall and shelter.

Fund balances were discussed.

The following were read and approved with warrants written for same: (payment summary on following page).

***Mr. Gilpin made a motion to adjourn at 7:39pm, seconded by Mr. Wolf. All members voted "yea"***