

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

The Fairfield Township Trustees held a Regular Trustee Meeting Tuesday, May 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 4:00 PM.

ROLL CALL: Fiscal Officer, Shelly Schultz

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

CASE: FTZC26-2C Final PUD Plan
APPLICANT: Motley 7Brew, LLC
LOCATION: Adjacent to 6565 Winford Avenue
Parcel Number: A0300-022-000-044
CURRENTLY ZONED: Business Planned Unit Development (B-PUD)
REQUEST: Final PUD Plan Approval: Bridgewater Landings –
7Brew

SITUATION OF PROPERTY

The subject property is located adjacent to 6565 Winford Avenue, which is generally situated northeast of the intersection of Princeton Rd and Gilmore Rd. (att. 1). The parcel of interest is 0.795 acres. The parcel abuts the following zoning districts: B-PUD directly north, west and southwest, B-2 (General Business District) to the east. and M-1 (Light Industrial District) to the south (att.2, att. 3).

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

The applicant is currently requesting approval of the Final PUD Plans for 7Brew.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Bridgewater Landings PUD currently includes Caseys, Starbucks, Tidal Wave Auto Spa, and Raising Canes. The proposed 7Brew location would be located in the southeast corner of the development, directly next to Big O Tires, and would utilize the private road/access easement that connects to Winford Avenue as its only vehicular access point. The submitted plans include the construction of a +/-510 sq ft building, a remote cooler building, drive through lanes and associated site improvements. The proposed building will be set back approximately 82 ft from the current Princeton Road ROW (approximately 62 from future ROW), 45 ft from the west property line, 34 ft from the east property line (att.3). The proposed building meets and exceeds the architectural requirements outlined in the *Bridgewater Church B-PUD Design Guidelines*. The proposed building façade is composed primarily of brick veneer, glass/ metal store front system, and blue metal canopy and accents. (att.4). The parking lot plan includes 10 parking spaces, one of those spaces is handicap accessible spaces, this exceeds parking requirements outlined in section 812. Landscaping

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improvements include a narrow variety of shrubs along the perimeter of the site, plantings around the dumpster enclosure, and one tree. The monument sign and dumpster enclosure will incorporate brick veneer that match those used on the building. The proposed signage on the site includes a total of 3 wall signs and one monument sign facing Princeton Road that will not exceed

RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP ZONING RESOLUTION

615.7 CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF THE DETAILED FINAL PUD PLAN(S).

- (a) Upon receipt of the detailed Final PUD Plan(s) for each section of the Planned Unit Development landholding, the Fairfield Township Board of Trustees shall study and review the detailed Final PUD Plan(s) and shall approve, modify or disapprove the plan(s) on the basis of; (1) that all requirements have been satisfied, and (2) finding that the following specific conditions are fully met:
- (b) That the proposed detailed Final PUD Plan(s) for the individual section(s) of the overall R-PUD or B-PUD District are in conformance with the approved Preliminary PUD Plan.
- (c) That any part of the Planned Unit Development not used for structures, parking and loading areas, or streets, shall be landscaped or otherwise improved; unless approved to be left in its natural state.
- (d) That any exception from the standard resolution requirements is warranted by the design and amenities, incorporated in the detailed Final PUD Plan(s), in accordance with the adopted policy of the Board of Fairfield Township Trustees.
- (e) That the internal streets and thoroughfares proposed are suitable and adequate to accommodate the anticipated traffic within and through the development.
- (f) That the Final PUD Plan(s) is consistent with the intent and purpose of this Resolution to promote public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Fairfield Township, Butler County.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the opinion of the staff that the conditions that were placed on the PUD during the Zone Change and the Preliminary PUD process have been addressed in the provided Final PUD plans. It is also the opinion of the staff that the submitted plans generally meet the requirements and guidelines outlined in the *Bridgewater Church B-PUD Design Guidelines*. The applicant has made an effort to address concerns and issues brought to them by Township Staff. Staff further believes that the Final PUD Plan is consistent with sections 615.7 of the Township Zoning Resolution and will promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of the residents of Fairfield Township. Based on the findings of fact & submitted proposal to the Fairfield Township Board of Trustees staff make the makes the recommendation to **Approve with conditions** the Final PUD Plan with the incorporation of the following comments.

Recommended conditions for approval

1. All applicable findings and conditions from case # FTZC26-1C shall remain in effect and are required to be met.
2. Enhancements to landscaping plans to be approved by the Zoning Administrator prior to the approval of Zoning Certificate. Including additional interior plantings, larger plants, additional trees, and enhancement to street frontage.

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3. The monument sign and location must be approved by the Zoning Administrator prior to the approval of Zoning Certificate.
 4. Addition of pedestrian access and marking from Princeton Road to store front.
 5. All branding associated with this location references the proper jurisdiction of "Fairfield Township"
- A. Final development plan for Bridgewater Church – Motley 7 Brew LLC
The applicant is currently requesting approval of the subject property located at 6565 Winford Avenue.
Mr. Berding – We are adopting that with the conditions one (1) through five (5).
- B. Resolution No. 26-49 Resolution to approve the final planned unit development plan for 7 Brew, as set forth in Zoning Case FTZ26-2C Final PUD.
Motion made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. McAbee to adopt Resolution No. 26-49. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – 'aye', Mr. McAbee – 'aye', and Mr. Berding – 'aye'.
Motion passes.

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- A. Budget – Mrs. Lapensee I've gone through the budget for 2027 in its entirety. After speaking with each of you individually about where we should be with our budget. With one levy failing and the other one passing made it a little bit challenging to get our budget done. I think it was clear the direction was that we didn't want to make any cuts at this time unless you have changed your mind. So, what I did is I looked at the safety service levy, and I shifted it so that all of it goes to the police for just 2027. We can't sustain that for any longer than that period but for 2027 it does work that we can support both the police and the fire with us shifting it in that matter. I did include other capital items such as the bond payment for the fire station improvements if we should move forward with those and some other capital items that we had planned for. Basically, it's just a 1% increase in revenue and 5 – 8% to 10% increase in expenditures depending on the item because like health insurance and that has been going up about 10% where everything else has been about 8 to 10%. If you could look through that and let me know if that's okay with you. And obviously we have it later in the agenda to set the public hearing date for the tax budget in June because we must adopt the final budget in July. Could you let me know if that works for you or if you want to see changes. I handed out to you all the balances based on the revenue and the expenditures and what our balances would be for 2027. You can see that our balances are going down. This year we have about \$20M in carryover and we're down about 13 once we do everything we plan to do. So, you must let me know if I need to go in another direction.
- Mr. Berding – I would like to have further discussion about our proposed budget for next year. I know we're going to sort of talk about that based on election results later. So, what your proposal is to not make any cuts to any of the departments other than what we're making to the policy manual, right and just using some of the safety service money to help offset.
- Mrs. Lapensee – It's not some of it, it's all of it.
- Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'm hoping that also means that we're going to continue to look at ways that we can streamline processes and look at cost reductions and that's of that nature.
- Mrs. Lapensee – If you want me to pursue that, I will. And that way I can have a final for you

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for the tax budget. We've consulted with all the department heads, and we have come up with what we think could be potential budget cuts. That's kind of the list that I read at the last meeting. So, if you would like me to implement some of those, we absolutely can do that. I also would like you to consider increases in revenue as well to offset some of those. So, I'm prepared to do that for the next meeting, just have a list and have resolutions ready, and we can move forward with that.

Mr. Berding – I do think we need to have an open discussion in public about and maybe I'll hold these comments after we talk about election results but you know if since one levy passed and one didn't if there are cuts to be made some of the residents told us where they would like us to make those cuts in my opinion. I think it's worth that discussion and so after we go over the election results maybe if we need to set up a budget meeting prior to June resolutions maybe we should have two meetings. I haven't heard any feedback about the budget from anybody since election day, so I'll be interested to hear what our thought process is as a board.

- B. Fire Station Renovations – Mrs. Lapensee – We talked at great length about this all-last year, and we decided to wait until we know more about whether we're going to get this grant or not.

Unfortunately, we won't know until June, but I was hoping to keep it on your radar now that we've answered the fire levy question about keeping fire station 211. I still think that we need to fix it because it continues to leak and the floor continues to leak and we can't just leave it like that. I know that you wanted us to wait until June, which we can. Maybe we can talk about it again at the July meeting. Once we know if the senate has included it in their budget or not.

Mr. Berding – I am in favor of continuing to move forward with this. I would like it to be on the agenda whether we get funds from the state to help offset it or whether we need to finance it ourselves or borrow the money since the fire levy passed. I feel like this board should move forward with renovations to our headquarters. The public was very generous and passing our fire levy and saying we want a fully funded fire department and part of that was saving that fire station. So, I feel like we should listen to the voters and the residents and move forward with it. Just figure out what funding mechanism we have for it. Let's keep it moving.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I think we should talk about it in July.

Mr. McAbee – It sounds like you're saying do it whether we get any help from the state. State taxes or not. It was a small turnout for the election. It was a narrow victory and that was better than losing but I don't see a clear mandate in there at all on either side. So, I'm still saying call a timeout. Don't punt it. Don't go for it until we have a better financial plan for what we're going to do to fund every department. So, I look forward to the discussion that you keep talking about and want to have. So, we can have it anytime you want to. But at least we have a little bit of conversation about the additional revenues in 12 months from now. Although it's still a short-term fix. Think of five years. It won't make it for five years unless we do something on the spending side.

- C. Election Results – Mrs. Lapensee – As we talked about earlier, we had one levy pass and one levy fail. So, and as I had spoken to all of you separately and individually, we looked at shifting the money from the safety services to the police department for now for 2027. We also handed out all these proposed cuts that we could make, and I didn't know if you guys have given any more thought to how you would like to see that. Should we, because one failed and one passed, do we still need to make some budget cuts? And if so, do we need to make cuts to just that department or do we need to make cuts township wide? If you want to have a budget meeting to discuss that then that's probably a proper place to do it.

Mr. Berding – As I've said all long if we were to lose one of our levies since the police levy did

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fail, if we need to maintain spending I don't want to punish the fire department by taking away all of the safety service money because when that was originally passed it was passed to fund both the police and the fire. So that's one opinion. I don't want to speak for the other two trustees. I've been thinking about this since last Tuesday, what can we do? How can we save jobs? I don't want to cut jobs but if that's what it takes to make money last, I don't want to punish one department that was able to pass their levy and then them struggling. So, all those need to be looked at like what revenue will be generated. I think you had some good ideas as far as some cost reductions in the policy manual as well as other cost reductions that we talked about that could keep us from losing jobs. So, I think maybe that's probably the route to do now. I'm not 100% thrilled about moving all the safety service money over to the police department. And only because I don't want our fire department that worked very hard to get the levy passed. I'm not saying the police didn't work hard. I'm just saying every time I drove down the street there was a firefighter knocking on someone's door. They worked very hard and I think the public told us that they had to pick one levy that they were going to pass that one. So again, I don't want to punish them by winning their levy. So, it's my opinion that if the other two trustees don't feel that way and they want to convince me otherwise, I'm happy to have that discussion and I'm happy to be influenced off of that as long as we can have an open discussion and talk about it and as a board to come to a consensus.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I think I see your point and I understand that too, but I think we all understand the value of both departments, and I think that there's some very good ideas in that packet that we can explore that can maybe help us with some reasonable cost reductions and also some income generating things too because there were some good ideas in there about that. I don't know whether either one of you would want to penalize or if you want to win over. I think that both of you respect each other's department and you respect the work that each other happens to do. So, if there's a way that we can come up with some sort of win-win situation where we're maybe shifting some of the safety services money, maybe not all of it, but enough to buy us a little bit more time to get down the road a little further down the road with police. I think you would be open to that. I don't think you want to see their department being decimated. I don't think anyone wants that. And I think you would all be willing to make appropriate decisions to help support police move forward because you support each other. You never know when you're going to come upon a scene and a fireman's going to get stabbed or something. So, we need each other. We need each other to be there. I think that we should look at it and see the best way to move forward. We're together in this. So, I'd really like to look at how we can possibly make that work so that we can both keep what we have. I don't know if that means looking at another police levy down the road. You know when you look at it and it was only 250 votes it's not really a lot. I think we need to investigate that a little bit more. I think I would like the two of you to kind of think about how you would like to see the money go and maybe there is a way where we can keep everything intact or at least push us down the road a little bit further.

Mr. Berding – I agree with you, but I think there's a nice marriage of those two things, right? Might be some cuts and transfers of money but you know there's got to be some sort of acknowledgement of what the voters did say last week. If we were to put it back in November, we can't guarantee it'll pass, obviously, right? So, we should prepare ourselves now for not passing. Maybe we might have to make some sort of cost reductions to make sure that the safety service money that we are going to be transferring over if the police levy doesn't pass the next time it comes around that money lasts us longer. The three of us and the department heads need to have a serious discussion about what the ramifications of last Tuesday are and how we can

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make our township thrive. I know both departments are run very lean. We know that we're understaffed ever before the election. We know that we could use another three to four officers. We know that we could use another three or four firefighters. But at some point, we need to make sure that we're physically able to continue to have those forces. I'm very proud of the work. You know I talked with both departments on their strategy, worked with them and answered questions. I'm very proud of the work that they put in. Thank you both very much.

Mr. McAbee – I think we need to make some serious cuts, and we need to make them as quick as we can, and we put it off too long now. We talked last month about overtime. We need to stop that, if not eliminate it all, at least eliminate most of it. We don't get any additional money for another year. More we spend out of the general fund, or any other account is less we have going forward. So, I think that would be the first thing to do. I think we ought to eliminate all the unfilled positions in the whole township, whatever they may be, service, zoning, whatever, front office. I think we need to look at all that stuff and not just look at it but make some serious changes to what's happening as soon as possible. I don't like it, but you know we spin ourselves into this situation. Again, a small voter turnout, a small victory, a small defeat. I'm willing to put the policy levy back on in November. I would make it a five-year renewable levy so people could have some end in sight. That was one of the complaints I heard. And of course, people ask me what they are going to pay for. I would say well I haven't seen anything printed and I asked last time about it. I saw no literature from either department or anything in the mail. So, to me I'm not sure what commitment we made to others by either one of those. We had an article in the paper which had misprints and misinformation, and I would guarantee you most people didn't read that anyway, but still what commitment do we make to the voters, the citizens with the election results. What's our commitment? What's the commitment of the trustees? We didn't say anything. We made no statement about whether we're going to fill our open positions. We're going to increase our staff. We're going to fix our building. We didn't. We did nothing as a board. When I asked about the information going out prior to the election I got very little information. Nothing written so that I could share with people that I know to say these are the things we're looking at.

Mr. Berding – I would have to go over the minutes Trustee McAbee, but I believe that the discussion that we had was to continue the current level of service.

Mr. McAbee – That would be our hope, which means what are we going to fill the open positions or that would not be the current level?

Mr. Berding – That would be a discussion the board would have to have as far as are we filling all the open spots or are we going to work with our chiefs to determine what is the best most complete force that we have. So, I think it was the intent until the levy passes or fails until we know we weren't going to fill unfilled positions.

Mr. McAbee – Because we couldn't afford them, right?

Mr. Berding – I think what our staff, department heads and our firefighters and our police officers took from that was if they could get a levy passed, those positions would be replenished. I don't think anybody took any whiff of a thought that we were looking to expand what we had. I thought I asked the administrator what millage do we need to restore our approved levels? I don't know if the police ever got to the approved level. It was what millage the voters would have to pass in order for us to get our fire department back up to approved board staffing levels for both the police and fire. That number, the administrator worked very hard on, included the safety service money.

Mr. McAbee – I don't think we fill any positions. I think we need to sit right where we're at. I

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think we need to eliminate overtime. We're still in a financial crisis. I don't want to see a devastating effect on the police department, but you know we need to have a longer-term plan to pass it and sustain it must have cuts. I would say that's across-the-board zoning, fiscal office, fire and safety service. Across the board we need to find ways to make those cuts.

Mr. Berding – I appreciate your thoughts and I would agree that we need to look and see if there are areas that we could cut some things. It's hard pressed for me to see where we could cut anything out of our administrative office. We've got one or two people doing the work of other departments. Other municipalities and townships may have ten people working in those departments.

Mr. McAbee – Well, they probably have a little more money than we have too. I don't like what I'm saying but if we have two in zoning then we go to one. We got two in fiscal offices and we go to one. So how else are we going to do it? We're not going to get a police levy passed unless we make some cuts. We're setting at a million dollars this year for overtime.

Mr. Berding – There is language in our policy that we're going to talk about later that we could pass that says the administrator has to approve all overtime and then we could tell the administrator don't approve any overtime. We have the authority to do that.

Mr. McAbee – I think a lot of those recommendations should be enacted.

Mr. Berding – I love these banter. I think it's important that we have these discussions instead of just hiding behind a rock and hoping they go away because they're not. These are important discussions and I'm glad that we were able to move the meetings so all three of us could be here to have these discussions. And I agree with you Trustee McAbee there probably does need to be some sort of cost reduction in some of our departments. I don't know what that is yet. Some of the recommendations were made to us based on a 5%, 10% or 15%, or whatever percent and we should look at those things and I think we can. I also think that the recommendations that the administrator is making on the handbook may offset some of those expenses that we don't have to make those cuts. So, I think this has got to be a fluid discussion that we have. Of course, the fire levy passed but we're not going to start collecting that money right away next year.

Mr. McAbee – We get it a year from now.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'm really looking forward to sitting with the numbers and using the numbers to help drive our decision because opinions are one thing, but data and numbers are facts. And I think the best way to proceed is by taking a good look at the numbers, getting a good look at what our actual expenses are going to be, maybe with some cost reductions, maybe with some revenue generating things, and that we drive to make decisions based on numbers and on facts and on data and not necessarily on opinions or what we might fee. So, I'm really looking ward to getting more information on this, getting information based on some of the revenue generating ideas that we had. Potentially some cuts, I don't know. But I think that we need to let the numbers drive that decision and let's see what we can do because I am very grateful to the voters that they were able to give us the one that passed because that made a completely different discussion tonight. They also passed the larger of the two and I'm very grateful for that as well. So, I think that puts a completely different light on this entire situation. If neither one had passed we'd be having a much harder conversation right now. Not that this isn't a hard conversation, but I think that the number one thing we need to do is keep our heads, look at the numbers and let the numbers tell us the best way to proceed or whatever that is.

Mr. Berding – I did look at the board of elections site, and I believe the turnout was not an extremely low turnout. In fact, many districts had over a 40% voter turnout, some mid 20's, very few under 20%. I know that when you're talking about percentage, that sounds low, but for an

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election that's not terribly low of registered voters.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Well, into a little bit more data on that is that I believe the number that I heard the anticipated projection overall was going to be 17%. So, if we did better than that in some of our districts, you can take that for whatever you think.

Mr. McAbee – Yes, there were four. But again, we're considerably higher registered than most jurisdictions if you figure and we're very small stuck here in the middle of everything. I'm willing to go to the ballot in November with the police levy and let the 60% of people that are going to come and vote maybe get enough. But again, it has a lot to do with the information put out and how it's put out. I just want to say it's not because that's the way I feel about it. It's because I've looked at the numbers.

Mr. Berding – Thank you for your open honest discussion. I think that talking over with the administration we'll have to figure out how we can make the numbers work and what's best moving forward and maybe several different scenarios could be presented to us. Maybe we can meet also individually with the administrator and she can present different cost reductions and also some of the revenue-stream improvement ideas that you mentioned to me how that's going to impact this overall information because I think there are some things that have been suggested that can make some change this up a little bit.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'm looking forward to some modeling, some financial modeling to see what those different scenarios might look like.

Mr. Berding – To your point, Trustee McAbee, you're right. Obviously, I don't think that fully stamping the police department at this time would be prudent because the levy didn't pass. So maybe if there's some more officers that decide to leave us because we didn't pass a levy and they're thinking that greener pastures may be elsewhere. We should discuss whether we're replacing them, right? It might be we're losing people through attrition. Not that we're laying them off but the fact that my community didn't pass the policy levy I'm going to go someplace else where they do support financially the police department. So, if we lose those members of our department and we should have that discussion about whether we are replacing them and whether there's where maybe some of our cuts could come from not really laying people off as much as we're just going to refill until we find out what happens. The other side of the coin is then we must look at staffing levels and the number of people that we would want because that's going to directly impact overtime, of course, and that goes for both police and fire. Mrs.

Lapensee, thank you so much for putting everything together. I know this was quite the task.

Mrs. Lapensee – I will provide multiple scenarios. I'll get with the department heads and then we'll try to put our heads together on providing you with some choices.

Mr. Berding – I think some of the discussions that recommendations that you made to the policy manual does save us not millions of dollars but does save us substantial money. I think those are great and look forward to that discussion later.

Mrs. Lapensee – I sent you an email where I talked about reduction in cost and then I broke it down by the different departments and what it cost us for each one of those things as we go through this personnel manual so you can see the actual costs.

Mr. Berding – As we go through the personnel manual, if there are items on your spreadsheet here that are not covered out of that, you just address them as we do that.

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COMMUNICATION

Paul Yeckel, 7856 Bridgewater Lane - I had a few thoughts on the election. First, I want to say the police department and the fire department did an outstanding job of making their case to the voters. There couldn't have been a better case made. Personally, as a resident, I've lived here for 20 years. I don't necessarily feel comfortable with my police force going out making the case. I think it's more socially acceptable maybe for fire departments to do it. I'm from Pennsylvania and it wasn't unusual for a lot of volunteer fire departments, and they would have carnivals and dunking booths, and it was a good time. We didn't really have a police carnival because police, although they are safety services and first responders, they have a very different function in our community, and I just don't feel necessarily comfortable that they would campaign in the same way. So, thinking about that and that's just a thought I had about the campaign. Although both departments did an outstanding job of making the case. But here's my perception of it. The township asked for a grand total of 7-1/2 mills which would have doubled the amount of property tax that people pay in the township. People paid attention to that and there were two levies and they selected one and luckily, they selected the one that you got two thirds of the money that the township was asking for. And we talk about police officers and cutting police officers. When you cut police officers, let's say you lost seven police officers, you still need to cover shifts. Okay? I think Walmart requires three police officers as it is. And I say that jokingly, but this is a comment people were making. When you're a voter, you don't know all the ins and outs of how the police work. But it seems like if the police are spending a lot of time cleaning up Walmart problems, then they're like, "Well, why can't Walmart pay for all this?" It's just an optics thing, but it is something I think that should be considered. Also, we must consider, too, it's we have the fire, police and the roads and infrastructure department, Mr. Bennett's department, and we want to make sure we're not bleeding them dry as well. So, just a few thoughts to kind of wrap up. The school district's levy absolutely crushed a police levy. That was a large ask and it's coming back to the ballot in November. And when you're thinking about going with the police in November, that's going to come back again. And I don't know what they're going to come up with because in November, you're going to have a lot more passive voter. And when I say passive voters, you have to keep in mind a lot of the people that came out in this election here, you talk about the turnout, you had a lot of teachers, PTA, Tempo Club, all of those people were coming out and they're pretty pro- civic. You know, they're going to, yes, fire, yes, police, yes, you're going to have a lot of people that are going to be coming out in November. I'm not opposed to the police levy coming back but just realize I think there's going to be significant headwinds with the school coming back and with the fact that the township voters already approved 6-1/2 mills. So, and again, just to wrap up, I voted for all four of you. I think this township does a great job. I've lived here for 20 years. I don't envy the task that you have, but I just think there's a lot of things to consider about the voter psychology in this last election. So, I wish you all the best of luck in coming to those solutions. Thank you.

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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 Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt the Consent agenda. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – ‘aye’, Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘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 April 14, 2026.
- B. Recommend motion to approve the minutes
- C. Recommend motion to approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Office.

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Resolution No. 26-47 Approving open purchase order balances.
- B. Resolution No. 26-48 Resolution declaring nuisance and ordering abatement.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT – Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – MAY 1, 2026

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$6,906,456.77
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE – MEDICAL	\$221,219.25
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Hamilton)	\$246,198.82
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Fairfield)	\$98,513.51
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (2.95%)	\$12,995,955.94
Interest Earned in APRIL	\$32,198.27
GRANT MONEY RECEIVED	\$0.00
EMS BILLING RECEIPTS TO DATE	\$338,353.61
REVENUE TO DATE (56.829%)	\$11,564,740.45
REVENUE BUDGETED FOR 2026	\$20,323,548.00

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EXPENDITURES TO DATE (35.662%)	\$8,633,371.50
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026	\$23,891,268.00
PAYMENTS MADE IN APRIL	\$1,357,677.39
MAJOR FUND BALANCES	
1. GENERAL	\$4,849,886.52
2. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$794,133.97
3. POLICE FUND	\$1,217,957.23
4. FIRE LEVY FUND	\$2,379,851.69
5. SAFETY SERVICES FUND	\$1,093,283.39
6. FIRE RESCUE, AMBULANCE, EMS FUND	\$631,462.98
7. JEDD FUND (HAMILTON)	\$1,617,704.59
8. JEDD FUND (FAIRFIELD)	\$149,257.61
9. TIF (STORYPOINT)	\$792,545.94
10. TIF (PRINCETON)	\$3,164,984.31
11. TIF (SEWARD)	\$1,332,255.796
12. TIF (BRIDGEWATER)	\$75,020.78
13. RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (RID)	\$13,40,643.03
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$20,363,370.86

The only other thing I wanted to mention is I won't be at the June Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, Mrs. Kim Lapensee

MOTION

- A. **Motion** made by Mrs. Hartkemeyer, second by Mr. Berding to appoint Kimberly Lapensee to act as Representative and Dianne French to act as alternate representative to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mr. McAbee - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
 - B. **Motion** to schedule the Public Hearing date of June 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM to discuss the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – ‘aye’, Mr. McAbee - ‘aye’, and Mr. Berding - ‘aye’. Motion passes.
 - C. **Motion** made by Mr. Berding, second by Mr. McAbee to authorize the Township Administrator to sign a natural gas contract with a supplier to be determined only if the price does not exceed Duke Energy Ohio’s default “Gas Cost” at the time of signing for 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.
- Mrs. Lapensee – In previous meetings we talked about electric aggregation. Now we need to talk about gas aggregation. They are working on getting us an amount, but it may be where

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Duke Energy's gas price might be lower than we can get. If that's the case, then we would just shift everybody off aggregation and put them in Duke's account and then check again maybe by the end of the year to see if the prices drop.

Mr. Berding – If that were to happen, they shift everyone back on to Duke and then eight months later we find a better price and then we must pass the resolution or you're able to sign it? Then does that kick everybody back in?

Mrs. Lapensee – Everybody is in unless they opt out. That's the way the laws are. I know it's frustrating.

Mr. Berding – We must make sure to communicate that to the residents that if that were to happen and they get kicked out they will be automatically opted back in. If we have a resolution coming up that changes status from being with Duke back to being in the aggregate that we must communicate that. I don't know how we can do that. Maybe some sort of mailer that goes out.

Mrs. Lapensee – Every resident can just call Energy Alliance and tell them that you never want to be included on any list, and they will never opt you in.

Mr. Berding – Also, the township sees zero revenue from any of this. This is just a service we're providing that the voters voted in.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution #26-45 Resolution designating Fairfield Township roads for bid on the attached retrace estimate list (attachment "A"), to be certified for funding upon the awarding of contract, as determined by the Butler County Engineers office, with a cost not to exceed \$14,711.34. The roll call vote was as follows: 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.
Mr. Berding – I think as a board we should start looking at that if that's something that we want to have these roads on a not an annual replacement but at least some sort of cycle. If that's one of the areas that we could potentially save money, we should talk about if it's not an automatic every year.
- B. Resolution #26-49 Resolution to approve the final planned unit development plan for 7 Brew, as set forth in zoning case FTZC26-2C Final PUD. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer made a motion to approve Resolution #26-49, Mr. McAbee seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – 'aye', Mr. McAbee - 'aye', and Mr. Berding - 'aye'. Motion passes.
- C. Resolution #26-50 Resolution authorizing the Administrator to execute all necessary documents to renew the Township's coverage with OTARMA through Risksource Clark-Theders Insurance Agency, at a cost of \$242,649.00 effective June 1, 2026, thru May 31, 2027. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-50, Mrs. Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. Berding - 'aye'. Motion passes.
Mrs. Lapensee – The only thing left off last year was the pocket park on Milton. I'm working with them right now to get a cost for that.
Mr. McAbee – Is there a way to trim that number down?
Mrs. Lapensee – Get rid of vehicles.
Mr. Berding – I think that's one thing that we can look at with the budget. Potentially we could when we're replacing vehicles, not do a one by one. I think that would eliminate some. So

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that's something we should talk about at our budget meeting.

- D. Resolution #26-51 Resolution dispersing \$564,260.61 from the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts from Fund Numbers 2904, 2906, 2908 and 2910 for distribution of TIF monies collected to the Fairfield City School District. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-51, Mrs. Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. Berding - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mrs. Lapensee – 2904 is StoryPoint, 2906 is Princeton Road, 2908 is Seward and 2910 is Bridgewater. The \$359K is based on 25% collection. If you look at the attached, you can see in the Princeton Road TIF we collection \$1,437,543.43. 25% of that money is \$359,385.86. The Gilmore Road StoryPoint TIF we collected \$153,308.00. So, we owe the schools 25% of that. For Seward Road and Bridgewater, we must pay the schools the whole amount, which is 62.3%. For Seward we collected \$735,090.75. For Bridgewater TIF we collected \$69,036.45. You can see the breakdown and that's how we got to the \$564,260.61.

Mr. Berding – The Princeton Road TIF is expiring soon and we renewed it, right? And when we renewed it, we made the schools whole on that renewal, right? So once the renewal runs out they'll get 62.3%, right? I know there were some misconceptions out there about what was going on last fall. There was some suggestion that we were taking money away from the schools and I want to be clear that when we renewed it, we said we're making them whole.

- E. Resolution #26-52 Resolution authorizing payment of \$536,795.52 to the Butler County Finance Authority as outlined in the development agreement for the Seward Road Development paid from the Seward Road TIF 2908. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer made a motion to approve Resolution #26-52, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Hartkemeyer – 'aye', Mr. Berding - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Mrs. Lapensee – There's an attachment to that. We send this to the Butler County Finance Authority to have them tell us what we owe because it's a very complicated agreement, but basically, we owe the net service payment of \$536,795.52. You can see the breakdown on page 3 of the agreement. It's under table one summary of township received payments and then it breaks it down by the Duke parcel that we have in that TIF which we still receive the whole amount and then we owe the schools a certain portion of that TIF based on that parcel. Then the other parcels that are in the Neyer properties those are the ones where we collect the money and then we must send it to the Butler County Finance Authority. Under table two there's a school district payment that's made; there's bond expenses then there's an amount payable to the developer. Then there's an amount payable back to the township. I'm not sure why we get to give the money and then get paid back. I don't understand that part. But nonetheless we will get \$26,000 back once we make the payment. And that's twice a year.

- F. Resolution #26-53 Resolution authorizing payment of \$19,520.06 to Basis Companies as outlined in the development agreement for the Bridgewater development paid from the Bridgewater TIF 2910. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding made a motion to approve Resolution #26-53, Mrs. Hartkemeyer seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.
- Mrs. Lapensee – In the first half of the tax settlement we received \$69,036.45. We just talked about the payment to schools which is \$43,009.71 which means we have \$26,026.74 left over. We owe 75% of that to the Bridgewater Basis, which is the developer for the Bridgewater Landing, we owe 75% back so that accounts for the \$19,520.06.

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Mr. Berding – That is to develop the road and the utilities, I guess.

Mrs. Lapensee - Yes, and that leaves us with \$6,747.71. You can see from the attachment total paid to date is \$37,473.05 but looks like the agreement we owe them up to \$500,000.

G. Resolution #26-54 Resolution authorizing the Township Administrator to execute an employment agreement with Deyonte Tipton. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee made a motion to approve Resolution #26-54, Mr. Berding seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – ‘aye’, Mr. Berding - ‘aye’, and Mrs. Hartkemeyer - ‘aye’. Motion passes.

H. ****FIRST READ**** #26-55 Resolution amending Articles IV, V and VI of the Personnel Policy Manual for Fairfield Township (**FIRST READING WITH AN OPTION TO APPROVE**). Mrs. Lapensee – I went through the manual and based on the spreadsheets I provided to you and some cuts and based on some discussions, I came up with the changes to the personnel manual. I also created an executive summary of all the proposed changes. Under wages and benefits we added a section F and a G under employee compensation. We just wanted to make sure that the employees were aware that we have the legal right to make certain deductions from their paychecks, which include taxes, retirement contributions, garnishments, etc. Section G was added to state that if mistakes were made by the township regarding their paychecks, the employees have an obligation to report those errors to the township so that they can be corrected in a timely manner. We obviously have an obligation to report it as well but there is an expectation from the employee that they also have to report it if they see a mistake so that it doesn’t keep repeating itself. Under section 4.02 2 overtime, section A was revised to state that the township administrator must approve all overtime. As we talked about in the past, it was intended to eliminate all or most of the overtime that has been occurring over the past year. In 2025 we spent \$688,450.77. I will clarify that in some instances it may be necessary to have some overtime. I don’t think it can fully go away from the police department not having overtime just because of the court time. I don’t know of any other way we could handle that if we didn’t.

Chief Chabali – That’s contractual and it’s the right thing to do. Some of the guys come in from midnight.

Mr. McAbee – We shouldn’t be scheduling overtime in the regular schedule. That shouldn’t be happening.

Mrs. Lapensee – I guess we’ll have to develop some kind of procedure between all of us if it were to arise. The department heads are going to have to let me know and we’ll have to discuss it in advance.

Chief Chabali – As an example we had a robbery on Tuesday, and we tracked the suspect down the suspect cut the victims arm and took \$50 from him and that required immediate action. We were able to put everything together and it required, I believe, just maybe one maybe two people coming in overtime to do the warrant. So, we got the warrant and recovered evidence, a lot of evidence, and so that would be for us a last minute or someone getting sick but that would be a last-minute event.

Mr. Berding – Obviously for emergency services. I think is absolutely required. So, I think what the board is saying if its avoidable let’s run it through the administrator. Let her know because she’s got a directive from us. Let’s eliminate as much overtime as humanly possible. Try to stretch the money. So, I think obviously instances like that, Chief, the protection of our citizens outweighs the overtime needs.

Mrs. Lapensee – We’ll put our heads together and figure out a way that we’re going to make it

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work, like how we're going to communicate with each other to make it work. Section E was revised to pay out all comp time earned in a year by the end of the year. The previous wording allowed for 180-day carryover. The way we've done this in other places is we always just allow comp time throughout the year and if they can't you want to encourage them to use it but if they can't use it it just gets paid out at the end of the year so we can start the year fresh. Section H was added to the manual. This allows for 2 hours of overtime to be paid if you're called back into work after completing your workday. In the past, we've been paying 4 hours of callback time. I know I don't really know where the 4 hours came from because it was never in our manual. I think, from what I understand, it came from either the fire or police contract. I'm not sure. Section I was added to the manual so employees will be paid overtime for mandated attendance at events regardless of whether they have completed a 40-hour work week. I know we have eliminated events this year but if we ever have them in the future this at least gives some incentive for the employees to come to work and if they get called back for overtime events. Under Section 404, retirement plan, we just made it clear section C was revised to make it clear that all part-time firefighters are required by law to participate in social security instead of OPER. It used to be years ago that they were in OPERS and then OPERS made the change sometime in 2010 so you must be a medic and be in OPERS but if you're a firefighter EMT or a firefighter medic you can't be in social security. Section 406 insurance, I had several sections on this and you can tell me whether you agree with it or not. Sections C through G were added to the policy manual that relates to health insurance. Sections C, D and E are current practices. Section F would allow the employer or officer to decline healthcare coverage in exchange for an incentive. The incentive amount was derived by computing 25% of the total cost of the premium set aside by the township each month for a family plan. This incentive would begin in January 2027. Section G could be removed if we get some good participation in the incentive program. If we can't get employees to participate, then we could implement Section G by 2028. Section F is the incentive, which is up to \$400 a year or \$400 a month, \$4,800 per year. Then Section G would eliminate spousal cover. So, if your spouse does not have insurance somewhere else, it's not how I would like to do it, but if we can't get some good participation with incentives, maybe that's something we must do to cut cost. I put in there that we would implement it by 2028. The reason is because right now we still have two outstanding union contracts and they don't get renegotiated till 2027. So, we must think we kind of have to set the thing in motion but we may not be able to put it in our manual until then. Section 408, longevity pay was added to the manual. It was never in the manual so I'm not sure how we were paying it. I think what was happening is we were following the fire contract. We did have a resolution that we found from 2000 with your name on it (Mr. McAbee) and it got added to the manual and it just basically follows the same practice that we've been doing. Section 409 Employee Cell Phone Reimbursement. This section was added because we currently do not have a policy for cell phone allowances and we do not specify who is receiving them and who is not. Basically, the policy just establishes that if your job duties include frequent need for a cell phone you may receive reimbursement. We are currently giving allowance to the following employees: all public works employees, four employees in the police department and one in the fire department. It's kind of hard to determine who needs it and who doesn't because I think we all use our cell phones for work. Maybe at our budget meeting we can sit down and try to figure out who do you think. Is it just department heads? I've seen some places where it's only department heads. Mr. McAbee – I'm sure that was going way back to when not everybody had a cell phone. I'm in favor of eliminating that all together.

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Mrs. Lapensee – We're all going to have a phone regardless. Whether we receive it or not we're all still going to have a personal cell phone.

Chief Chabali – Myself and Captain Lanier has said that we would give ours up. We have two detectives who are in contact with suspects and I would rather not have them give up their cell phones.

Mrs. Lapensee – In that case we pay for their cell phones, right?

Mr. McAbee – We pay for those phones. I don't think we need to subsidize anybody else's cell phone.

Chief Chabali – We do have a supervisor phone that is basically assigned to the supervisor.

Mr. McAbee – Are we paying for that one too?

Chief Chabali – Yes.

Mrs. Lapensee – I can't remember how many phones are on the cell phone plan.

Chief Chabali – The Captain and I get like an allowance.

Mr. Berding – Item B of that cell phone reimbursement says the township will not purchase owner provided wireless phones, we can't do that right?

Mrs. Lapensee – We're going to have to cross that out because I forgot about them having the phones.

Mr. Berding – If you could update that I think Trustee McAbee has a point that we could then eliminate Section C the reimbursement portion. Or if it just says the township will not reimburse employees, just cross that out altogether.

Mrs. Lapensee – Absences and leaves under section 5.01 holidays, Section A I would like to add Columbus Day as a list of holidays we were given in a year. This does not cost us any additional money. Section D eliminates double time for part-time employees who work holidays. This would save us roughly \$28,000 a year. Under vacation leave 5.02 this chart of vacation leave accruals dates back I guess to 2020. The township used to give all the vacation up front and it was changed to a bi-weekly accrual rate, but I couldn't find anywhere that you actually approved that change. So that's why I italicized it in the manual. I'm not asking to change it in any way, shape or form but it was never approved as far as I can tell. Basically, it's just an accrual like so many hours per bi-weekly pay.

Mr. McAbee – How does that allow them to use it? I know the fiscal office likes tracking it like that.

Ms. Schultz – That's the fairest way. You work two weeks, you get one 26th of a day. You do not get to use it in your first year. So, at the end of your first year, you'll have two weeks to use.

Mr. McAbee – So one year and one month. How much time can I use the two weeks you accrued the year before? I can't use the 1-1/4 that I just accrued?

Ms. Schultz – Yes you can after that first year.

Mr. McAbee – That was a trick question. I was trying to get you to say that after the first year I can use it as I go.

Ms. Schultz – Yes, as you go. After the first year because you're working the prior two weeks.

Mr. McAbee – With my manager's approval.

Mrs. Lapensee – Section F was changed to prevent 80 hours of vacation to be cashed out each year once you go beyond one year's worth of carryover. In prior years, we paid out up to five weeks of vacation each year for everyone who had already accrued five weeks each year. This benefit will cap out starting in 2027 with a payout to happen at the end of each year. This change will save the township about \$10,000 a year. Just a note the police contract allows for one week of vacation payout. I do believe the fire contract says it's silent so obviously they

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follow ours. We will have some cost associated with that. But right now, we pay out about \$40,000 a year in vacation payouts. I know it's probably not going to be so great for the people that it would eliminate it for but at the same time I want to encourage people to use their vacation time. Sick leave and injury leave Section B was eliminated to or added to eliminate the cap of 960 hours of sick leave. This will eliminate the sick leave payouts from occurring in the future. I would request this begins in 2028 because we will have to negotiate this with the police and fire over this elimination of this benefit and their contracts in 2027. But if we did implement it this change would save us about \$40,000 a year sick leave payouts. Sick leave conversion. I propose that we eliminate Section B from the manual because we have eliminated the payout of sick leave each year. This would allow all the employees who came here from other entities to be able to be paid out some of their sick leave upon retirement instead of just being what you earn from Fairfield Township. Because right now in the manual there is a section in there that says you can only earn or get paid out what you earn in Fairfield Township. If we're paying out sick leave every year that means nobody's ever earning anything from Fairfield Township. So, this would allow people to get some payout when they retire. We have seven employees at the cap each year that receive sick leave payouts. Technically, all the hours they are earning, what I just explained, sick leave conversion will remain at the same at 50% of 960 hours. So even if we lifted the cap at retirement, you're still doing 50% at 960. But if you're going over the cap and you're earning sick leave it's just really a guarantee that you're going to get a paycheck in case something ever happens to you. If you get in a car accident or must have surgery and you're off for extended period, at least it's a guaranteed paycheck. Section 505 leave of absence without pay. This is the section that I asked you all about and what your opinion was. I had added in here Section C to clarify that we will maintain health insurance during unpaid leave of absence for up to 12 weeks and that all employees' health contributions must be paid bi-weekly. Any more thoughts to whether we want to maintain that coverage or if we do not want to. It varies across the board by township.

Mr. Berding – So, if we maintain the health insurance how and they're on paid leave, then they're paying the premiums. If it's unpaid leave?

Mrs. Lapensee – They would have to pay us.

Mr. McAbee – What would be the reason for unpaid leave?

Mrs. Lapensee – Unpaid leave, if you went on say you're in a grad school and you went on you had to do an internship and you were gone for a certain period and you wanted to leave and come back. If you wanted to travel and you didn't have enough vacation. That's what we need to decide if they're paying the premium or we're maintaining it and they're only paying their employee portion.

Mr. McAbee – If they are traveling the world or some game show they need to be paying it.

Mrs. Lapensee – So I will change it that they will just go on Cobra and then they could come back. Section 506 court leave Section A was just changed to reflect the fiscal office instead of township clerk because it was still the old reference employee conduct use of township vehicles and equipment. Section D was changed to allow the township's ability to deny the use of our vehicles to anyone who has demonstrated reckless driving practices. This will be ascertained by acquiring everyone's driving records through the DMV which the township is permitted to legally acquire by paying a \$5 fee each year. We also get credits for performing those checks annually in our insurance premium. The township may also terminate employees for employment for individuals who fall into that category that are required to drive for us for a living. One thing I noted too is we will also need to determine who receives take-home vehicles.

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The current practice has been the following: the police chief, police captain, 2 sergeants in the police department and 2 detectives, the fire chief, the assistant chief and the administrative captain and public works director. But it should be noted that the public works director doesn't take car home anymore. The cost of vehicles ranges from \$50,000 to \$75,000 depending on what type of vehicle we purchase with the maintenance cost t the high end of about \$4,500 which include \$500 for insurance, \$2,500ish for repairs and \$1,500 in fuel depending on the age and type of vehicle. The expectation of receiving a take-home vehicle has generally been that you are expected to respond to all emergencies from your house and then under drug and alcohol testing I think we need to have this discussion about how you want to continue with our drug and alcohol policy whether you want to have a zero tolerance policy or you want to continue how it is written now with progressive discipline.

Mr. McAbee – We have a zero policy now, don't we?

Mrs. Lapensee – It's progressive discipline. In Section 608 it says it's progressive discipline and then 609 says drug free. So, it's kind of like saying both.

Katie Barbieri – Law Director – You're drug free which is why your discipline is imposed for drug testing. I don't think they're contradictory policies. Now the progressive discipline you can as the trustees decide the severity of the punishment always under a progressive discipline policy is what level you want to impose discipline at. That can be termination under the progressive discipline policy, or it can be something less that that and that's certainly up to you and the policy provides that you can put the employee into drug counseling or rehabilitation services if you're inclined to go something less than termination for the first offense. This is the current policy.

Mr. Berding – Mrs. Lapensee, could we have you meet with the departments? I'm just referring to 6.03 about the absolute need for take-home vehicles. Could you determine why the department heads need to have a take-home vehicle. Do you respond to emergencies, or can we have that further discussion about how we adjust the policy.

Mr. McAbee – Maybe some data on that to see how many calls they made and things like that.

Mrs. Lapensee – I have all their fuel costs. Would you guys have information like who came to what run since I don't have access to that and how many miles driven and things like that?

Mr. Berding – This is a first read. Obviously, it's not ready for approval.

Mr. McAbee – It's a really, good start.

Mr. Berding – Yes, it is. Maybe if we implement some of these things then we can talk about additional cuts we can make and how much do we need.

Mr. McAbee – I don't think there's any doubt about what we must do.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Transportation Improvement District (TID) – Trustee McAbee – We didn't meet this month.
- B. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – We met earlier this week. They talked about different responses and different things that they did. Lots of good things happening at the EMA.
- C. Ohio, Kentucky, Indian Regional Council of Government (OKI) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Just so you know on June 5th at 4:00 PM that is when all of the grant applications are due. And that paving program they had last year, it's back. So, if we could please research that and do what we need to do, if we can get some money for Princeton Road perhaps because that's a collector road.

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This is an AI and government forum May 28th at 2:00 PM at OKI. The Millikin Road Interchange fund happened. So, it looks like the Millikin Road Interchange will be moving forward. I'm going to be attending a meeting on that in June to learn more of the specifics of that.

Mr. Berding - Also, OKI the groundbreaking on the bridge.

The Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Township (CLOUT) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Nothing to report.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I'm very grateful to the citizens and to the voters that approved our fire levy. I think that's a good thing for Fairfield Township. I talked with some of the staff about the 250th. I think there's some ideas out there but maybe we can talk more about that in June.

Mr. Berding – I will echo those comments also. I met with the mayor of Fairfield to talk about some sort of joint thing with the city about the 250th. Mrs. Lapensee and the city manager will be discussing those items to see what we can come up with. It would be great to celebrate our joint community.

Ms. Schultz – The USS Cincinnati is opening at VOA this weekend if you'd like to attend.

Mr. Berding – Butler Tech annually holds a handshake competition and it's to work on the transferable skills with our high school students. It engages about 16,000 students across Butler County. First those students win their classroom with the best handshake, and they go on and they can win their building for the best elevator pitch and then they can win their region like Hamilton and Fairfield or like Lakota and some of the other different regions. You can win your region or your building with networking. So, we have a network that they can network with business partners and chambers, and they go on to a final and it's a job interview. The student that won this year out of 16,000 participants was Jackson Lewis. He's a Fairfield Township resident and a firefighter cadet and that's your nephew (Chief Berter).

Congratulations to Jackson. He beat out like hundreds if not thousands of other individuals across the Butler Tech family. He did a fantastic job, and we celebrated him along with all his other firefighting students. It was a great accomplishment and congratulations to him and his family for raising such a fine young man.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Armed Forces Day/Police Memorial Day/Memorial Day – May 15, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Heroes Park.
- Memorial Day Observed – Monday, May 25, 2026. All Township offices will be closed.
- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting – Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Administration building.
- Hamilton/Fairfield Township JEDD Meeting – Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 8:00 AM at the Administration building.
- Juneteenth Holiday – Friday, June 19, 2026. All Township offices will be closed.
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 7:00 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; and

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ORC 121.22 (G)(2) to consider the purchase or property for public purpose, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 or the revised code; and

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

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

President convenes Executive Session at 5:44 PM.

President resumes regular meeting at 9:28 PM

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