

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 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: Administrator, Kim Lapensee

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

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to appoint Kim Lapensee clerk pro tem.
All in favor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Administrator, Kim Lapensee

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to open public hearing for our permissive motor vehicle license.
All in favor.

- A. Permissive Motor Vehicle License – Proposed addition of two \$5.00 license plate fees. Mrs. Lapensee, we're here to talk about two proposed \$5 permissive motor vehicle license fees, which would make a total of \$10, which is new for Fairfield Township. I'll explain our current funding challenges, outline how additional funds would be used and then we're also here to gather community feedback on this. Roads are funded for townships through road and bridge property taxes, which is our 2031 fund. Our motor vehicle license tax is what we all pay when we go to register our motor vehicle at the DMV and it's a certain dollar amount. I don't know if it's \$1.30 of that money we get of that money but it's also based on road mileage so we also receive gas tax which we all pay at the pump and we get a certain percentage of that based on road mileage and then we also have county permissive motor vehicle license tax. When you register your vehicles, you pay a \$15 fee for your motor vehicle license, and the county collects it and then the county gives us 30% of that money that's collected. We also have residential incentive districts (RID) for revenues for this mostly pays for paving. All these funds together are not enough to cover our long-term infrastructure needs. So, what gives us the legal authority to do is under Ohio Revised Code section 454.181, which allows townships to levy two additional \$5 license plate fees per registered vehicle. This applies to the unincorporated areas only, and Fairfield Township does not currently collect this tax. In 2025 our permissive motor vehicle license tax revenue was \$77,390.44 which is 30% share of the county's \$15 license plate fee. Our proposed township \$5 fees times two, we would collect about \$225,200 annually.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

Fairfield Township would retain 100% of this new tax. The revenue per vehicle would rise from \$4.50 per vehicle you currently pay now to \$14.50. Here you can see our budget shortfalls; in 2026 we estimate to take in 1.4 million and to spend 1.2 which gives us roughly \$200 in the black. The spreadsheet shown here projects the revenues and expenditures from 2027 all the way down through 2031, the deficit continues to grow from \$211,000 all the way up to \$483,000. This assumes a 1% increase in revenue with a 5 – 8 and sometimes 10% increase in our costs. It's the cost of doing business. We must pay utilities just like everybody else. And they unfortunately keep getting higher. Our Township infrastructure snapshots, we roughly maintain 81 miles of roadway that is not on a regular schedule for maintenance. We have the third largest road inventory in Butler County. We have deferred paying and storm water projects and we have significant curb and gutter deterioration that's throughout the township. How the funds can be used and will be used, flexible capital uses would include asphalt, salt, gravel, cold patch, curb and gutter replacement, storm pipe and jetting systems, road signs, landscaping utilities, public work tools, equipment and vehicles and then obviously contracted services, which is our paving and repairs. What this means for the public, if enacted, the two \$5 license plate fees per vehicle in the unincorporated areas would be added during the annual vehicle registration. The total cost per vehicle would be \$14.50. All the money collected would stay in the township. It does not get shared with anyone. I think the state might take a small fee for that, but mostly all the money stays in the township. The community benefits from doing such a thing would be safer and smoother roads for the public, would be faster storm water response. We would be able to replace aging infrastructure. We would be reducing long-term repair costs because the longer we wait to repair things, the more expensive it is the next year for repairs, which means better quality of life and property values for all of the residents. This is the time for public feedback on this. Do you support the initiative? Do you have any road and storm water concerns or suggestions for priority projects?

- *No comments from the public.*

Mr. McAbee – The presentation answered all my questions. I know last year we talked about this in June or July and now we have a whole lot more information as far as what we think we will collect and it'll help us for at least a certain period.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I like what Mr. McAbee had to say about that.

Mr. Berding – Definitely. Last year we were kind of going blind and the range was from like it would create like \$23,000 or something like that. It was a very low amount and so I'm glad we waited to get more information. So, I think this is something that we could do to help our roads and our infrastructure. It kind of struck me that we were the third largest inventory in the county. So, the next step would be to have another public hearing, give residents another opportunity to give us feedback and then the trustees would vote up or down on this and then it would go to the state.

Mrs. Lapensee – So once we approve it, then yes, we would file all the paperwork to the Ohio Department of Transportation and the State tax office and then it would go into effect January 1, 2027.

Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding to close public hearing for permissive motor vehicle license.

All in favor.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to close the public hearing for the license permissive motor vehicle licensee fee at 7:10 PM.

All in favor.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to open the public hearing for the fiscal year 2027 tax budget.
All in favor.

ROLL CALL: Administrator, Kim Lapensee

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

- B. Fiscal year 2027 Tax Budget – Mrs. Lapensee, when I put together the 2027 tax budget we made certain assumptions. With revenue growth we only estimated it to grow by about 1%. And that's because levy amounts rarely change. You get a little bit of new construction value from it, but you really don't get that much. And that is the whole point of a levy is it stays flat. If you instituted or voted in 2000 it stays completely flat the whole way through. You don't really get any extra money. However, on the expenditure side the growth projected is between 5% and 10% depending on the line item in the budget. This is caused by the rising cost between wages, benefits, insurance and just the cost of utilities.
1. In the general fund, we project revenues at \$1,646,422.21. We propose expenditures in the amount of \$1,909,267.25. The expenditures have been reduced 66% due to transfers that we made at the beginning of the year. We made \$4 million in transfers between the police, fire and public works. So, we really have an underlying increase of only 17% but really the reason for the 17% is because we also included a dump truck replacement in the general fund because we're using TIF money to pay for other items. I mentioned in the fire department for their budget it's \$8.46 million, which is an increase of \$1.6 million or 23%. This would include station renovations and repairs, turnout gear, vehicle and future tower replacement. You can see the revenues across the board. In the fire department we use multiple funds to fund their operation.
 2. You can see in the fire fund the revenues are projected at \$6,027,955. On the expenditure side it's \$5,585,681. So, we have a positive carryover of \$442,274. In the fire rescue fund, this is our EMS billing that we get, we project we will get \$954,450. and we'll spend the same in expenditures. So, it'll be a zero across the board for variance. In the safety services levy, we split the levy. So, the fire department would get \$875,000. and same on the expenditure side. They would also be using the TIF money to pay for the station renovations and repairs and the turnout gear, vehicle and future tower replacement. You can see from the total \$8.3 million for revenues, \$7.9 million for expenditure, which gives us a positive \$434,654.
 3. On the police department the 2027 proposed budget would be \$4.05 million which is a decrease of 19%. This already reflects the loss of three positions. Without the levy we would have to reduce staffing even more, probably by two more positions. We can make that final decision at the end of the year. The police department is funded in multiple funds across the board too. In the 2081 fund we get revenues of \$2.3 million. The expenditure would be \$2.4 million. So, we have a negative balance of \$161,475.00. We also have carryover in that too, so I don't want you to think we're going red just we have money we carried over from last year. We also have safety services levy money. So, we're proposing

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

\$810,000. in revenues and \$280,000 in expenditures for a difference of \$10,100. In the JEDD for Hamilton, we propose \$700,000 in revenue and \$750,000 in expenditures for a difference of \$50,000. The TIF and the other JEDD we have with Fairfield, projected revenues of \$235,000 and expenditures of \$235,000. This would account for tools, equipment and motor vehicles that we might may or may not have to replace. You can see the total revenues would be \$3.8 million, the expenditure would be \$4 million and we have a variance of \$221,000.

4. Under the public works department for the 2027 budget, it would be \$1.53 million, which is an increase of 7%. We're asking for an increase in the paving budget from \$375,000 from last year to \$550,000 which is out of the RID. This would also help to address a backlog of paving and some other rising costs. We talked about all the different ways that we fund public works which is mainly through road and bridge which is a property tax levy that we get which is inside millage. On the revenue side it would be \$599,828.90. On the expenditure we propose \$774,045. We can see a deficit of \$174,216 which we also have carryover in the public works or in the road and bridge fund for that to cover it. In the motor vehicle license tax fund, we're proposing \$40,804. in revenue and on the expenditure side \$42,420 which is a negative variance of \$1,616. The gas tax fund we're proposing revenue of \$379,462.05 and expenditures of \$394,490.25 for a variance of \$15,000. Under permissive motor vehicle, the revenue would be \$75,487.40 and under the expenditure side, it would be \$96,558. Which is a variance of \$21,070. You can see totals, the revenue is about \$1.1 million. On the expenditure side, it's \$1.3 million which gives us the deficit of \$211,931.50. We just went into the public works funding sources. We talked about the permissive motor vehicle license tax and you can see more of the deficits in public works.
5. So, actions are already implemented. We talked about this last year, the need for a fire levy, a police levy and a motor vehicle license tax. We successfully passed the fire levy this past May. We would like to put the police levy back on for the November ballot and that is on our agenda tonight to discuss further in detail. We had our first public hearing and then we'll have to have that on the agenda to talk about and then we've been actively trying to sell the properties that we have on Gilmore and on Tylersville Road. We currently have one property under contract and hopefully that sale will go through. Cost reduction measures we've eliminated all unnecessary contracted services. We've reduced our health insurance costs by 11%. We've reduced special event spending. We will eliminate cell phone allowances, and we will reduce other benefits. Under personnel policy changes, we will reduce overtime callout minimums. We will eliminate double holiday overtime. We will limit vacation payouts and sick leave payouts. And that's our total budget.
6. Funds that I didn't talk about the lighting district. We're proposing to bring in \$195,700 and spend \$23,700 in the TIF's. We have four TIF's, for StoryPoint we are projecting revenue of \$311,130.50 with expenditures totaling \$577,783.13, Princeton Road TIF we are proposing revenues totaling \$2.8 million with expenditures totaling \$2,192,000. For the TIF for Seward Road we're projecting revenues totaling \$1,520,000.50 and expenditures for \$1,508,200. In the OneOhio which is our opioid money we get, we're projecting revenues totaling \$65,650. And expenditures totaling \$86,800. In the Bridgewater TIF we're proposing \$40,804. In revenue and \$39,390 in expenditures. In the RID that we talked about earlier we talked about revenue totaling \$331,532.50 with expenditures totaling \$550,000. With all that said, the projected revenues for the whole year would be \$19,899,728.38 and the expenditure would be \$19,900,542.55 so we're very close to balancing which would

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

leave us a carryover balance of \$13,617,430.69. I know this is a lot to digest. Do you have any questions?

Mr. McAbee – Can you just outline what the capital expenditures would be for next year?

Mrs. Lapensee – Capital expenditures would be in the fire department we talked about the fire station renovations. So, totals about \$2.8 million and then a tower replacement. Towers run anywhere from \$1.8 to \$2.2 – \$2.3 million. The tower is a very large truck with the bucket, some of them have buckets, some of them have buckets on the ladder truck. Those cost around \$2 million. So, we would probably have to save for that for a couple years. If we budget a million dollars each year to save towards that and put it in our appropriations, I think that's the only we would be able to afford it unless we financed it. Then they also need turnout gear and a vehicle that they've got in their replacement schedule. Then on the public works side there is a dump truck and that's been budgeted in their cycle of replacement. Obviously, I put money in there for the police because inevitably we're probably going to need vehicles. We range anywhere from 2017 to 2025 vehicles. The oldest vehicle being 2017 which is pretty old for a police vehicle. Also, next year our sidewalk project which is the Safe Routes to School so that is also figured in there. I budgeted about \$750,000 for that. Then I also budgeted money for us if we borrowed money for the fire station renovations. There's money budgeted in there for the next four to five years to pay all that back.

Mr. McAbee – I've told you I'm not in favor of any capital improvements until we make some substantial changes to our bottom line.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – If I'm reading this correctly will our general fund balance at the end of 2027? I have it at \$4,452,452. at the end of 2027 and then I have it at \$4,015,000. at the end of 2028. We need to make sure that we keep that balance. I'd like to stay around \$4.4 million. I don't like the 2027 ending balance projection of \$4.0 million. I realize a lot can happen between now and then, but I think we need to keep an eye on that.

Mrs. Lapensee – I think you've seen that we've pretty much cut all our expenditures in the general fund. Obviously, we have some repairs and maintenance because we still must take care of things around here. We eliminated all our contracted services. Our biggest expenditures are the park stuff and utilities.

Mr. McAbee – What account are you proposing we spend \$750,000 for?

Mrs. Lapensee – That will be out of the Princeton Road TIF. This is the Safe Routes school project that we applied for and received money through ODOT. We received close to a \$1 million and we have to put in anywhere from \$500,000 to \$750, 000.

Mr. McAbee – Let's turn it down. Tell them we're not going to do it.

Mrs. Lapensee – I don't think we can do that.

Mr. McAbee – We might have applied for it. I don't remember voting to apply for it. And I certainly won't be voting to spend that much money for how many feet of sidewalk?

Mrs. Lapensee – It's quite substantial. It's going to go from Fairfield East to the corner and then it's going to go from the corner to Bridgewater. We're not doing anything at North. It's Fairfield East to the corner, then it's the corner to Bridgewater and then we're going to cross the street and then it's going to Jayfield but not to Lakewood.

Mr. McAbee – I'm still not in favor.

Mrs. Lapensee – This was done before me.

Mr. McAbee – We're in bad financial shape and not getting any better really. So, we need to do whatever we need to do.

Mr. Berding – This was something we did maybe three years ago.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

Mr. McAbee – Did we vote to spend \$750,000 on sidewalks for a half a mile?

Mrs. Lapensee - It's gone up in costs substantially.

Mr. McAbee – Well, unfortunately I vote no.

Mr. Berding – When will this project come before us to start working on it?

Mrs. Lapensee – Right now we're working on right away acquisitions, and it will be on ODOT's project list for their fiscal year 2028 which is July 2027.

Mr. Berding – We could be in a different financial situation by then.

Mr. McAbee – Yea it could be worse.

Mr. Berding – Could we keep moving on it until we must vote on it?

Mr. McAbee – I don't think we should have any committed capital improvements in this tax budget. I understand this is tax budget not appropriations. But you know how it is if it's in the budget, they like to say, well, this is in the budget.

Mr. Berding – We had public meetings about this. This was a long process.

Mr. McAbee – Did you know that we received \$1 million worth of state money?

Mr. Berding – I was part of the program when we were doing this years ago of talking to the Safe Route To School Program. I don't remember the amount. I remember them coming to us. We talked about it. Then we had meetings that took place usually during the day, maybe a few times in the evenings. The discussions were the percentages and I think, I don't remember exactly, what it was but then it was proposed that we go from the corner where the YMCA is over to the sidewalk that stops at the end of Bridgewater because there's a sidewalk that goes from Bridgewater that stops behind the YMCA. So, it's just connecting that sidewalk that already exists. It would be families that live in the Lakewood area, cross the street, get on that sidewalk at Bridgewater walk to the YMCA where it stops then catch this new sidewalk, go around the corner into East Elementary.

Mr. McAbee – How much does that part of it cost?

Mr. Berding – I don't have that.

Mr. McAbee – You're going to have elementary kids walking out of Jayfield all the way down Princeton Road.

Mr. Berding – Think about the situation the schools are in they could potentially be eliminating busing for students that live so close to school. So, these safe routes would help our residents and their children get to school safely. It's not that we must decide tonight.

Mr. McAbee – Sounds like its already decided.

Mr. Berding – We would still have to vote on the construction of it.

Mrs. Lapensee – Yes, we would have to enter into contract with a contractor. ODOT might be the ones that control that.

Mr. Goins – The trustees have voted on a couple renditions of contracts with ODOT. We've brought this proposal and project before the board several times. The costs have increased but we voted on at least two resolutions to move forward. Before this we had a contract to develop a school travel plan which we had funded through ODOT also. This project has been going on for three years.

Mr. McAbee – It's exploded from what I thought it was to what it sounds like it is now. I can't believe we're going to encourage kids to walk down out of the Jayfield subdivision down Princeton across that road to try to get to school.

Mr. Goins – That was always part of the school travel plan. That was put together by the engineers that the township contracted with.

Mr. McAbee – I'd like the resolutions numbers and the full documented resolutions with

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

attachments showing all of this. I'm still voting no on this.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Were there crosswalks included with this?

Mr. Goins – Yes, there is crosswalks. There is a point of access that's going to be right across, I think, from Weathered Oaks in the subdivision across from East. There will be the rapid blinking indicators and then a crosswalk there for students from that subdivision to access East as well as for that neighborhood to be able to access that side of Morris and then access the YMCA and Bridgewater Falls. It's a substantial pedestrian connection. We've been talking about it for a while.

Mr. McAbee – The section from Morris Road to Bridgewater are we encouraging the people from Lakewood to cross the road and get on that? Because otherwise, there's no safe walk to school from Bridgewater.

Mrs. Lapensee – There's that crosswalk there that comes out of Lakewood and goes to Bridgewater and then they would be able to get on the sidewalk and walk down the sidewalk on Princeton and then up and then go north.

Mr. McAbee – Jayfield makes no sense to me.

Mr. Berding – There are already crosswalks at those intersections and people are using those crosswalks. So, we're just giving them a safe route.

Mr. Goins – The engineers from ODOT as well as Butler County Engineers have reviewed this, commented on this, and they've been a part of the process the past three years. So, they're making recommendations based on standards that are developed by engineers. So, it should be safe.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – How does this tie in with our comprehensive plan? Is this set back from the road?

Mr. Goins – It builds towards the pedestrian connectivity component of that as well. It's varying distance as a setback. There is telephone poles and an existing drainage ditch along the road there. So the sidewalks are located on the other side of that from the roadway.

Mr. Berding – This is the proposed budget that we send to the county and then we would vote on a final tax in December.

Mrs. Lapensee – We'll have to vote on a tax budget itself at the July meeting. Then we'll send that to the county and then in December we'll come back with our proposed 2027 budget appropriations.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I just really want to make sure that we're looking ahead to 2028 and making appropriate moves in 2027 to preserve that general fund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eileen Clines, 4187 Bennett Drive – Can you go over the 2027 slide again? I thought you said there was a \$13 million carryover.

Mrs. Lapensee – So sorry, at the bottom that \$13.617 million you can see the revenues total \$19,899.28 and then expenditures total \$19,542 million. That leaves us with a carryover balance of \$13,617,430.69.

Eileen Clines – I'm sorry I couldn't read it.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to close public hearing at 7:40 PM for our 2027 tax budget.

All in favor.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Signs for pickleball courts – Mrs. Lapensee, Katie and Reba have asked us to decide on the size and location of the signs for the pickleball courts that will give recognition for the donations to the courts. I have included a suggestion from Reba on the signs with this packet. We're hoping to get AurGroup to help us sponsor the tennis court. So, then it would be Fairfield Community Foundation and AurGroup. So maybe a little bit larger sign and then hang that on the end of the tennis court on the interior fence. And, then we would like to do a larger sign on the outside of the fence that recognized everybody because obviously we must recognize ODNR. We want to recognize everybody collectively in one big sign on the outside. We received \$12,500 from our different pickle ball court sponsors, the Fairfield Community Foundation has donated \$25,000 towards the tennis court, ODNR has donated \$35,000. This covers the whole cost of everything. We're still trying to raise money for fencing and some other things that we want to do.

Mr. McAbee – I think the signs look good.

Mr. Berding – Chuck you did a good job.

Mrs. Lapensee – Our sponsors are Jim and Kathy Wynett, the Berding family and Butler Tech, and Woody and Diane Fitton. We're hoping AurGroup will join us along with the Middletown Community Foundation.

Mr. Berding – We also received \$5,000 from Energy Alliance. Which would be used for some of those extra items that we were wanting, the extra fencing and maybe benches. We have raised more than necessary to complete the project.

Mrs. Lapensee – Also in your packet we have the pickle ball and tennis court sponsorship program form, then we outline the different sponsorships. If you're ok with the signs we can at least send these to Butler Tech, AurGroup and the Middletown Community Foundation. They had a lot of questions for us. So, we're hoping that with these signs and the sponsorship form that we answered a lot of the questions they had.

Mr. Berding – Do we have an anticipated completion date?

Mrs. Lapensee – Originally it was 30 – 60 days.

- B. Paving for 2027 – Mrs. Lapensee, We have asked the county to give us a quote for the following streets for the 2027 paving program: Rentschler Estates Drive (split to cul-de-sac), Cumberland Drive (Foxglove to Rentschler Estates Dr) and (Rentschler Dr to private drive), Conley Bottom Court, Georgetown Road (River Rd to county line), and Hastings Avenue (Princeton Rd to dead end. I asked the county to add Hickory view Drive in Weathered Oaks. This will put us in a position to hopefully finish the remaining streets in Weathered Oaks in 2028. I have proposed budgeting \$550,000.00 for paving in 2027. We will also need to make some drainage improvements to Georgetown Road and Hastings Avenue before we pave them.

Mr. Bennett – We originally had Georgetown to possibly be paved this year, but we took it off. We had some ongoing issues down there where the edge of the road is breaking off due to no berm. We've had maybe three residents call to ask what we're going to do. If we have any type of leftover hot mix asphalt, we go down there and try to put it on the edge of the road to stabilize

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

it. I met last Wednesday with a couple engineers from the county to try to get some directions on what we could do to try to save that road weather we have to go in and take out some trees in the right of way and maybe put some gravel base down to put some type of a shoulder on the road for when we repave it. There's some water issue down there as well. They suggested doing some type of black top curb. The county is going to try to get something together for us in the next three or four weeks to see what we can do to salvage that road.

Mr. Berding – So you're looking for us to give the okay to send it to the county? So, we can get the bidding process started and then we would okay add or subtract streets based on what the cost would be.

Mrs. Lapensee – Yes. I think they request it by August, and I think they usually get it back to us by our November or December meeting and then we give them the okay to move forward on that. They bid it out in February.

Mr. McAbee – Morris Road and Walden Pond Circle is falling apart. Where are those?

Mr. Bennett – I don't have them anytime soon. Hopefully some of the things Mrs. Lapensee talked about tonight will try to help us out to get better progression on that stuff.

Mrs. Lapensee – One of the projects we would like to work on for the future is producing a map that shows when the streets have been paved in the past so that we can start to see some kind of pattern of what we've been doing in the past.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - I'd like to see a spreadsheet that has the roads and the years they were paved so we can look at that and we know the last time that these roads were paved. I'm totally fine putting that into a map too. Another thing I know you do is you go out and you grade the roads as well. So, I'm also interested in getting that information too, maybe in that spreadsheet so that we can see XYZ road was last paving in 2022 or something like that.

Mr. McAbee – I would say that one of the statistics that we need is travel. How many? You get those cul-de-sacs and you have maybe 8 or 10 houses on it and its curb and gutter. We spend serious money on that. But Hickory View is a long street that handles 90% of the traffic that goes in and out of those cul-de-sacs. So, to me, that road is going to have to be done more often than the cul-de-sacs. I think that needs to be factor in.

Mr. Bennett – I just wish we could pave everybody's street. It would be great to go in and knock a subdivision out at a time.

Mr. McAbee – When we had 60 miles, we didn't have the money for that. Now we have 81 miles that we take care of and we don't have the money for that either.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – The thing to remember too is there were several years where we did do a lot of catchup money where we did extra allocations for paving. We did receive some extra money during COVID to do some paving, and the county commissioners gave us some money to do some paving. So, I respect that you've made best use of what we can with those paving dollars.

Mr. Bennett – I remember when I first started, we didn't really do a curb and gutter program. The roads were just paved and that was it and that's not the proper way to do it.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Unfortunately, the sheer math of this doesn't really work in our favor because we've got 81 road miles and on average, we do 1 to 3 roads per year.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

Mr. McAbee – I usually like to go out and ride and bumper along on them just to see how bad they are and compare them to the other ones that I drive that are bumpy already and see. So maybe we can make that decision in July since it must be by August 1st.

- C. Request to fill 3 open Full-Time positions with the Fire Department – Mr. Berding, I think it would be great to have the fire chief here for this discussion. Is it okay if we table this?
- D. Fire Station Repairs – Mrs. Lapensee We've talked about this several times and we had it on the agenda in February and we decided to table the renovations pending the submission of a grant that we submitted for capital grant money. We found out recently that we were not one of the recipients of the money. So, I had asked at the last meeting if we could keep it on the radar and keep moving it forward. There will be an increase in the cost of \$82,000.00 which will bring the total to \$2,676,610.89. We can either pay for the project from our reserves in the TIF accounts or use some of the money that was transferred to the Fire Department from the General Fund (most likely a combination of both) or finance the project and pay back the loan over a 5-year period from the Princeton Road TIF before it expires at the 25% school contribution rate in 2031. We had already budgeted for this project in our 2026 budget from the TIF funds. I asked Any Brossart to update the numbers for financing and asked for a 7- and 10-year option if we chose to finance the project. I talked to HGC and if we bring it in he believes he'll be ready to go by the next July meeting So, if we put it on the agenda and get it approved, they'll be able to move forward in July or August with the renovations. They estimated it'll take 6 to 8 months to do the renovations. The one thing we'll have to decide is how we pay for it. We did budget money this year in TIF funds to pay for it but I just think it'd be a better idea if we financed it. We still have the TIF money available in Princeton Road TIF. We're getting 75% of the money for the next 5 to 6 years. I think we should just finance it and pay it back.

Mr. Berding – I see things slightly different. I think you know we've been putting this off because we were waiting for the results of the levy and we're like, well, we're not going to repair it if we're not going to be able to staff it. And so, now that the levy has passed, I feel in my opinion, I feel like we should move forward with this project because it's only going to get more expensive. We're not going to be closing the firehouse because we did pass the levy to keep a certain level of protection in our community. We sort of agreed to this almost a year ago just to get the project moving and provide a good environment for our fire personnel. I agree with the administrator that if we were to do this, I think we should finance it and pay it off within the five years using our TIF money.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I think that makes sense. Generally, I'm not in favor of taking debt, but I think in this case I'm very interested in preserving our cash position. So, I would like to look at some financing options just so that we can preserve that cash position. This building has been a leaky problem for many many years, and we need to fix it once and for all.

Mr. Berding – We will put this back on the agenda for July.

- E. No Thru Truck Traffic Enforcement – Mrs. Lapensee, Trustee Hartkemeyer asked us to investigate enforcement on the no thru truck traffic on Vinnedge. We will be developing signs to place around the area of the roundabout at Hamilton Mason, Liberty Fairfield and Vinnedge that

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

alert truck drivers to detour to other routes rather than travel down Vinneledge. This is a civil penalty, and we will also have to develop a form and ticket to give to the driver if they violate the resolution.

Mr. Bennett – The county has something similar at Five-Point Roundabout. We did have a no truck sign up like that one there.

Mrs. Lapensee – The other thing we need to talk about is how we're going to make the tickets work. The ticketing process is a civil process. So, we would have to administer or give out an administrative ticket and then it does not go through the court process so we would have to pay the fines, I'm assuming, we would pay it here with the fiscal officer and then if people don't pay then I think Katie said we would go through the process to get them to pay.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – This stems from multiple residents in that neighborhood reach out to me regarding trucks on that road and it's still happening. They are concerned about that. They don't want those big trucks going there and are concerned about the wear and tear on the roads. I want to get some signs posted at those warehouses, okay?

Mr. Berding – this is in response to a resolution we passed in November.

Mr. Berding – Before we move past items for board discussions I've had some discussions with our fire department about overtime. We discussed eliminating overtime and the fire department is having difficulty getting enough people to work to keep the fire station open. After having discussions with the fire chief and with the union I feel we should at least allow them to get to the minimum of nine people on duty. That would keep the fire station open. It's not the level they want to be. They'd like to be at a minimum of eleven, but it would significantly cut the amount of overtime they've been spending probably by 50%.

Mrs. Lapensee - 56% would be adding the 3 new positions.

Mr. Berding – I think reducing the overtime from eleven to nine was reducing it by more than half. So, is that okay if we give the administrator the authority to approve overtime to get at least to the minimum of nine people on staff at one time as opposed to eleven? I believe if it gets below nine, the fire chief was telling me, they will probably have to shut down one of the stations because they couldn't have run out of there.

Mrs. Lapensee – If they get to six, they will have to shut a station down.

Mr. Berding – Any opposition to allowing her to do that?

Mr. McAbee – I don't think we need to be doing any scheduled overtime. Hiring more people than we could afford is how we got in this mess. We need to eliminate overtime in every department. I think as we talked about, I think it all goes to the administrator, and I think it needs to be monitored. I don't think we ought to be scheduling any overtime. It's my understanding he is still doing that in the fire department.

Mr. Berding – So, the conversations took place about overtime and the concerns about overtime and the concerns that the three trustees have and I learned a lot from the conversation because I needed to know in order to make a sound financial decision, I needed to know are these just numbers or is this services. I need to know where the overtime is coming from. It happens when people are scheduled, part-time workers, and they get pulled into their full-time job. Then instead

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

of shutting down the firehouse, he's asking for, and we're not close to shutting down the firehouse, right? Instead of running extremely short, less than nine, and based on that one sheet, it was like if it's less than nine, then certain vehicles can't go out because there's no money left to get on them, right?

Mrs. Lapensee – they would be one truck short because they would have to put three people on one truck instead of sending two.

Mr. Berding – my concern is that if someone calls off, they were asking a full-time person to then fill that shift on overtime because we don't have the part-time personal because the part-time that was scheduled to work that got called into their other full-time job, right? So, I would like to give the administrator the authority to allow that if it gets below that nine to get to that nine level, it will save 50% of the overtime.

Mr. Goins – It was a substantial amount. I believe that the fire chief said that if we were staffing at nine, he just looked at the past couple of months, it would have been accounted for 7% of the overtime costs dollar-wise.

Mr. McAbee – What other changes has he made staffing wise to help reduce his cost?

Mr. Berding – I know they have been interviewing people that just graduated from Butler Tech and The Great Oaks. I think they have three to hire and two more ready to be hired. So, it's going to be like five part-timers that would help offset that. So maybe overtime doesn't have to happen but until they start working for us there might be some days that they need to fill that overtime just to fill a gap until more part-timers are here.

Mr. McAbee – How many full-timers does he have in this building every day and the other building?

Mr. Goins – From my understanding it varies depending on seven and six.

Mrs. Lapensee – Seven at 211 and six at 212.

Mr. McAbee – Does this count include the chief, the assistant chief and the fire inspector?

Mrs. Lapensee – No, these are people that are riding on the medics and the engines.

Mr. McAbee – Well, all three of those people can ride on those things?

Mrs. Lapensee – You need command staff in different vehicles for accountability.

Mr. McAbee – Then they can drive their own cars, right? We used to do the fire inspection part-time when nothing else happened. I think there needs to be some change to the staffing level until we get that new money and I'm not seeing it.

Mr. Berding – We just implemented the no overtime and so you will see it.

Mr. McAbee – A year ago next month I suggested strongly that they need to limit their overtime and the fire department has done very little to do that.

Mr. Berding - I feel like they've done some things and maybe they haven't been working because the part-time structure doesn't really work well. I think the things they've been doing have been backfilling with overtime because of the lack of the pool of part-time candidates that we have. I think now they're hiring more part-time workers to help bring more numbers in. I think that will help a lot with the overtime but until those firefighters are hired to come in there

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

might be some days or weeks or whatever that they need or desire to fill that to get up to the nine with overtime personnel.

Mr. Goins – To date they've spent approximately \$216,000. in overtime year to date.

Mr. Berding – I'm asking for it to be reduced to nine at least. That would reduce that number by half because there's two more positions. But at least it gets us a start and then we can have conversations about how's that's working and how that work is to schedule if you wanted to hire the full-time how does that do for the overtime hours. I'd like to have the conversation with the chief when he's available in a public discussion.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I like moving to the nine. I think that's a sensible compromise.

Mr. Berding – It doesn't solve it 100% but to me it does mitigate some of the risks that if we're only going to have one vehicle go out at a time. To me half of our township would be underserved in my opinion. So, if we could go to that as a stop gap and let's reevaluate it and move forward.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'd like to have some discussions on how it's working. I'd like to have some data and feedback on what that looks like, what those numbers look like. I think it's a sensible compromise to move in that direction and let's just keep the communication channels open so that we can see how that works and we are still meeting the needs of the community and what's that doing to our numbers.

Mr. Berding - And still be mindful of the dollars that are being spent.

Mr. McAbee – I guess I can go along with that if it goes through the administrator and she okays it. Again, we've asked him to make changes, and I haven't seen any proof of it.

Mr. Berding – I think that some words I've said in public meetings had different interpretations and so I think when we said cut overtime it meant totally and unless it's an emergency and the fire chief took that as well it's an emergency like people heard the houses are catching fire and there's accidents. So, it's an emergency. So, the discussions I had with him, we talked about, okay, now we're talking about like there's a disaster. Okay? Overtime? Yes, we have a tornado come through and you're having to chainsaw people out of their houses. Yes, let's call people in and have overtime, but to schedule overtime to begin with, well, not schedule to get to eleven. It's quite possible if someone says, "hey next Thursday I can't work." Then the chief must schedule someone for overtime to get to nine. If the administrator is handling that, I feel better about allowing that to happen because she understands what our direction is. Okay. We're going to allow the overtime to get to nine. Okay. But we're not yet at the getting to eleven.

Mr. McAbee – I for one would still like him using those three full-time people that he has 9 to 5 in a different way when he needs to.

Mr. Berding – I believe and I think he told me this there are times where our inspector goes into the command role and one of our shift supervisors goes onto the truck.

COMMUNICATION – None at this time.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

Motions/Resolutions for the agenda:

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board of Trustees to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any Trustee may remove an item from the Consent Agenda by request. No second is required for removal of an item. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’.

Motion passes.

FISCAL OFFICE BUSINESS - Consent Agenda Items

- A. Recommend motion to suspend reading of the minutes of the following meetings:
 - 1. Trustee Regular Meeting May 14, 2026.
- B. Recommend motion to approve the minutes
- C. Recommend motion to approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Office.

MOTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Motion to accept the resignation of Sergeant Terry Viel effective June 5, 2026.
- B. Motion to authorize the Administrator to submit two grants through OKI for funding the Princeton Road Improvements and a Park Grant to MetroParks.
 - Mr. McAbee – What is this about? Is this another one that in two years is going to cost us another \$750,000 that we don’t have?
 - Mrs. Lapensee – The two grants through OKI, the first one is the paving grant for over a million dollars to pave Princeton Road. Our share is 20%. The township submitted a paving grant for Princeton Road from the bypass to 800 ft. beyond Walden Pond Circle in the amount of \$1,195,052. And our share is 20%. If approved, it will be a 2028 project. When you submit a grant through OKI there is also an inflation factor. So, you put the number in and it inflates it to a 2028 cost that must be built in. The second one is the county engineer’s office submitted a second grant to OKI for the widening of Princeton Road and sidewalk improvements from the point where the paving grant ends, which is 800 feet beyond Walden Pond Circle to Leeds Lane which is down near Hampshire. The cost of improvements will be \$4,961,292. Our local share will be 50%, which would be \$2,480,645. If approved, it would be a 2030 project. The third grant we submitted is a park grant through MetroParks for Heroes Park to install benches and landscaping next to the new pickle ball and tennis courts. The cost of the project will be \$8,250. Our local share will be 40% or \$3,250.
 - Mr. McAbee – This is money we don’t have.
 - Mrs. Lapensee – We do have money in the Princeton Road TIF and that’s where I will budget that money from this TIF because obviously it’s Princeton Road that we’re using it to improve.
 - Mr. Berding – Princeton Road TIF generates over \$2 million a year.
 - Mr. McAbee – If I understood you right you were talking about paying for the financing on the fire station to come out of the same account.
 - Mrs. Lapensee – Each year we get about \$2.8 million. At the end of 2025 we had a balance of

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS **REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026**

\$1,862,603.93. If we use the money to fix the fire station and not finance, we'll be at a cash balance of \$1.8 million.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – So for 2026 we could use that money to pay for the fire remodel.

Mrs. Lapensee – We do have the money. We did budget it.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Let's discuss some cash projections.

Mrs. Lapensee – I got it all worked out. See page 15 of the budget.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – 'aye', Mr. McAbee - 'aye', and Mr. Berding – 'aye'.

Motion passes.

- C. Motion to approve an invoice for Strategic Solutions in the amount of \$7,851.00 for scanning services (Inv #246652).

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Resolution No. 26-56 Resolution approving open purchase approving open purchase order balances.
- B. Resolution No. 26-57 Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT – Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – JUNE 1, 2026

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$4,607,155.67
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE – MEDICAL	\$147,491.30
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Hamilton)	\$328,602.02
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Fairfield)	\$119,824.68
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (2.95%)	\$13,028,556.26
Interest Earned in MAY	\$32,600.32
GRANT MONEY RECEIVED	\$0.00
EMS BILLING RECEIPTS TO DATE	\$391,560.69
REVENUE TO DATE (58.164%)	\$11,853,041.03
FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – JUNE 1, 2026	
REVENUE BUDGETED FOR 2026	\$20,323,548.00
EXPENDITURES TO DATE (46.793%)	\$11,341,316.78

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026**

APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026	\$23,891,268.00
PAYMENTS MADE IN MAY	\$2,844,227.75
MAJOR FUND BALANCES	
1. GENERAL	\$4,767,123.64
2. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$733,266.59
3. POLICE FUND	\$782,603.70
4. FIRE LEVY FUND	\$1,884,026.48
5. SAFETY SERVICES FUND	\$1,093,283.39
6. FIRE RESCUE, AMBULANCE, EMS FUND	\$680,743.12
7. JEDD FUND (HAMILTON)	\$1,700,107.79
8. JEDD FUND (FAIRFIELD)	\$170,568.78
9. TIF (STORYPOINT)	\$754,218.83
10. TIF (PRINCETON)	\$2,231,974.45
11. TIF (SEWARD)	\$671,922.34
12. TIF (BRIDGEWATER)	\$12,491.01
13. RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (RID)	\$1,340,643.03
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$17,679,673.91

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, Mrs. Kim Lapensee

MOTION

- A. Motion to schedule the second public hearing for the proposed Permissive Motor Vehicle License Fees (2) for June 26, 2026, at 9 AM at the Administration Building. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mr. Berding - 'aye', and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye'. Motion passes.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution #26-55 Resolution amending Article I, IV, V and VI of the Personnel Policy Manual for Fairfield Township. Mrs. Lapensee stated she added a couple policies to it. I added a chain of command policy, a workplace trust and employee conduct to that manual. It should be noted we didn't really discuss take-home vehicles, which I think we agreed that we would table until the outcome of the policy levy. We're going to end cell phone allowances as of July 3. I'm going to have to change section two since we talked about overtime. In section I have that no overtime shall be paid unless approved by the township administrator and if it is paid, should be necessary to the operations of the township.
Mr. McAbee – This must be approved in advance.
Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-45, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mr. Berding - 'aye', and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye'. Motion passes.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

- B. Resolution #26-58 Resolution authorizing the Township Administrator to execute coverage for cyber insurance through CFC, at an annual cost not to exceed \$8,770.00 effective June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we saved almost \$3,000 in the renewal. We qualified for some tax credit and received a decrease because I think last year we paid over \$10,000 for our policy.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’, and Mr. Berding - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

- C. Resolution #26-59 Resolution declaring the necessity of levying an additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation within the township and requesting the county auditor to certify matters in connection therewith.

Mr. McAbee – The last vote I had several people mention to me that it might be easier for them to vote for it if it were five years instead of continuing.

Mr. Berding – I’m in favor of having it as a continuing levy. I understand that some people will have reservations voting for it, but I think to keep us moving forward and to try to alleviate some of our financial issues that we have, I think it should be a continual levy.

Mr. McAbee – I don’t disagree with that, but we need it passed.

Mr. Berding – I’m optimistic that it would pass. I think that it failed by such low margins and I know you’ve expressed your opinion because it was a low turnout. It was a high turnout for the May election. I think our voters have seen that we’ve made efforts to curb some of the spending that we’ve had. I think they’ve seen that our administrator has done a great job of finding ways of saving us money and we’re not just asking for funds to spend at will. We’re really looking at our finances, and I think that they’ll see that and I’m confident that our police force will have the ability to go out and to sell their case.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

- D. Resolution #26-60 Resolution authorizing playground mulch to be purchased and installed at Heroes Park from Playground Equipment Services at a price not to exceed \$12,600.00. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

- E. Resolution #26-61 Resolution authorizing the administrator to contract with Principal for vision, dental, and voluntary life benefits.

Mrs. Lapensee – Stated that our health broker was able to negotiate a 6% decrease. We did find incorrect pricing in ADP and we will be giving our employees a refund for cost overcharges.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’, and Mr. Berding ‘aye’. Motion passes.

- F. ****FIRST READ **** Resolution #26-62 Resolution to charge a fee for non-emergency ambulance transfers.

Mrs. Lapensee – Stated this will be a first reading with the option to approve. We are recommending that we implement a \$750.00 fee for non-emergency transfers from any facility (specifically nursing homes) to the hospital after three calls.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Can we get some more data and some backstory on this? Larry do you have any legal concerns about this?

Larry Barbieri, Attorney – I don’t have any legal concerns but those are squishy definitions in my opinion. That would be very hard to try to distinguish. I think it’s very clear if a nursing home calls and says, “we’ve got somebody who needs to have some tests at the hospital. Will

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

you take them?" That seems to me something the nursing home should be doing. But if they say, "well, they haven't gotten any worse in the last 8 hours." So, we're going to say that's not an emergency. How do we know? There's a lot in there that if somebody wanted to quibble with us or sue us over it, I think that we would have a hard time defending some of those things. I think others would be easy to defend. I understand this isn't really a legal question but if it's \$10,000 a year, I don't know that it's worth the legal cost that it's going to be to fight these things. If it's a lot of money, then it might be something to look at a little differently.

Mrs. Lapensee – I think the original intent of this is to maybe have conversations with the nursing homes and make it very clear only call us for emergencies. We're not a transport service. Larry Barbieri, Attorney – From my experiences with other townships it's a lot of times more of a problem with people calling to say. "So and so fell out of bed. Will you help us put him back into bed?"

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - Maybe some of these things are not necessarily what we should be doing with our time, especially in light of the fact of our numbers and our staffing and all of those things.

- G. Resolution #26-63 Resolution authorizing the administrator to enter into an agreement with Security Fence Group, Inc. to repair the guardrail on Canal Road at a price not to exceed \$16,146.00. Mrs. Lapensee stated There is a portion of Canal Road near Headgates that is slipping toward the river and needs to be repaired. We will need to remove several wood posts that are attached to the guardrail and replace them with 8'-0" steel posts that will be driven into the ground 6'-0" deep. Several sections of guardrail will also need to be replaced due to the condition of rail. We are hopeful that this will deter further slippage. We do have money available in the gas tax fund #2021 to pay for this expense. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mr. Berding - 'aye', and Mrs. Hartkemeyer
- H. Resolution #26-64 Resolution approving change order #2 for the curb and gutter repairs from Adleta Construction Company in the amount not to exceed \$1,949.29. Mrs. Lapensee stated there were some additional ADA ramps that needed to be replaced during work. All work has been completed in both subdivisions (Weathered Oaks and Rentschler Estates). The total cost of the project is \$147,522.79. We budgeted \$150,000.00 for the entire project from the RID #4903. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. Berding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Transportation Improvement District (TID) – Trustee McAbee – Nothing to report.
- B. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Nothing to report.
- C. Ohio, Kentucky, Indian Regional Council of Government (OKI) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Nothing to report.
- D. The Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Township (CLOUT) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Nothing to report.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McAbee – I just wanted to thank the administrator for all the hard work in the budget and just a combination from all the things, personnel policy book and all of that. Really appreciate her hard work on that.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Take a quick look at the calendar to see if there is anything we need to add.

Mr. Berding – Personally I'd like to acknowledge that Katie Braswell who is the President of the Hamilton Community Foundation is retiring Friday and she has been instrumental in helping us get our pickleball courts, the money raised and spearheaded the conversation. So, I'm grateful for her and I just want to acknowledge that she'll be retiring.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Do we want to do a proclamation for her?

Mr. Berding – Yes, maybe we could do that Friday because Friday evening is her retirement party and maybe we could present that to her.

I had some conversations at our May meeting with our police chief. Some things I said about our police department came out wrong and I'm sorry. When I went back and I had conversations with the chief and read the minutes, I saw were some things that I said could create some bad feelings amongst our police staff. And I'm very sorry that those words were taken that way. That was not my intent. I fully support our police department. I think they do an amazing job. They are doing so much good work in our community, and I am very sorry that was not my intent. I hope the police department realizes I fully support them as do the rest of the trustees and I hope they'll forgive us for those comments because that was not my intent. If they feel like they want to reach out to me and have more conversations, I'll be happy to have that. I do apologize for some things that I said.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Public Hearing #2 to add two new \$5.00 license plate fees – Friday, June 26, 2026, at 9 AM at the administration building.
- Fourth of July Holiday Observed – Friday, July 3, 2026. All Township offices will be closed.
- Regular Trustee Meeting – Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 7 PM at the administration building.

Motion made by Mr. Berding to move to Executive Session, Mr. McAbee seconded the motion pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the discipline, appointment, employment or compensation of a public employee or official;

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer 'aye', and Mr. McAbee – 'aye'. Motion passes.

There may or may not be action taken following executive session.

President convenes Executive Session at 9:15 PM.

President resumes regular meeting at 10:24 PM

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2026**

ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adjourn at 10:25 PM
All in favor.

Minutes submitted by:

Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

Michael Berding, Trustee Chairperson

Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

Joe McAbee, Trustee