

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD APRIL 14, 2026**

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 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.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to make Chuck Goins our Clerk Pro Tem for this evening. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’, and Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’. Motion passes.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Pro Tem, Chuck Goins

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

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Butler County Developmental Disabilities – Mrs. Lapensee, Patricia is going to give us a small presentation for the upcoming levy for the Butler County Developmental Disabilities.

Patricia – I’ve been going throughout our community throughout Butler County and explaining who we are as a board, the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities has a levy on the ballot. I just wanted to give some information about that and answer any questions that anybody has. To start with you can see here are some statistics about us. I want to point out this is our mission statement. That is actively partnering with people to access the world. On its face that doesn’t sound all that profound until you start to understand the history of where we came from. Prior to the 50s people that had children with developmental disabilities really had two options. They could keep their child home with them and do the best for them that they could with limited resources or what the state offered was that they could send their child to an institution where they would be raised isolated from their family, from their community and from those that love them. So, in the 50s families started to demand better and what that ultimately turned into was the county board system that we have today. A developmental disability is one that occurs before the age of 22 and it’s a combination of or it is an intellectual disability or a physical disability or a combination of both and it is likely to remain for the person’s entire life. Our supports are throughout a lifetime beginning at the early intervention state that’s zero to three. Those are our direct supports. That’s the only instance throughout the lifetime where the type of support we provide is direct care. That is physical therapists, developmental specialists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. It’s important to note that we do not have inside millage. The amount of revenue we receive is the same amount we received back in 2004 and back in 2000. It’s based off the value of your home from that time. It’s important to note that our projected expense for 2026 consumes 97.5% of our levy funded revenues, which is significant. Some other important things that we’ve done in the community are we’ve partnered with some really great institutions and organizations including MetroParks and Travel Butler County. They provide tools which are like a social story to help a person be able to engage and experience their community. We are an employment first state, which means that when and where we can we’re going to connect people with jobs. This is important because it creates independence. It creates the opportunity for them to be able to earn their own living and do something meaningful with their day, but it also benefits our community. We have over 450 people with developmental

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disabilities employed in over 200 locations. Because our expenses are certainly exceeding our revenues, in September 2025 our board declared a fiscal emergency. Immediately we started to put in quite a few cost-saving measures. Those included pauses in all raises and increases. We have reduced our working hours. We paused all promotions, all vacancies and then as a last-ditch effort we did have to cut some of the support that we're providing to individuals. As of this date that is \$3.7 million in savings. This is why we've placed a 2-mill continuing levy on the May ballot that would generate \$26,447,000. Thank you all so much for allowing me to come up here and explain who we are and what we're doing this May.

Mr. Berding – You said that 60% of your funding comes federally and 40% locally. So, when a provider provides a service to a family the provider then bills the county and bills the federal government?

Patricia – It's kind of convoluted and I might be answering this incorrectly, but when a provider provides a service, they bill the state. The state receives federal money, and they pay that and then they also invoice us for the 40% match and then we pay that. The money is coming through the state but it's from federal and local.

Mr. Berding – So the 40% is what this \$26 million is to cover.

Patricia – Yes and you know our operations as well. It's directly because of our waiver obligation.

Mr. Berding – So your revenues are 28% and that's just the county level revenues?

Patricia – Yes, so you can see the 83% is through our levies. I think there are also a couple of random things and some windfalls.

17% would not be coming from this? So, it's \$24 million and then you would be getting another \$26 million, right? So, you would have \$50 million annually local dollars.

Patricia – Yes that is correct.

Mr. Berding – Okay, and your expenditures are \$37 million.

Patricia – Yes, correct.

Mr. Berding – The other question I have is when the clients go through Project Life and Project Search and they're not employed is some of the income that they make is that offset some of their services they get or that's just money for them to have.

Patricia – In the same way, back to that person centered philosophy, if a person doesn't have a need if they can fund and come up with their own transportation, we're not going to support transportation.

Mr. McAbee – I'm still confused about the 60%/40%. I see the federal revenues are \$4.8 million.

Patricia – This is the revenue that the board receives. This is specifically about the waivers. So, we provide support outside of the waiver's early intervention for instance. That's where you see that change on how much we're asking vs. how much we're spending on waivers.

Mr. McAbee – How much federal money do you receive?

Patricia – I'm sorry I wish I could speak with more education to this but in 2025 we received about \$5 million and I don't have the answer on what the story is for that. I'm happy to get that information and come back to you.

Mr. Berding – I asked a question earlier and the question was the 60/40 split the 40%. So, when a provider provides a service, they bill the state and the state takes 40% of that bill, they pull that from their revenue. The other 60% of them pull from the federal government to pay the provider.

Patricia – That never shows up as revenue for us. That stays at the state level. That's exactly right. So, we receive an invoice for that 40%. So, it shows up as expenses for us but 60% would

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never show up as revenue for us. That's handled at the state level.

Mr. McAbee – So if you added the two together as far as the total cost of your operation what would that number be?

Patricia – I have no idea. I don't know. That is never a part of our balance sheet.

Mr. Berding – the \$38 million would be the 40% and then the feds kick in probably another \$60 million and that would be about \$100 million for services. That's what I'm guessing by the numbers, which is typical like a school district. Fairfield School District \$100 million budget serves 10,000 students. That's what I'm judging on.

Patricia – Again, the fact that we provide support throughout a lifetime means that we could be providing a support for a person every year; it could be support for 80 – 90 years.

Mr. McAbee – It sounds like if it doesn't pass, there are going to be some drastic cuts.

Patricia – Yes, absolutely. I think there hasn't been anything officially approved by our board but early intervention for instance is not mandated support. So that is a massive department. It involves quite a bit of funding, and it's not protected in a mandated way.

- B. Proclamation celebrating April 30th as “National Therapy Animal Day” - Mrs. Lapensee, we had a resident reach out to us asking for this proclamation.

Mr. Berding – It says proclamation honoring National Therapy Animal Day. There are thousands of pet partners, therapy animals serving the communities across the United States. And, whereas Pet Partners has designed April 30th as National Therapy Animal Day. And, whereas scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system. And whereas the therapy animals' teams in Fairfield Township play an essential role in improving human health and well-being throughout the human animal bond and whereas therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, and those approaching end of life. And whereas these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need. And whereas we encourage more pet owners to consider becoming pet partners, volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits. Therefore, be it resolved that in observance of National Therapy Animal Day we Michael Berding, Shannon Hartkemeyer and Joe McAbee, Township Trustees, proudly proclaim the 30th of April 2026 in Fairfield Township, Ohio.

And we all signed this.

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Traffic Light – Princeton at Gilmore, Mrs. Lapensee – at our last meeting we had a resident who spoke about a traffic light at Princeton and Gilmore Road. She had said that it's a very difficult time to make a left-hand turn on Gilmore onto Princeton Road turning towards the east. So, we contacted the county engineer's office. They came out to look at it and in their opinion it's a little slow but nothing concerning them, but they did say that they had been awarded a signal upgrade grant from OKI and that they are willing to give us that grant to use to upgrade the intersection. However, it's not available until late 2027 or early 2028. So, we can either wait until that time to use their upgrade or if we choose to do something in an earlier fashion it would cost us around \$10,000 to upgrade that traffic light. The grant would cover the whole thing. So, it would be up to you if you want me to tell the county engineers office to hold it for us or not.
- Mr. McAbee – I would be in favor of them holding it for us. So, as the other coffee shop comes in there it's only going to get worse.

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Mr. Berding – The coffee shop is going to be on the other side of that by Home Depot.

Mrs. Lapensee – But to your point once that area develops behind it, it will probably become more of a necessity.

- B. Snow and Ice Removal Policy and Guidelines, Mrs. Lapensee – So over the wintertime we had the large snow event, and we had some confusion on our mailbox policy reimbursement. We had one thing posted on our website and then we had another thing that we were practicing. Because we do not have a policy in place, we thought it might be a good time to adopt a snow and ice removal policy and guidelines and maybe talk more in depth about doing snow emergency and basically asking people to move off the streets so that we can remove the snow from the streets to get around better. There was a policy that was developed back in 2014, and I don't know if you guys had ever seen it, but it's been developed and we thought we could start with that and revisit it. Obviously, there's some things here that need to be updated, but basically it just talks about the general wear and tear on our vehicles, how we're going to put down salt, how we're going to attack the snow emergency and basically safety and equipment. It also talks about when you have snow flurries, if we have sleet and ice, if we have more than 1-inch snow accumulation and icing problems, and how we're going to clean up. It also addressed mailboxes and damage to parked cars and miscellaneous items. I thought about the future maybe if you could think about it and let me know if it's something we can move forward in the future, at least discussing it, the possibility of discussing it and maybe setting us on the right course of what our mailbox policy should be.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I think we should move forward with this, and I'd like to hear some proposals specifically on what your best expert opinions are on that mailbox policy and what you would recommend. Then if there's anything in addition to what's in here; are these the recommendations or because clearly, we can go through this and look at it.

Mrs. Lapensee – We'll take another look at this and when we have a slower agenda and then we can talk about it more and hopefully get something going before the next snow season comes.

Mr. Barbieri, Assistant Law Director -This isn't a policy issue but from a liability standpoint the law requires a homeowner or car owner to use their own insurance to cover their damage before the township goes. You could obviously adopt a policy different from that but that's what the law is.

Mr. Hartkemeyer – To that point I would like you, once the staff goes through this, if you want to look at that either in conjunction or afterwards just to make sure that there aren't any legal implications. I just want to make sure we get holy and wholesome with that.

Mr. Berding – Mrs. Lapensee if you could look at other communities around us, what is their policy is on mailboxes. How they compare with snow emergencies at certain levels.

Mr. McAbee – We've had that conversation about cul-de-sacs and where cars go and we have a lot of cul-de-sacs. We have a lot of cars, and it would be impossible to get them off the street unless they pull in their own front yard, which is not going to happen.

Mrs. Lapensee – I think this also goes into play with what we talked about earlier last year about parking policies and maybe having some in some areas it might make sense to have people park on one side of the street versus both sides of the street especially if the traveling surface isn't as wide.

- C. Princeton Road Debt Payoff – Mrs. Lapensee, I think we can probably pay off our Princeton Road debt. I think we can probably wait until after the levies to discuss it further but if we are going to put some capital items on hold then I would like permission to go ahead and pay off our Princeton Road debt. If we go ahead and pay it off it would cost us \$560,000 in principal and \$9,775 in interest this year. Then we would save \$18,325 in the second half of 2026 going into

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2027. There is no pre-penalty payment. We have already checked but they do need 30-day notice, and our first payment is due June 1st. So, this is why I'm bringing this up now. With 30-day notice we'll have time to make the payment by June. We must send them a letter and ask them to pay it off and they have to do some things to get back to us. If we don't move it up, we pay it off at the end of the year.

Mr. McAbee – That's what it's scheduled to do, right?

Mrs. Lapensee – It's scheduled to be paid off the end of next year, but I would just rather go ahead and pay off.

Mr. McAbee - We have 4 more payments?

Mrs. Lapensee – Yes but food for thought.

Mr. Berding – If June 1st is the payment date we would have to decide by May 1st right? We don't have another meeting until May.

Mrs. Lapensee – The balance now is \$560,000 in principal and then whatever interest we've accrued until the day we pay it. If it's June 1st date the interested accrued is \$9,775. So, we would owe \$560,000 plus the \$9,775. June payment is \$250,000. The schedule is attached to the resolution.

Mr. McAbee – We have that money invested now, right?

Mrs. Lapensee – Yes. So, for 2026 the principal payment of \$275,000, the interest payment is \$19,550. For 2027 it looks like the principal balance is \$285,000 and the interest would be \$8,550. That's what we will save the \$8,550 plus the other half of this year if we pay it off in June. There is payment in June and December. I completely understand if you don't want to do it. It's not that much interest but in my mind it's just one thing left to get off the books especially if we need to use TIF money for other purposes. We're only getting 2.95% interest.

Mr. Berding – It would be in our interest to pay it off early since it's going to save us money, right?

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – What is that going to do to our cash flow. I don't know if we want to keep that money on hand because we might need it for something. The concern that I have is if we use all of that, it's gone and we need it for something else.

Mrs. Lapensee – We'll at least pay \$275,000 this year.

Mr. McAbee – I'd say go ahead and pay it off. We have the money in the TIF account, right?

Mrs. Lapensee – Yes. That was my though process. If we're not going to spend it on any capital items, we're going to hold it then why not just go ahead and pay it off and done with it.

Mr. McAbee – Do we have our first tax settlement?

Mrs. Lapensee – We received the notification that the county was going to deposit it in our account. It has not hit our account yet, we're hoping tomorrow.

Mr. McAbee – I'd be in favor. Go ahead and send them that letter since this is our last meeting before that.

Mr. Berding – I tend to agree with Trustee McAbee. I think it's going to save us close to \$18,000 in interest payments over the course of a year and a half. I realize that's only keeping \$285,000 in the bank as emergency fund, right? And its money we must spend anyway. We're looking to save money in every single way shape or form. I think that we should take advantage of the opportunity to save close to \$20,000 in interest by paying off early. I understand your concern Trustee Hartkemeyer.

- D. Potential Budget Cut-Mrs. Lapensee, At the last meeting we kind of touched on potential budget cuts for the township if the levies were not to pass. So, Chuck and I have been working with the department heads on items that we could do. Obviously the first and foremost thing that we could do is increase our revenue in different ways. And on some of the sheets I provided you

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with all the different departments, there's different ways broken down of all the different revenue sources. I know for administration we talked about increasing a lot of our fees like our zoning application fees, inspection fees, fees for driveways. We talked about increasing credit card processing fees, possibly renegotiating some of our JEDD districts and increasing our JEDD districts, increasing transient vendor permit fees, maybe a rental fee for shelters and meeting rooms, baseball field fees. We could start charging select teams for using our fields because right now they get to use the fields for free and we provide everything to them at no cost. We could approve assessments for landscaping and street maintenance through the JEDD districts along Princeton Road. And then just some other ideas we came up with is maybe some intergovernmental agreements that maybe we could help with code enforcement for another entity that's close by us. Under the reductions obviously we've been not hiring people as they leave. We currently have three open positions in the fire department which save us about \$300,000 to \$330,000 annually. There are a couple unfilled positions in the police department. Under overtime controls we could cap or eliminate overtime per department. We could suspend all non-essential travel overtime, limit special assignments, encourage flexing time when possible. Under staffing realignment, we could go to maybe cutting days of the week. We thought maybe here we could do like 9-hour days, four days a week and at least that would shut the building down for one day. It would save on employment costs. It would save electricity, which would also reduce all our salaries down to that 9-hour, 36 hours per week. Reduce minimum staffing across the fire department, police department and service department. We could consolidate job responsibilities, either consolidate administrative responsibilities to one location or take administrative positions and move them to other supervisors. We could reduce benefits. There's a whole host of benefits that we could reduce which has to do with health insurance, our vacation policy, our sick leave policy, our overtime policy. We have longevity pay. We have cell phone reimbursements. We have take-home vehicles. Under capital deferrals we've deferred pretty much all our capital purchases. We could also evaluate our fleets and look at how many trucks and cars that we don't need in our fleets anymore. With discretionary spending we could look at travel and conferences and mandated training would be the only thing that our employees would attend. Further reductions to supply and contract expenditures. We could look at all our contracts. We've tried going through the last year and looking at all our contracts and seeing where we could see savings for that but maybe we just need to look a little further where we could see savings for that. We could also conduct energy audits of each of our buildings making sure our buildings are the most efficient. Obviously, we have older buildings so the older buildings are not going to be efficient. They would obviously need the most work but then that's also money that we would have to put into the buildings. We could reduce contracted maintenance, consolidate the usage of buildings. Say that we have employees that we're going to consolidate, if we're going to, not have as many people in one location maybe consolidate the building spaces into one space and then maybe you sell off other buildings. More cuts to contracted services like uniform expenses, laundry expenses, building cleaning, building maintenance. The report goes into each different departments on ways that each department could reduce. We can talk about this more. Those are just some of the ideas that we all came up with when we all talked to each other.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - Regardless of the levies, I think there's some good ideas in there that we should investigate.

Mr. McAbee - We need to cut \$6 - 8 million, right?

Mrs. Lapensee - We're about \$3 million over in the fire and about \$1.6 million in the police department.

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Mr. Berding – So all these items, like Trustee Hartkemeyer said, should all be looked out regardless of what happens in May. I guess maybe at our May meeting we should go to more detail based on what happens Tuesday.

Mrs. Lapensee – We have provided some matrix in the back. If you go to each individual department, it kind of gives you a here's what 5% cut would look like, 10% cut, 15-20-25% cuts look like. You can see when we get down to 15%, that's when we start having to cut personnel. Because that's really the only thing left. There's not much. We've gone through everything we can think of last year, and this is what we have left.

Mr. McAbee – We really need to be about 25%, don't we?

Mrs. Lapensee – Most likely.

Mr. McAbee – I think we need to be ready to make those cuts in May if it doesn't go our way making them effective right away. I'm in favor of eliminating overtime today going forward. We're still spending a lot of money on overtime, and we need to do something about it.

Mr. Berding – I think maybe our best course of action is to give the administrator control over overtime. There may be instances where it's absolutely 100% needed and she's here every day. She could approve of that or decline it. You think that's something that would be better than all overtime because there might be a time this has to happen. So just give her the authority to approve overtime expenditures within all the departments that go along with that.

Mrs. Lapensee – Also in this we need to talk about all the different policy changes that we need to make in our personnel manual to make a lot of this stuff happen so we can bring that back and have it ready for you at the main meeting.

COMMUNICATION

Paul Yeckel, 7856 Bridgewater Lane, three weeks from tonight we're going to start knowing the results of the fire levy and police levy. And, of course, the developmental disabilities levy. That's going to pass because county wide that's about the only thing on the ballot. Right away we're looking at everybody paying 2 mills and it broken down tonight and you could multiply those figures by three because the average house in Fairfield Township is not \$100,000. It's closer to \$300,000. But that's going to pass. We have the fire levy and the police levy. I've been at this podium in past years saying that the discussion about fire and police should have taken place earlier. That's my opinion. I know there has been a bias on the board and this goes back. I've lived here 20 years and whoever was on the board has always wanted to stretch the levy. But then you get to a point where we can't do it anymore. Then it gets to a point where the amounts are like, whoa. And the argument is well they lasted 17 years so you shouldn't be complaining that your property tax is going to double. Then you have the school district with a 1.25% earned income tax credit. Chief Berter and Captain Lanier have done an outstanding job of making the cost for their departments. If it was based on the integrity of the fire and police department this should pass overwhelmingly. Mr. Bennett at some point is going to need more money for the work that Mr. Bennett does in his department. And it's the same thing. We think about the township, we're thinking about a three-legged stool fire, police, roads and administration which rounds out the total. But I'm here to tell you if this is going to pass in any form, I think what needs to happen is we need to hear from the people. We didn't elect these gentlemen. We elected the trustees. I don't know if there's been any urgency from the administration on this. I'm hearing from the captains. I'm hearing from the chiefs. But last year we were told well we don't need to go for a fire levy. We don't need to go for a policy levy. I understand the culture of this township; people fight over a \$5 car increase. I understand that. But now you're back into a corner. I think this is a coin flip. I think it can go either way on both. They both could pass. They both could fail. I pray that both pass. I pray that they get the money. I

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hope they get the money. I hope that we don't have these cuts, but I think in the 3 weeks that are remaining I would ask Mr. Berding, Mrs. Hartkemeyer and Mr. McAbee, and I don't know how this does with the administrator, to really make the case for both of them because right now I think they're fractured and I think that you know we're getting this thing where the police are competing against the fire and people are having to choose which is ridiculous. I would have preferred a unified levy but that's what we got what we got. So, I'll just close by saying that you have 3 weeks. I think a lot of people quite honestly have made up their mind and it has nothing to do with valuing fire and police services. It has to do with amounts. It has to do with the fact that the school district has come up with a ridiculous earned income tax. It's hurting the fire and police attempts.

Mr. Berding – Thank you Mr. Yeckel. I don't believe it's legally feasible for us to promote or not promote a levy from the board.

Mr. Larry Barbieri, Assistant Law Director – That is correct.

Mr. Berding - We can't really comment on pros or against. All we could do is present the figures. I know the chiefs understand where the three trustees live and we've given them support. We have not done anything publicly because we're not really allowed too legally.

Mr. Larry Barbieri, Assistant Law Director – This is correct.

Mr. Berding - We've presented the case as far as what we need to survive.

Mr. Larry Barbieri, Assistant Law Director - You can present facts, you can present numbers, you can present the state of the township, but you're not allowed to use the township facilities to go out and promote the levy. But you're certainly allowed to give factual information.

Mr. McAbee – Do we have any responsibility to know what is being printed and passed out?

Mr. Larry Barbieri, Assistant Law Director - If it's not on township stationery or township materials, I don't think the township is responsible for it.

Mr. McAbee – I've had a couple people that weren't happy with some of the literature they received and of course I have seen none of it. What is my responsibility here?

Mr. Larry Barbieri, Assistant Law Director – The prohibition is against the township actively campaigning or using their facilities or materials to promote the levy. You have no control over what residents are going to say. There is no prohibition against residents supporting it or being against it.

Mr. McAbee - We don't have an obligation to verify the facts that are being put out?

Mr. Larry Barbieri, Assistant Law Director – No they have freedom of speech. I don't think you can stop them from it even if their facts are wrong. I don't think you can stop people from exercising their fundamental fire amendment rights.

Tom Barline, 3960 Treestand Drive, the main reason I came was about the levies that are up. It's going to hit me about \$1,600 which is about 25% increase if all three pass. I don't have a real problem with that if I felt like it would fix the problem. I know you run about a \$2.5 million deficit. How much does that bring if it all of those passed for the fire department and police?

Mrs. Lapensee - So that would eliminate both deficits. But it's only projected to last about 5 years. The township wouldn't be coming back in the fall asking for more money but in another 5 years we would take another look at it.

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.

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Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. McAbee to adopt the Consent agenda. Mrs. Hartkemeyer made a motion to approve Consent Agenda; Mr. McAbee seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye’, Mr. McAbee - ‘aye’, and Mr. Berding – ‘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 March 10, 2026.
 - 2. Trustee Special Meeting March 27, 2026.
- B. Recommend motion to approve the minutes
- C. Recommend motion to approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Office.
- D. Motion to accept the retirement of Captain John King from the Fairfield Township Fire Department.

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Resolution No. 26-39 Approving open purchase order balances.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT – Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – APRIL 1, 2026

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$451,901.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE – MEDICAL	\$156,121.46
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Hamilton)	\$193,410.09
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Fairfield)	\$62,354.02
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (2.95%)	\$14,463,757.67
Interest Earned in MARCH	\$36,191.24
GRANT MONEY RECEIVED	\$0.00
EMS BILLING RECEIPTS TO DATE	\$235,629.62
REVENUE TO DATE (24.908%)	\$5,023,075.94
REVENUE BUDGETED FOR 2026	\$20,323,548.00
EXPENDITURES TO DATE (29.466%)	\$7,132,362.63
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026	\$23,891,268.00
PAYMENTS MADE IN MARCH	\$945,056.90

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MAJOR FUND BALANCES	
1. GENERAL	\$4,775,312.66
2. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$475,181.65
3. POLICE FUND	\$490,851.74
4. FIRE LEVY FUND	\$1,755,357.50
5. SAFETY SERVICES FUND	\$163,521.01
6. FIRE RESCUE, AMBULANCE, EMS FUND	\$532,730.93
7. JEDD FUND (HAMILTON)	\$1,644,013.91
8. JEDD FUND (FAIRFIELD)	\$113,098.12
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	\$15,058,662.97

Mr. McAbee – Do we have any plans to recognize John King for his retirement.

Chief Berter – There are plans in the works. Captain King started at Fairfield Township in 1990 and provided 36 years of part-time service to Fairfield Township. His commitment to this township throughout his career I think is unmatched. And quite frankly is probably something we won't see again. He provided 36 years of sacrifice and dedication and hopefully at the May meeting we can recognize him for that.

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, Mrs. Kim Lapensee

MOTION

A. **Motion** made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mr. Berding, to authorize the Administrator to sign an Electric Aggregation contract with a price not to exceed 10.199 cents per kWh and a term not to exceed 24 months (May 2028 end date) with Dynegy. Mrs. Lapensee stated at the last meeting you gave me the authorization to sign a contract with Dynegy but it was only for 10.1 cents and by the time that we went out of the gate on the day that we tried to get bids, it had already exceeded that 10.1 so it ended up at 10.199 cents. So, if you could pass another motion to kind of go back and give me that retroactive authority to sign that contract for that amount.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Something I'd like to do at some point is to ask the providers to give some sort of information about what it would look like for people that did use the aggregation because that's a concern that I've heard from people is that my bill looks so much higher and is that because of the aggregation or is that just because of energy prices going up? I think that would go a long way in helping to clear that up.

Mrs. Lapensee - They can jump on and off the plan at any time that they choose to. They don't have to stay on our plan. They can do their own shopping. They can go to PUCO's website. They can do their shopping monthly if they want to. **Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to authorize Administrator to sign Electric Aggregation contract with a price not to

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- exceed 10.199 cents per kWh and a term not to exceed 24 months. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mr. McAbee - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
- B. **Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to approve an Advance of Funds from the General Fund #1000 to the Lighting District Fund #2401 in the amount of \$17,715.06 to pay Lighting District Electric bills for the month of February. Mrs. Lapensee stated for the first time ever we didn’t have enough money to get through the first quarter of the year. So, we had to advance that \$17,715.06 to the lighting district to be able to pay the electric bills. So, we’ve been waiting to pay the March bills until we get our collections for the first half. I’ve also talked to Shelly about how we’re going to have to increase what we charge the residents, maybe a slight percentage increase to be able to carry over for the next time. Obviously, we will pay this back by the end of the year because it is an advance. **Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to approve an Advance of Funds from the General Fund #1000. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mr. McAbee - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
- C. **Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to approve the SWOCA invoice from the 2nd quarter (October – December) in the amount of \$20,115.52. Mrs. Lapensee stated we talked about this last year. I think we approved all the expenditures from last year but then we also talked at the very end of last year in December about changing phone systems which was going to lower our bill and we’re just now working out the logistics of that. Obviously, this is from the second quarter of last year. So, if we don’t install the phones until June or July then we’ll have two more quarters that we’ll have to pay at the \$20,000 rate. **Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to approve SWOCA invoices from the 2nd quarter in the amount of \$20,115.52. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’, and Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’. Motion passes.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution #26-40 – A Resolution to approving payment to Sedgwick in the amount of \$9,295.00 paid from the General Fund #1000, Motor Vehicle License Fund #2011, the Police Fund #2018 and the Fire Fund #2111. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-40, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
- B. Resolution #26-41 - A Resolution declaring a 2017 White Ford Explorer and three (3) Dell 7424 Rugged Extreme Laptops as surplus and authorizing and directing the sale of the same 2017 White Ford Explorer and Rugged Extreme Laptops to MetroParks, Butler County, Ohio, for \$4,000 “As Is”. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-41, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
- C. Resolution #26-42 – A Resolution revising the 2026 Permanent Appropriations by attached fund totals for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026. Mrs. Lapensee stated that as a part of the permanent appropriations that we adopted in December last month we received law enforcement trust funds in the amount of \$2,958.61. So as part of that payment that we received we also must pay the prosecutor’s office 25% of those funds received. We did not budget any revenue or expenditure for those particular funds so we will need to amend the permanent appropriation so that we have money coming in on the revenue side and then money leaving on the appropriation side. That accounts for the highlighted items that you see in the permanent appropriation. The

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law enforcement trust fund is fund 2261. The total purchase services amount will be \$739.65. I put the other remaining funds and put them in capital for a total of \$2,218.96 which accounts for all of those funds. Then we had to increase the appropriations in the general fund for two items; life insurance payments and when we did the pickle ball courts last month, we did not budget enough money in all the funds to pay for life insurance that we provide at no cost to the employees. We will need to budget that from general funds, and we did not anticipate doing the pickle ball courts since we received donations for that it has to run through our appropriations process. You will also see in the appropriations in the general fund under 1000 I have increased the employee benefits portion. The yellow highlighted area increased to \$335,725.20. Then under other is where the pickle ball will land for \$253,356 which increased our total appropriations in the general fund to 5.7 million. Our overall appropriations increased to \$24,005,831.81. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-42, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes. Mr. Berding – On the pickle ball all the money spent will be reimbursed through grants and or donations. It would be nice if the prosecutor’s office just deducted their 25%. It would be less back and forth.

- D. Resolution #26-43 – A Resolution authorizing debt service payment to US Bank for repayment of General Obligation Bonds for projects in the amount of \$569,775.00 for 2026 paid from the Princeton Road TIF 2906. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-43, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes. Mr. Berding – So that would be one payment or make a payment and notify them the 30-day. Mrs. Lapensee – No, after today I’m going to send them a letter on our letterhead and then say that we agreed that we want to go ahead and pay the loan off. Then they will generate how much that we owe them. It may be less than \$569,775.
- E. Resolution #26-44 – A Resolution approving change order #1 for the curb and gutter repairs from Adleta Construction Company in the amount not to exceed \$14,910.45. Mrs. Lapensee stated this is the same kind of thing we had last year where it’s kind of difficult when we go to mark the curb and gutters you would think you would be able to just saw cut one end and saw cut the other end and you lift out the middle and you take it away and nothing happens on the ends. But I guess when you do that there is some residual that may come out of that curb and gutter area. So, when the contractor went in there to take it out, we took out more linear feet than what we had marked and proposed. It’s an additional 72 square feet which gets us to that we approved of \$130,660.05 to date. The contractor wants to bill us \$136,473.50. If we continue with Rentschler Estates as the bid document says, the approximate total square footage or linear foot would be 163 linear feet which would cost approximately \$9,993.77. I just added that into the total to come up with that \$14,910.45 which keeps us under budget of what we had proposed in last year’s budget because we had budgeted around \$150,000. Mr. Berding – I think when you and I talked, you said it was going to be like another \$4,000 and then I saw it’s like \$14,000. I’m like wait, what happened? Mrs. Lapensee – The reason is because I went back and I looked at the original resolution and we had approved \$130,000. I thought we had approved of \$136,000 but no we were only at \$130,000. So that’s what makes the total an additional \$14,000. If you don’t want to do Rentschler then that’s your decision. I’d just rather be ahead. Mr. Berding – Thoughts from the board about doing Rentschler. It’s only \$9,000. We plan on paving that next year. So, it would be getting concrete at 2026 prices to be ready for 2027

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paving.

Mr. McAbee – The resolution says an additional amount of 235 linear feet.

Mrs. Lapensee – It's the 72 plus the 163.

Mr. McAbee – How many linear feet are we doing all together?

Mrs. Lapensee - 2307 plus the 72 plus the 163.

Mr. McAbee - So you add the numbers together and it says Rentschler is 91 linear feet.

Mrs. Lapensee – Rentschler is 163 linear feet.

Mr. McAbee – that's not what it says on this attachment page 37 unless it's under a different name.

Mr. Goins – it's three streets together.

Mrs. Lapensee – They didn't make it there yet and they already went over in Weathered Oaks, so they've already started the work. They've already finished all the work at Weathered Oaks. It's attached to the resolution 26-44.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-44, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mr. Berding - 'aye', and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye'. Motion passes.

**** Resolution #26-45 – TABLED **** Mr. Berding made a motion to table Resolution #26-45 designating Fairfield Township roads for bid on retrace estimate list. Mr. McAbee seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mr. Berding - 'aye', and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye'. Motion passes.

- F. Resolution #26-46 – A Resolution authorizing the Administrator to execute all documents necessary for the sale of property located at 2659 Tylersville Road. Mrs. Lapensee stated we have an interested buyer. We have all the paperwork needed. I believe they're working with Mr. Barbieri's firm to finalize all the documentation, and we have a title agency but if we could just go ahead and approve of this tonight and then we'll hopefully close in a week.

Mr. Berding – This is the old fire station.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding made a motion to approve Resolution #26-46, Mrs. Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.

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.

Mr. Berding – before we move into board comments can we talk about the June board of trustees meeting date? I mentioned back in January that I would be out of town during the week of our regular meeting on the 9th. Can you check your calendars to see if you're available here the next Tuesday, which would be the 16th then we wouldn't have to move the CIC meeting.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'm not available that week.

Mr. McAbee – I'm out of town.

Mr. Berding – I'm okay with not being here for that meeting. If we want to keep in on the 9th, Trustee Hartkemeyer as the Vice Chair, you could run the meeting. I could watch it online if Chuck pushes the

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right button. I won't be able to communicate on it. Unless we want to push it all the way to the 23rd.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Could we push it to the 23rd?

Mrs. Lapensee – The only thing we have is the public hearing for the tax budget. We could do it in June and approve it in July.

Motion made by Mr. Berding to move June 9th meeting to June 23rd, and our CIC meeting to take place at 7:00 PM and our trustee meeting to take place at 7:07 PM, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer. All in favor.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Can we take a quick glance at the business schedule and see if there's anything that needs added or that we need to pay attention to for May? All looks good.

I attended the ribbon cutting for Goodwill last week. It was very well attended. A good thing for Fairfield Township.

I think that we should do something given this is the nation's 250th anniversary. I'd like to give some thoughts to some ways that we could honor that in July. Low-cost ways because I think that's a big deal.

I think this is a good opportunity to honor our country in July.

Mr. Berding – I think that is a great idea. I know we have something coming up for Memorial Day/Armed Services Day so that will be upcoming. I think the date is May 15th.

Do we have any updates from the foundation as far as have they secured companies?

Mr. Goins – I haven't heard any official updates. It sounds like they're pretty confident on getting some funding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County TIRC Meeting – Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 9:30 AM at the County Administration Building.
- Fairfield Coalition Banquet – Monday, April 20, 2026, at 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the Fairfield Community Arts Building.
- Ribbon Cutting – Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 3:30 to 6:00 PM for the COPFCU on Gilmore Road.
- Election Day – Thursday, May 5, 2026.
- Regular Trustee Meeting Day – Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Administration Building.
- Armed Forces Day/Memorial Day – May 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM at Heroes Park.

Motion made by Michael Berding to move to Executive Session, Mrs. Hartkemeyer 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 8:39 PM.

President resumes regular meeting at 9:28 PM

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ROLL CALL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adjourn at 9:29 PM
All in favor.

Minutes submitted by:

Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

Michael Berding, Trustee Chairperson

Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

Joe McAbee, Trustee