

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at the Administration Building, 6032 Morris Road, Fairfield Township, OH 45011, for conducting Township business. Meeting was called to order by Mr. Berding, Board Chairperson at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL: Fiscal Officer, Shelly Schultz

Trustee Chairperson, Michael Berding	Present
Trustee Vice Chairperson, Shannon Hartkemeyer	Present
Trustee, Joe McAbee	Present

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATIONS

- A. MetroParks – Trail access – they were unable to join us this evening.
- B. Fairfield Coalition – Annual Report – Fairfield Prevention Coalition has been around for over 20 years in Fairfield doing universal prevention in schools throughout the community. We’re starting to really track how many students we’re really impacting, and the numbers are just climbing. The last 2 years we received opioid settlement dollars from you on behalf of the Township \$10,000.00 each time. We said we’d come back and tell you what we did with the money and of course ask for another round if it’s possible. We represent 12 sectors of the community Fairfield Schools, law enforcement, youth agencies, the United Way, businesses, faith organizations, government, parents and mostly young people. Today we have about 173 youth signed up on our four-youth coalitions. We have 70 in our high school coalition. We’re a nonprofit coalition. Fairfield City Schools is our fiscal agent. We focus on preventing substance use onset. Our focus in the last 2 years has increased to include opioid onset, which is the misuse of prescription legal painkillers. We have over 45 agencies and youth agencies serving on our board and we have over 150 students in grades 6 through 12 on our coalitions. We start recruiting students in the sixth grade. Most students serve about 4 or 5 years even 6 years on our youth coalition before they graduate from high school.

Mr. McAbee – Thank you for being here.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Your mission is very worthy, and I just want to say that all 4 of you did a wonderful job public speaking talking about something that’s worthy and that you believe in to help make our community a better place. Well done.

Mr. Berding – Is all the numbers and data you gave us based on student surveys?

Fairfield Coalition - Yes, the valid reliable survey from Prevention First which is done all over Southwestern Ohio is a valid reliable survey.

Mr. Berding – Do you have data from the high school as far as the number of students that are being suspended or expelled due to vape use now that you know THC might be easier to get a hold of.

Fairfield Coalition – The new round of data, the two-year data comes out next month.

Mr. Berding – Can you get back to us on that?

Fairfield Coalition – The 6-to-8-year trend on vaping is spiraling down. They’ve gotten better at catching vaping just like a speed trap on a highway. But overall, not only in Ohio, but across the country vaping is on the downward spiral but it’s more dangerous for those who are with the THC and stuff that’s going in it.

Mr. Berding – So is the ask of this board to try to give you some of our funds that were sent to us for the opioid settlement?

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Fairfield Coalition – Yes, that is why we’re here trying to show you some results we’ve had with the first 2 rounds that you’ve given us and we’re back here asking for a 3rd round.

Mr. Berding - I think it’s great use of that money that is sent to us.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Did we talk about using some of that money to build new signs. I’d like to get a status update on that and see if we can possibly fix the signs and then also do this. I would like to clarify too if that’s money that we can’t necessarily use for other things like salaries. So, it’s sort of restricted use with township fund accounting. It’s not like we can say we can take this and pay for police salaries or pay for a new fire station. I think the signs were one thing that we could do and then this program is something that we can utilize those funds for.

Motions

- A. Mr. McAbee made a motion to amend the agenda to add motion to approve \$10,000 donation to Fairfield Prevention Coalition, second by Mr. Berding. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding – ‘aye, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye.
Motion passes.

- B. Motion made by Mr. McAbee to approve \$10,000 donation to Fairfield Prevention Coalition, second by Mr. Berding. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding – ‘aye, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye.
Motion passes.

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Calendar – Mrs. Lapensee – we had a request at the last meeting to talk about the calendar from Shannon. Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I just want to make sure that we had a quick chat around the calendar to make sure that what we have for our March meeting is appropriate that we’ve kind of talked through that. The other thing that we probably should add also is capital budget consideration. I would add that to November or December. Is there anything else in February that we need to add? Same thing for March. Does that look okay to everyone?

- B. Pickleball Court – Mrs. Lapensee – we talked about different projects that we have brewing for the year, and pickleball courts came up again. Last year we were granted money from the ODNR in the amount of \$35,000 and we were hoping to finish that project this year. Michael talked to the Community Foundation, and they agreed hopefully will agree to give us money towards the pickleball project. Then as a group we decided that we would try to talk to other donors within the township to try to raise the additional funds. I think the total we need to get, we have a gap of \$75,000, so with the \$25,000 donation we’ll need to still fill the gap of \$50,865.
Mr. Berding – I’ve been in discussion with Mr. Goins and the Fairfield Community Foundation and Mrs. Lapensee and we were trying to be creative of how we could raise those funds and we figured since we needed \$75,000 and potentially the redesign of the pickleball courts were 4 pickleball courts and 1 tennis ball court. If we could put a dollar figure on each of those 5 courts, we can get sponsors to sponsor each court and put a plaque or sign up saying that; this court was provided by or sponsored by. So, we figured as a group that was meeting decided that maybe the tennis court, since it’s the largest of

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the 5, could be sponsored by Fairfield Community Foundation at \$25,000 and then that would leave \$50,000 needed for the other 4 courts. So, each court \$12,500. So, if we can find 4 major donors to each give \$12,500. The board would have to okay naming a court after a corporation or an individual that made that donation. So that's also part of the conversation tonight is how do you want to complete this without using any township money to finish it or is that just something you're like it's not worth the effort? The other conversation is, is there a dollar amount once we get to could we say let's start the project knowing that we eventually will get the rest of it. So, let's say we get 75%, we need another \$50,000 and we get three of the pickleball courts paid for. Could we go ahead and get the company started on the project knowing that we just need to get that one more court paid for and until that court is paid for the township will cover the cost if it's not raised by the time the court opens. So that's the discussion I would like to have tonight, sort of summarizing it. So, I open the floor to comments.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I really like the idea of raising funds in lieu of using township funds. I'd like to see that continue.

Mr. McAbee – As long as it doesn't cost us any money, I'm okay. I think maybe we need to have the commitment and the money first before we start the project.

Mr. Berding - If we raise \$60,000 or \$62,000 of the \$75,000 then we wait until we get the final one. If we get 3 of the courts covered, if Susan and I personally guarantee the 4th one could we move forward with the project?

Mr. McAbee – If your check clears the bank, yes, we can move forward.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Perhaps we can come up with some kind of legal document that established some parameters around that.

Katie Barbieri, Law Director – If you're going to offer that out as an incentive to donors you're going to want to have that spelled out in writing.

Mr. Berding – Okay let me hear from the board its okay for the community foundation and some of us that were going to be doing it to go out and get sponsorship for that, and you would be okay with the naming of the courts?

Mr. McAbee – You know we've had some big donors that have been very good to us forever and ever and you know you don't want to go back to the same place again. But I'm in favor. If we find 4 major donors that want to do that and the Fairfield Community Foundation is on board then it makes sense that we move forward with it.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Would you entertain the idea if there were people that maybe just wanted to split one and maybe do like \$5,000 or something?

Mr. Berding – I think so. I think the way that Katie Braswell talked about it's possible that multiple people could contribute to one. I think one of our memorials is two separate entities came together and so both their names are on that memorial as well. We've identified about 6 people to ask.

- C. Administration building maintenance – Mrs. Lapensee – Over the last snow event that we had the backside of our building froze. I don't know if the gutters backed up and then the water came back but it came back behind all the brick and froze the windows on the back side of the building. Today the service department was over here, and they fixed all the windows and then put up plastic over the areas where the wind blows in. I was hoping in the future to be able to get some quotes on replacing the windows in this building. I don't know if they've ever been replaced. This building was built in the 70's. I wouldn't try to do them all at one time. Maybe a couple at a time, maybe 4 or 5, but I think it definitely needs to be done.

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Mr. Berding – Right now we’re kind of at a spending freeze, no pun intended but I think its worth at least looking at it and getting some pricing. I’m not sure we can move on right away, but I think it’s important that we take care of our building.

- D. MetroParks - Mrs. Lapensee – Jackie said she couldn’t make it tonight. Basically, they wanted to ask us, they have commissioners’ money that they were promised to develop a trail from where it terminates right now at Timber Trails and they want to extend that all the way to the city of Monroe, so they are looking at different ways. They own bits and pieces of properties and they’re looking for ways to connect their properties. One of the ways that they had looked at was using Canal Road as a connection point. Since it’s our right of way, it’s our maintenance, it’s owned by the county, but we maintain it. They wanted to know if we would be okay with them using the roadway.

Mr. McAbee – I would want to know what they’re going to use it for.

Mrs. Lapensee – They would put it in as a trail and basically people would use it as a trail. I suggested that they widen the road on one side and then make that a dedicated bike lane. I didn’t know how you felt about it so I suggested they come and ask you.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I’d like to see a map of what that is and what part of Canal Road. We should probably talk with the residents about that as well.

Mrs. Lapensee - It would be the part where the CSX tracks cross.

COMMUNICATION

Denise McCoy. 6673 Spring Meadow Drive - I’m here tonight to speak as a resident of Fairfield Township. At the last few meetings, the board has discussed fire, police, and public works to levies to be placed on the May ballot. And as a resident, we must decide what kind of service that we still want in Fairfield Township. But some residents won't be deciding that. They'll just be deciding what they can afford. As a resident of Fairfield Township, I want our fire, police, and public works department to continue. I would like to see all the vacant positions filled because we're a township. The township is given X amount of dollars to provide service to the residents. Since the money is primarily coming from residents who pay property tax, the fire, police, and public works department should be our priority. At the January meeting, there was discussion about refurbishing the fire station on Morris Road. The cost being almost 2.5 million. The administrator mentioned financing it with a 5-year loan. Trustee Hartkemeyer, you said you would like to see figures that involve 10 to 20 years for a loan. That doesn't make sense to me. Going into debt for a fire station renovation and paying interest fees that would total over 10,000 to \$10,000 of fees. If the levy doesn't pass, how are you going to make the payment on the \$2.5 million loan when in 2025 I believe we came short of \$6 million. I’m not opposed to levies, but what are we going to do if they don't pass? Trustee Hartkemeyer, you have stated in past meetings how our general fund is healthy and rich and how we have four TIF accounts. You stated we could use the TIF money to pay for the fire station, but at the last meeting you stated TIF money could be used for salaries. We're a township. We're not a city. We're not a company that produces revenue. The township provides services to the residents. And as a resident, I am asking for that. Trustee Berding, you said in past meetings that significant cuts should be made before putting a levy out to the residents. I would like to hear the cuts that the trustees are going to be making. What I have heard in meetings is to the chief of fire, police, and Mr. Bennett, vacancies will not be filled. Mrs. Lapensee, you have done an outstanding job for our township. The wealth and knowledge and concern for the township's finances and the money that you have saved the township is remarkable and we are very blessed to have you as an administrator and also, I'd like to add in closing congratulations on your trustee win, and I do mean that sincerely. Thank you.

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Paul Yeckel, 7856 Bridgewater Lane - And not to get into my three minutes, but it's my understanding there's just a police and a fire levy on the ballot. Correct? There's not a public works levy on the ballot. That's not okay. First, before I begin, I'd like to and I seem to do this every time I come up here, but it's worthy. Since we had 61° deree weather a couple weeks ago we had minus 10 or something like that. And our public works department was out working 24, 36, 48-hour shifts around the clock. I see them on my road at 4 in the afternoon and 4 in the morning. And I got pictures to prove it. They did an outstanding job of dealing with probably the most severe storm that we've had here in probably 3 to 4 years. So, I want to thank Mr. Bennett and his crew publicly for their great work. In addition, the fire and police department's right in this in that horrible weather with the snow and the cars and the ditches and the whole bit. So again, our township trustees are second to none. I'm sorry, our township employees are second to none. They really have done an outstanding job and that's why I'm coming up here tonight. You know, the elephant in the room obviously is in less than three months is we're going to have four property tax levies in Fairfield Township two of them are township levies 2.99 for police and 4.49 for fire a 2 mil levy for Butler County Department of Developmental Disabilities totaling 9.48 48 mills in property levies for township residents if all three of those pass. In addition, of course, Fairfield City School District has sought in their wisdom to place a 1.25% earned income tax on the ballot. So, you can imagine the community discussion that's going around as of late, Mr. Berding, you said, you know, and I agree with you, there's support for our fire department. You know, we want to support our fire department, and we want to support our police department, and we want to support DD, and we want to support our schools. But the question there is, okay, can you afford all four? And it's really coming down to an affordability question. And I agree with Miss McCoy; I want our fire department to be fully funded, fully staffed, and to function as a township of 26,000 people. We're not Seven Mile. We're not Jacksonburg. This is a township. We just happen to be surrounded by Hamilton, Fairfield, Middletown, Westchester. We're much bigger, so we kind of look smaller. But the thing that I want to put to the trustees right now is I don't see all four of these levies passing in May. People are tapped out, especially since the reassessment of the houses in Fairfield Township. So, the thing I'm asking is I think that our state leaders, Representatives Gross, Representative Mullins, Senator Lang, Representative Creech, and the Butler County delegation, seem to be having it both ways. I think they're talking about cutting taxes and fiscal conservative and looking at what we're doing for the people of Ohio, leaving the hard decisions to this semicircle of people here. They get to be the hero, and you all are having to play the role of the bad guy or the jerk because when these tax levies don't pass, the hard decisions won't be made in Columbus. They won't be made at the Savannah Ballroom. They'll be made right here in this room with real people and real things at stake. So, the thing I would ask the trustees to wrap up is if you haven't done so already, I hope we have some hard conversations with our Butler County legislative delegation because I'm telling you there aren't a lot of people here tonight. Obviously, there never is unless Lakewood's being rezoned. There aren't a lot of people here, but the anger is palpable and it's not to be ignored. And I think people need to start preparing for the fact that people are going to be turning down at least one of these levies. So, I hope that the trustees take that into consideration. Again, I want to thank the township employees for doing a terrific job for what you have to work with at this time. Thank you.

Mr. Berding – I will tell you in response to that I've had conversations with not just Butler County state representatives but also state representatives across the state that I've had dealings with through Butler Tech to express the issues that local townships are having. Because we don't just need the support of just our local representatives we need it across the whole state.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – That was the hot topic at the OTA conference last week. Governor Dewine came in and addressed that. There were specific sessions just about that issue. Then the bigger issue is the group out of Cleveland which is looking to completely abolish property taxes. The other point that I got

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from that conference is that out of all the property taxes that are collected townships across the board only receive about 7.5% of everything that's collected. Schools get the lion share of that with 64%. Then there's some different programs that are there but out of that its 7.5%. That's all we get. We run this township in general on a shoestring based on the money that we receive and the money that we deploy to our citizens. But I think the bigger picture that we need to watch out for is that property taxes might completely go away. Then what does that do to do to everything else down the road. There are implications for OPERS because that won't be funded anymore. There are implications for lending institutions because if you've got debt and your township is gone what are you going to do? There's no money coming in at all. If there are no property taxes and we somehow manage and we get rid of fire good luck with your homeowners' insurance. Good luck getting insurance on things because who's going to come to put out the fire? A lot of people don't understand the ratings that we get based on our fire department. This whole thing of abolishing property taxes is huge, and it could be devastating to townships and across the board. There's a couple of remedies that people have been talking about like increasing sales tax to horrible rates and income taxes. It's kind of up in the air right now. I think we're just going to have to sit tight and do what we can work on the things that we can control and help to do what we can to make our community strong. We will have to see where there's going to be a lot of things that are completely outside of our control. So, we'll have to see how that plays out.

Mr. McAbee – I don't see property taxes going away. It's just too many connections to it. Something needs to change about it. I attended all those county meetings 2 years ago and people with limited resources were all there, it didn't matter what part of the county you were in, they were all saying the same thing you're putting us out of our house. Something must change.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Legislatively they have been taking actions in Columbus. There are multiple bills that have been introduced up in Columbus. They are trying to make headway and to make changes and modifications. I spoke with several of our legislators on many occasions about that. They are making efforts to do this. Also, the CLOUT board, the coalition of large urban townships, which I serve on, specifically brought together a coalition of people that's comprised of some of the unions and different groups that have a stake in this whole property tax thing. So, there are people trying to look at that at the state level as well. And another note too townships used to be funded a lot by local government funds. When the estate tax was abolished several years ago that fund was decimated. We did just have an increase in the local government fund. It wasn't a lot. I think it was a .25%. It's good that we can express gratitude that we got something because they have been fighting to increase that number in Columbus for years. I suppose any amount is something we can be grateful for. But it is just that money is not the way it used to be.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt the consent agenda.

Michael Berding made a motion to approve Consent Agenda; Shannon Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. Abee – 'aye'.

Motion passes.

Mr. Berding – The only comments I'll make is that we did have to have a special meeting and an emergency meeting on February 3rd just to clear up some language in the two levy proposals that we sent to the board of elections. That's all they were. It just changed a couple words in the documents so that they could go to the board of elections. We didn't change the documents, didn't change the money, just a couple words on there and that's what those 2 meetings were for, and they were advertised and we had those in public sessions.

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Fiscal Office Business - Consent Agenda Items

- A. Recommend motion to suspend reading of the minutes of the following meetings:
 - 1. Trustee Regular Meeting January 13, 2026.
 - 2. Trustee Special Meeting and Emergency Meeting February 3, 2026.
- B. Recommend motion to approve the minutes
- C. Recommend motion to approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Office.

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Resolution No. 26-20 Approving open purchase order balances.
- B. Resolution No. 26-21 Declaring nuisance and ordering abatement on properties.
- C. Resolution No. 26-22 Authorizing appointment of part-time Firefighter/EMT Samuel Chittum.
- D. Resolution No. 26-23 Authorizing Crack Seal to be purchased at a price not to exceed \$10,000.00.
- E. Resolution No. 26-24 Certifying Township Highway Mileage for 2025.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT – Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer,

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$1,002,884.73
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE – MEDICAL	\$86,504.57
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Hamilton)	\$97,541.33
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Fairfield)	\$50,693.46
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (2.95%)	\$15,394,147.36
Interest Earned in JANUARY	\$38,519.49
GRANT MONEY RECEIVED	\$0.00
EMS BILLING RECEIPTS TO DATE	\$90,122.15
REVENUE TO DATE (21.739%)	\$4,418,169.79
REVENUE BUDGETED FOR 2026	\$20,323,548.00
EXPENDITURES TO DATE (%)	\$5,165,774.64
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026	\$23,891,268.00
PAYMENTS MADE IN JANUARY	\$1,165,774.64
MAJOR FUND BALANCES	

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1. GENERAL	\$4,782,167.51
2. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$590,734.69
3. POLICE FUND	\$440,182.18
4. FIRE LEVY FUND	\$2,577,082.31
5. SAFETY SERVICES FUND	\$164,246.35
6. FIRE RESCUE, AMBULANCE, EMS FUND	\$395,273.84
7. JEDD FUND (HAMILTON)	\$2,275,052.09
8. JEDD FUND (FAIRFIELD)	\$101,437.56
9. TIF (STORYPOINT)	\$639,237.51
10. TIF (PRINCETON)	\$1,858,103.93
11. TIF (SEWARD)	\$597,165.04
12. TIF (BRIDGEWATER)	\$5,984.33
13. RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (RID)	\$1,175,260.33
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$16,420,344.81

Mr. Berding – We have a few resolutions that deal with the fire station, and we recently got an email about potential capital budget money. I'd like for the board to discuss whether it would be prudent to table approving any renovations to the firehouse until we can see if we can apply for capital money for that.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'd love to have that discussion. I'm very interested in applying for capital budget money and this I think would be outstanding. I think the applications are due next month. I think that it would be a very good use of time and resources to pursue getting some sort of funding.

Mr. McAbee – Yes, I was going to ask about that myself in putting together a package and seeing if we could get \$2.8 Million.

Mr. Berding – I think it makes sense before we commit. I think the board is in favor of the repairs. It needs to be done. Problem we run into is we don't have the money right now. We do it in TIF accounts, but do we borrow against that? But if we could apply for capital project money and if we can hold off making the repairs until we find out whether we can if it's an acceptable subject to be applied for because there are certain limitations. I think it's worth pausing for the moment. And, again, I think judging by our comments in prior meetings we know that they should be done. We also have to be fiscally responsible; can we get some state dollars to pay for this before we either A) borrow the money or B) spend residents' money on it. So, if that's the case should we table Item A, B and C that deal with the fire station. Should we also then move to table separately. Correct?

Katie Barbieri, Law Director - You don't have to move to table just table. You don't have to vote on them to act.

Mr. Berding – I think we should table Resolutions 26-07, 26-18 and 26-25.

Resolutions

****TABLED****

- A. Resolution No. 26-07 – A Resolution to approve the Renovation of Fire Station 211 by HGC Construction at a Base Cost not to exceed \$2,464,043.00 plus alternates in the cost of \$130,567.89 for a total cost of \$2,594,610.89 and paid from multiple funds.

B. ****TABLED****

Resolution No. 26-18 – A Resolution authorizing the Township Administrator to sign a letter of engagement with Bradley Payne for municipal advisory services.

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C. **TABLED**

Resolution No. 26-25 – A Resolution providing for the issuance and sale of General obligation (limited Tax) Capital Improvement Bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 to pay the agreements and certificates and declaring an emergency.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT, Mrs. Kim Lapensee

- D. Resolution 26-26 – A Resolution revising resolution authorizing the Administrator to execute agreement with the Butler County Emergency Management Cooperative Program at a total cost of \$12,850.75. Mrs. Lapensee stated she was under the impression that the fees stayed the same from 2025 to 2026. They did stay the same but apparently, we gained residences. So that is why our bill went up. So, we gained 424 residents according to the EMA. So, it was an increase of \$250.75. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding made a motion to approve Resolution #26-26, Mrs. Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’, and Mr. McAbee - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
- E. Resolution No. 26-27 – A Resolution revising the 2026 permanent appropriations by attached fund totals for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026. Mrs. Lapensee stated she left off the special police funds. So, on this resolution we added special police funds so that would be the 2221 drug law enforcement. I believe we have \$100 in that. So, I’m asking you to appropriate \$100 in that account. Under the enforcement education which is 2271 we have a balance of \$8,350 in that account. Then in the equitable sharing 2911 there’s a balance of \$15,029 in that account. That account was going to be used mainly for the drone program that we established last year. So, we wanted to make sure that those funds were added to our permanent appropriations so that we could spend money out of those in the police department. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-27, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Transportation Improvement District (TID) – Trustee McAbee – We met yesterday and all of our projects are moving forward. There will be some public hearings coming out later this Spring. I’ll let you know when those dates are posted.
- B. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – We met this afternoon. There is some training coming up in Middletown, the G300 and G400. So, if you’re interested in sending anyone to that it’s coming up in Middletown. Reach out to Jim Bolan for more information. They are working on local disaster recovery plans. That might be something that we want to work on too.
- I want to share with everyone that due to the snow event January 24th through the 27th this snow event occurred at record/near record snowfall for approximately 48 hours. Now when that happens there is a federal program, potentially a state program but a federal program that opens up where we can potentially get some money back for what we did in order to support that event. This is going to be submitted countywide. We will have to complete a form and put it into the EMA. The things we can submit in this form are equipment hours, overtime hours, salt, brine and deicer costs, any contract costs for snow removal. This also pertains to salaries and expenditures that were put forth by fire, police and of course public works. I would highly

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recommend that we work on getting this information together by February 13th. Townships, cities, etc. are being asked to put something together for this. If it meets the overall financial threshold and we submit that we can get some money back for the work that we did. This would be a really good way of getting some money back.

- C. Ohio, Kentucky, Indian Regional Council of Government (OKI) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – That meeting will be Thursday, and I will be in attendance for that.
- D. The Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Township (CLOUT) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – I have been reelected to be the on the executive committee for a couple more years. One of the main things that we’re doing here in a couple weeks is we’re having a special meeting to talk about specifically property taxes and what steps we can take and some of the things they want to do.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I have a couple things here to pass to staff. At the OTA Conference you might have picked this up as well, there is a township website program here. I brought this just to pass down some other websites. I don’t know if that would be a cost reduction. If we investigated that that might be a better, faster, less expensive way to do things but there’s information there from a couple of different websites but specifically Ohio Township Service Corps website.

Mr. Berding – I would like to thank our public works department for their work on the latest emergency that we had with the snow. Also, I know many other staff members contributed. I know some people from zoning and some people from police and fire were chipping in and helping. I’m sure our residents greatly appreciate it. I do thank you for making smart decisions when out on the roadways. Making sure crew was rested and looking out for our residents. But also taking care of yourselves.

Thanks to the union, too, for digging out people’s driveways.

One thing I would like for the trustees to consider at least having discussions is you know it’s possible now that if we’re up against it with money the state seems to be starting to reimburse people for dispensaries. This might be a conversation that we need to have as a township. I’m not saying I’m for it or against it, but I think we might want to have some discussions about that.

Mr. McAbee – I’m against it.

Mr. Berding – We must open communication on all ends. So, if your opinion is you’re against it that’s perfectly fine. But I would be remiss as the board chair to at least not bring the subject up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual Chamber Awards Meeting – Thursday, February 12, 2026.
- Presidents Day Observed – Monday, February 16, 2026. All Township offices will be closed.
- Zoning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM.
- Regular Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM.
- Public Hearing Vision Plan – Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:05 PM.
- State of the Community Schools – Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 11 AM.
- Butler Tech Aviation Center Ribbon Cutting – Monday, March 16, 2026, at 10 AM.

Motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the discipline, appointment, employment or compensation of a public employee or official, and ORC 121.22 (2) to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the revised code.

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Michael Berding made a motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. McAbee seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mr. McAbee ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye’. Motion passes.

President convenes Executive Session at 8:12 PM.

President resumes regular meeting at 8:23 PM

ROLL CALL

Mr. Berding	Yes
Mrs. Hartkemeyer	Yes
Mr. McAbee	Yes

F. Resolution No. 26-28 – A Resolution approving an employment contract with Kimberly A. Lapensee as Township Administrator pursuant to ORC Section 505.031 and dispensing with the second reading.

Mr. Berding – We have extended Mrs. Lapensee contract as Township Administrator for another two years due to her outstanding service to our community.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-28, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’.

Motion passes.

G. Resolution No. 26-29 – A Resolution authorizing the Administrator to execute all documents necessary to transfer property. Mrs. Lapensee stated this would be the property at Gilmore Road and Hamilton-Mason. Purchase price is \$950,000. That will go into the general fund and it’s 6.56 acres.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-29, Mrs. Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’, and Mr. Berding - ‘aye’.

Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adjourn at 8:25 PM
All in favor.

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Minutes submitted by:

Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

Michael Berding, Trustee Chairperson

Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

Joe McAbee, Trustee