

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING HELD JULY 14, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: Fiscal Officer, Shelly Schultz

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Sidewalk Policy – Mrs. Lapensee, in the last meeting we had talked about doing a sidewalk repair, maintenance and replacement policy. There is a policy and we just put it in your packet. I know you haven't had a chance to look at it, but basically it just is a policy statement. It gives us purpose, authority and applicability. It gives definitions of how we plan to inspect it and repair it. Homeowners are responsible for anything that touches the right-of-way. I think we have certain ones that we take care of, but most of all it would be on the property owner to take care of the sidewalks. This is just spelling out their responsibilities. When we go to do a paving project, we will look at curb and gutter, and plan on looking at the sidewalks as well. So, that will be a comprehensive look throughout each individual neighborhood.

Mr. McAbee – What ways could the property owner pay for that?

Mrs. Lapensee – They could pay out of pocket. Say we are coming to your house, and that you have to replace three squares. You would have a chance at that time to hire your own contractor to replace the squares, and you could pay them individually. We could give them so much time to replace it. And if they didn't, we could say, "all right, we're going to be in the neighborhood on x number of days and we're going to come in and we're going to replace all these squares." Then we're going to bill you for those repairs. You can either pay the bill or then we can or we could assess you for the repairs and then we could give people a period to pay them back.

Mr. McAbee – If we went to the assessment part of it how would that work?

Mrs. Lapensee – It goes on your property taxes. So, we would just have to approve it here. It gets certified. It gets sent to the auditor's office. They would collect it. The board could make the decision to put the collection over a certain period of time.

Mr. Berding – I think I would like to read through this before I have significant questions, but one question I have off the top of my head would be we would only be requiring them to or we're only inspecting the sidewalks where we're doing the curb and gutter or all the sidewalks as we're doing curb and gutter.

Mrs. Lapensee – I would focus mainly on the ones that we're doing paving for right now. But then if we receive complaints we would respond to that.

Mr. Berding – So, people that live in the communities that we paved this year are off the hook for maybe another 15 years before we come back through?

Mrs. Lapensee – You could make that decision, or we could go back and look the last five years if you wanted us to. It's up to you.

Mr. Berding – I think it's something that there should be a standard set that we look every so

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many years or the sidewalks are on a cycle sort of like what our streets are on. Maybe the areas or the subdivisions near where we're paving could also be subject to repair. Because we're not always going to get back to those areas on a recurring basis where damaged sidewalks may not be there this year but in two years, they may be damaged, but we've missed that window. I think we should maybe set some sort of policy to look at subdivisions around where we're paving or something. I'll leave that up to you to come up with something.

Mr. McAbee – We could look back for five years like you were saying or maybe we could look at the age of the subdivision and use that as a starting point.

Mrs. Lapensee – I talked to the Butler County Engineers Office, and they said that there is a way I can go through and look up the age of all the subdivisions and see exactly how long that sidewalk has been there or storm sewer or whatever it is.

Mr. Berding – If we have any questions, we should relay it back to the administrator who can then put something together and at our next trustee meeting we could have our first read or a discussion.

- B. Financing options for the Fire Station – Mrs. Lapensee stated there will be an increase in the cost of \$132,000.00 which will bring the total to \$2,727,890. We can either pay for the project from our reserves in the TIF accounts or use some of the money that was transferred to the Fire Department from the General Fund (most likely a combination of both) or finance the project and pay back the loan over a 5-year period from the Princeton Road TIF before it expires at the 25% school contribution rate in 2031. We have already budgeted for this project in our 2026 appropriations from the TIF funds. I asked Any Brossart of Bradley Payne to update the numbers for financing and asked for a 7- and 10-year option if we chose to finance the project. So, this is on various terms. So, the one with the blue bar for \$3 million is a 4.0% interest rate. You can see it's for five years. So, you can see the interest that we would pay would be to total \$348,360. If we borrow \$3 million for seven years, that interest rate goes up to 4.125, you can see the interest that we would pay goes up to \$496,671. If we borrow that same 3 million for a 10-year period, the interest rate goes up to 4.25 and then our interest paid would go up to \$731,489. So those are just some examples of what it would look like to give you a broad idea. I did ask Shelly if she could get with some banks and see if she could get us a price too. But what Bradley Payne does is they have a term sheet that they use. I can get Andy to send it to me and what they do is send it out to about 30 different banks and then they get people to bid on the actual money that you borrow.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Can you talk a little bit about what funds we'll use to pay these back?

Mrs. Lapensee - I have it in the budget that we would use the Princeton Road TIF to pay it back. Right now, I have it budgeted for a 5-year period to pay it back. So, but if you would like to change it, we can certainly change the budget.

Mr. Berding - I would like to see what Ms. Schultz could come up with as well. That's assuming that tonight's vote we passed a resolution to repair the fire station.

Mr. McAbee – In the tax budget you allowed us \$684,000, you budgeted that to make the payments?

Ms. Schultz - \$485,000 for 2027 then \$900,000 for the next four years. Plus \$50,000 in interest each year. It's budgeted to be \$4.3 million in total. So, we have it budgeted highly.

Mr. McAbee – And the reason we would finance it versus just paying for it out of the TIF is we could spend that money twice?

Mrs. Lapensee – No, its to protect the cash on hand in case we need it for emergencies. Like we have to replace something, and we didn't anticipate having to replace it or if we had to use it for

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salaries or what have you

Mrs. McAbee - Or economic development or something like it's supposed to be used for.

Mrs. Lapensee - I have the projects that we talked about budgeted too.

Mr. McAbee - We could borrow his money and then we could pay it back out of the new fire levy. This is for the fire department, right?

Mrs. Lapensee - You could if that's what you choose to do.

Pickleball and Tennis Courts - Mrs. Lapensee stated we are rapidly approaching the finishing up of the pickle ball courts. I would like to know when you wanted to set up a day that we could do the ribbon cutting for it, the grand opening. We anticipate it to be completed at the end of July or beginning of August.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - Let's do something around the next meeting perhaps.

Mrs. Lapensee - Our next meeting is August 11th.

Mr. Berding - Does that work for you? We can set something up for 6:30 that evening. Okay 6:30 on August 11th. If you could notify the Community Foundation and the donors so they can clear their calendar for that.

COMMUNICATION -

Janet Stofel, 5478 Rentschler Estates - I am here on behalf of the homeowner's board of Rentschler Estates. I'm the Vice President of the HOA. We had a meeting last week and this has been our agenda several times. We are right across from Butler Tech and there is a pond right when you enter. It is a park entrance as well as a neighborhood entrance and there is a pond in the very front. The Rentschler Estates homeowners board is responsible for all the landscaping coming into the subdivision which starts at the street and goes all the way to the end of our houses on the main road. We're responsible for the grass cutting, fertilizing and we're responsible for all the beds and flowers within it. Then there is a pond that sits down the hill, and the parks department supposedly is taking care of. Our problem is it is a catch and release pond. So, there are people coming into the neighborhood and fishing there. That's fine. I have lived there almost 13 years and it's never been that big of an issue but for some reason this pond has exploded with people coming to it in the past 6 months where they are parking alongside right when you come into the subdivision and parking in the grass and in our beds, which is causing us to pay more money to clean them up and the rutted grass. There is a "No Outlet" sign as you come in that would confirm to people that the park is entrances to the left once you come in and then our house is down there. It's no outlet. We would like a no parking sign is all we're asking for, by the no outlet sign to keep people from parking there, blocking the way of people and then causing our landscaping to be horrible when you come in at certain times. If you could do it on both sides, that would be great. We do call Fairfield Township Police non-emergency and they're very grateful and ask them to move. There is parking for the pond. All they have to do is turn left and there's a giant parking lot. So, we would just appreciate a no parking sign along the street.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer - When they're parked on the side of the street, are there open spots in the big lot?

Janet Stofel - Yes. So, this is why I'm here. Thank you.

Mr. Berding - We'll look into that. Thank you.

Jason Purviance, 3606 Millikin Road - I recently made a public record request for information regarding the Flock camera system and their use here in the township. First, I want to thank the police department and the township for their quick response providing the contracts, renewal resolutions, invoices, and policy. It was a very quick turnaround. So, I appreciate that. The department policy seems

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to be on par with those around the country and states that the system is for legitimate law enforcement purposes only. However, there are many concerns with the system. We've seen egregious abuses in the system across the country. And again, I'm not speaking directly to your police department. This is a general statement across the country. One recent example includes an officer hot listing a woman's license plate because he had a romantic interest in her. For several weeks, he stalked her using the system to pull her over to stage what appeared to be a random encounter in hopes of getting a date. There have been countless reports nationwide unauthorized searches, improper access, and serious questions about the overall security of these systems. Currently, Flock maintains a network of over 100,000 cameras nationwide that automatically log every car passing by, creating a massive searchable database of our movements without individualized suspicion or any warrants. The system builds detailed profiles of our daily routines. Certain camera models have been enabled to track the movement of people in parking lots, on trails, leaving their homes, being able to cross reference or license plates with other data to reveal where someone might shop, work, or attend events. Many cameras were left streaming live and archived footage up to 30 days directly open to the internet with no passwords or no encryption. Simple physical access to these cameras let attackers repurpose these devices, delete evidence or spy. This turns the system into what has been described as a Netflix for stalkers. Accessible not only to law enforcement but to hackers, abusive partners, foreign actors or anyone with basic technical know-how. Law enforcement credentials have even appeared on the dark web for sale. Our data currently is shared nearly with 2,300 other organizations nationwide with nearly 1,900 of those being out of state agencies and multiple federal agencies. This is not the targeted surveillance. It is mass metadata collection on the public at large stored and controlled by a private third-party company. This conflicts with the protection of the fourth amendment. Looking ahead, Flock is actively expanding new features with richer metadata collection, AI enhancements and even drone integration. This trajectory points to ever more pervasive surveillance infrastructure rather than a limited public safety tool. We should not wait until these capabilities are fully deployed here before acting. Nearby cities like Dayton have suspended their programs after audits revealed egregious unauthorized data sharing for immigration enforcement. Cleveland City Council recently voted against renewing its contracts. And in nearly half the states around the country, in more than 50 municipalities have terminated or declined to renew the contracts with this company due to privacy concerns. I encourage the township to end its relationship with this company and any similar private third-party companies that collect and store public data in this matter. Other communities, cities and police departments have recognized it's not the path to go down, and I encourage our community to lead by example here in Butler County and in the contract of Flock as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

Jeff Moore, 7455 Vinnedge Road - If Katherine and Kim recognize me, I'm a district vice president for the Ohio Association Professional Firefighters. So, with that, I stand before you to speak about the fire department and the board staffing decision made last meeting. I was one of the residents that supported the levy. I wanted the department to maintain its staffing, and I wanted to prevent any station closures. And when I say closures, I mean that speaks to what I would call that roll the dice effort with a first emergency first where you've only got a handful of guys responding on one of first out pieces of

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apparatus. The priority I thought came from the levy vote which was you know clear and uh I hope the board and the township understand that this is you know the pivotal point in the fire department's growth and this township's growth. You've got the ability to attract, you have got the ability to retain, and you know, you might even have to look past what I would call the part-time model. I understand last meeting that delayed hiring, and it's kind of frustrating because when you delay hiring, I would expect overtime to increase, especially if you're supposed to maintain staffing. Yet there was a kind of reaction from the township to cut overtime and you guys entertain a vote to do so. You know, and in light of what I would call it the aftermath and the moratorium afterwards, I'm encouraged to hear now that there's been some conversation that there's been some creative solutions that are being discussed and that's what I would call it the positive forward movement that I think we'd all expect this township to take. So, I'm excited to see the collaboration and I hope that the township and this fire department winds up finding that right balance that's not only fiscally responsible but then lives up to the levy vote that was taken couple months ago and makes this a safety priority instead of a you know the number on the chopping block. So, with that, thank you.

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 approve payment of the bills by the Fiscal Office.

MOTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Motion to accept the resignation of Officer Kennedy Sizemore effective July 3, 2026.
- B. Motion to appoint Jason Jeffers Interim Fire Chief for the period of June 26, 2026, to August 27, 2026.
- C. Motion to approve two invoices for SWOCA for the 3rd and 4th QTR in the amount of \$40,231.04.

RESOLUTIONS – Consent Agenda Items

- A. Resolution No. 26-66 Resolution approving open purchase order balances.
- B. Resolution No. 26-67 Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time firefighter/EMT Amber Minton to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$19.50 per/hour,

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- with a 12-month probationary period.
- C. Resolution No. 26-68 Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time firefighter/EMT Dylan Ruhe to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$19.50 per/hour, with a 12-month probationary period.
- D. Resolution No. 26-69 Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time firefighter/EMT Chance Palmer to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$19.50 per/hour, with a 12-month probationary period.
- E. Resolution No. 26-70 Resolution authorizing the appointment of part-time firefighter/EMT Ryan French to the Fairfield Township Fire Department, at an hourly rate of \$19.50 per hour, with a 12-month probationary period.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT – Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – JULY 1, 2026

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$4,020,938.19
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE – MEDICAL	\$81,511.35
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Hamilton)	\$400,649.21
JEDD REVENUE RECEIVED YTD (Fairfield)	\$124,481.72
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (2.95%)	\$13,060,182.92
Interest Earned in JUNE	\$31,626.66
GRANT MONEY RECEIVED	\$0.00
EMS BILLING RECEIPTS TO DATE	\$463,073.57
REVENUE TO DATE (61.579%)	\$12,548,911.63
REVENUE BUDGETED FOR 2026	\$20,323,548.00
EXPENDITURES TO DATE (52.087%)	\$12,624,527.03
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026	\$23,891,268.00
PAYMENTS MADE IN JUNE	\$979,873.26
MAJOR FUND BALANCES	
A. GENERAL	\$4,746,388.05
B. ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$716,924.98
C. POLICE FUND	\$806,879.77
D. FIRE LEVY FUND	\$1,618,473.48
E. SAFETY SERVICES FUND	\$1,113,981.23

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F. FIRE RESCUE, AMBULANCE, EMS FUND	\$746,663.59
G. JEDD FUND (HAMILTON)	\$1,366,475.42
H. JEDD FUND (FAIRFIELD)	\$175,225.82
I. TIF (STORYPOINT)	\$754,218.83
J. TIF (PRINCETON)	\$2,231,974.45
K. TIF (SEWARD)	\$671,922.34
L. TIF (BRIDGEWATER)	\$12,491.01
M. RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (RID)	\$1,228,890.62
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$17,060,064.15

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, Mrs. Kim Lapensee

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution No. 26-07 Resolution to approve the renovation of Fire Station 211 by HGC Construction at a cost not to exceed \$2,727,890.00 and paid from multiple funds.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – At the last meeting we talked a little bit about this as a program that we wanted to do as well as Princeton Road and some other things. I think we've kind of talked about it, but what I would like to see is kind of a map of what that looks like and what our income would look like and then how we're going to spend it to do the various projects that we've talked about. I'm along with Trustee McAbee to really nail that down with our plan so that we know you want to talk a little bit about that.

Mrs. Lapensee – I have it already mapped out. I have more than needed in the budget, but still, we have plenty of money. We still have leftover money for this year. We had already budgeted for 2026 to pay for this project in full so if we don't use the money this year, that money will stay in there and it won't be appropriated for anything else. So, we'll have that money as well for carryover. But in 2027, I had budgeted money for the sidewalks for 2027 and 2028, and then also Princeton Road paving in 2028, which is our contribution for paving from the bypass to 800 ft past Menard's. So, then I also have money budgeted there to replace fire equipment. And then I have \$2.5 million budgeted in 2030 for the Princeton Road improvements, which would be the widening to three lanes and the sidewalk from the 800 ft past Menard's two down to Leeds Lane, which is near Hampshire. So, and you can see we will get a bigger hit in 2030 just because of the 2.5 million. But if you look over at the side, we still have plenty of carryover in Princeton Road TIF. We do have the money to do all the projects we talked about.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I think the other thing that we all need to keep in mind too is we have this money, but a lot of these funds are restricted. So, I just can't take this money that I have and use it to pay salaries.

Mr. Berding – So, do we need to add something to the resolution or do you want to table this and talk about it. Why would they go out and get quotes on how to pay for it if we're not going to pass it? The longer we wait to pass this resolution to work on the firehouse is just making the

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situation worse. So, if we don't do it tonight and we're looking at discussing it a month from now in August and then approving it then or do you want to have a special meeting between now and then to talk about this? Am I thinking about this wrong? We must decide if we're going to do this and then say yes.

Ms. Schultz – I think you need to decide how to pay for it and then pass the resolution how to pay for it and then pass the resolution to do it or fail the resolution because we have the budget. We have an example of three financing options. All the information is in front of us. Mrs. Lapensee - And just so you know, waiting six months has cost us an additional \$132,000.

Mr. Berding – Could we authorize to repair the station and then come back with, and we have a plan on how we are paying for it?. Those could be the funds where we're paying back a loan from. So, we are authorized to repair it and then give everybody all the information that they would like to have and have either a special meeting or the next meeting to determine how we're paying for it.

Mr. Schultz - I would think that would work but if you pass it saying we're doing it then you could go ahead and get a contract going.

Katie Barbieri, Attorney – The way you've written it is you're going to approve it with a cost not to exceed and then with respect to the payment, you can get financing options after you approve the budget, the rates and repairs.

Mrs. Lapensee – Just so you know we would have to find temporary housing for all the firefighters that are currently living in that station 24/7. Then we will need to replace the location system in the building as well. That's why I would recommend borrowing \$3 million to account for some of those additional costs that we'll have.

Mr. Berding – We've already started having conversations on options for the firefighters whether that means we're moving in here. Creating some sort of environment for them in this building and having a small space for staff to work out of. We could potentially move our meetings to different places. Probably use school buildings to have our meetings while the fire department is here living and working out of this building. Those discussions have been taking place. It's my opinion that we should approve of making the repairs and that if you guys want a different meeting to discuss how to pay for it, I'm okay with that as well. I think we need to get this project moving forward because it's not getting any better. And I think this goes back to what Mr. Moore had said is we have to make this a welcoming environment for our firefighters and if they have to work in a station next door that's sort of falling apart and we keep kicking the can down the road are we going to attract talent to come work here?

Katie Barbieri, Attorney – If you adopt your proposal Trustee Berding the one caveat, I would say is in your resolution you do designate the funds by which you're intending to pay for the fire station. So, if that changes at a special meeting down the road and you decide to do financing or whatever it might be, you will just need to pass an amended resolution designating the payment options.

Mr. Berding – But this would at least get the project started.

Mr. McAbee – I've stated for a long time I'm not in favor of taking debt. I would rather pay for

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the repair out of the TIF account and out of the fire budget. I would rather have this discussion and decision made after the November election.

Mr. Berding – I appreciate those concerns, but the November levy isn't a guarantee one way or the other. So, if things don't go in the direction that the police would like it to go in November, then kick it further down the road. I understand right now that as is written, we would be paying it without borrowing the money. Then if we have a special meeting and the trustees come up with a resolution to borrow the money and then that's voted down, we still have a passed resolution to pay for it out of those funds that's been budgeted for.

Mr. McAbee – And we budgeted for the additional costs of those items you were talking about several hundred thousand.

Mrs. Lapensee – If you look at page two of my staff report if you look under old business I lay out exactly where all the funds were coming from. So, the way I budgeted, and you all approved it is out of the StoryPoint TIF would be \$231,037. Out of Princeton Road TIF, we originally had money appropriated in the Princeton Road TIF if you remember back a few meetings ago we went ahead and paid off the remainder of our debt for Princeton Road. So that took some of the chunk of the money that we were going to use for the fire station to pay off the bond. So, we would need to increase the appropriations in the amount of \$780,925. to get us up to where we need to be to pay for this. In the Seward Road TIF we were going to use \$185,000 and Bridgewater TIF \$1,400 and then the newest because of all the price increases we would need to take money out of the fire fund. So, it would be in the amount of \$133,280. All the funds have the money to cover those amounts, and everything's included in there except the additional cost of relocation.

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – I've done preliminary numbers. I've been back and forth with HGC since we were advised to potentially go through the contractor for the temporary housing and they gave us several options. They started with a 12 x 60 modular area, and it came in about \$21,000. They couldn't accommodate for showers which is required. So, they bumped it up to 24 x 60 which came in at about \$47,000 and they're trying to accommodate for the showers. The only other option besides that would be to do through a porta clean company and they are outrageous. So, it's not really an option for us. So that second option being just under \$50,000 would probably be our best bet. It was quoted for 8 to 9 months, for the duration of the project. Then the locution system while we have a quote coming in from Locution, specifically for our station, they don't have that back to us yet but I contacted a neighboring department earlier today who just put it in three of their firehouses and it came in just south of \$45,000 per station. So that's what we'd be looking at for just one station.

Mr. McAbee – I'm sorry I don't know that term. What's that for?

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – Locution is an alerting system that we use, and the entire county has adopted it. What it does for us is it's an automated system that generates the run for us. It notifies us and it gives us better response time so we can get to our citizens faster.

Mr. McAbee – Do we have that now?

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – We have it now at Station 212.

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Mr. McAbee – Was that included in the original bid when the renovation was going to take place?

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – That was not included in the original bid. It's a separate company. It's not with the contractors. It's not with HGC. It goes through Mobilcom and Locution itself.

Mrs. Lapensee – If you've ever been over there when the tones drop, there's multiple audibles going on at the same time.

Mr. McAbee – Which it sounds like we needed that anyway.

Mrs. Lapensee – Yes, we do.

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – The reason why it wasn't done before is because retrofitting a station while it's not under construction is incredibly expensive to do. So, we made do with what it is now. With the thoughts of potential renovations coming and putting it in there, but not through HGC.

Mr. McAbee – What's it going to cost us to put it in the station once it's renovated?

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – If they do it during the renovation you're looking at around \$45,000.

Mr. McAbee – And we can use that in the temporary housing?

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – The temporary housing we would have to have some sort of modification system as well similar to what we're using now. We wouldn't put that in just a temporary station because that would kind of be a waste. But we would be able to make our runs and we'd be able to get out the door.

Mr. McAbee – So the system we're talking about is going to go into the renovated station?

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – Yes, sir.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – I think we've talked about this quite a while and we all know that there's some issues over there in the fire department and I think we need to move forward. I'd like to maybe have some more discussions about how we're going to pay for it.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution 26-07 to approve the renovation of Fire Station 211. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 26-62 Resolution to charge a fee for non-emergency ambulance transfers.

Mrs. Lapensee stated we discussed this at the last meeting. Basically, it's a resolution to set up a fee schedule for non-emergency transports from nursing homes, group homes, etc. if it's not an emergency. Jason will be working on getting us concrete numbers for how many runs would have qualified under this new policy.

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – I did a scan of the entire year to date, and we have had 25 runs that would have qualified as non-emergency runs. The way the resolution is written, each entity would get three freebies. So essentially 15 of those runs could have potentially been non-billable. It would have given us an option to bill 10 non-emergency transport runs, which would have totaled \$7,500 plus mileage, which we charge \$15 per mile. And that's just what we have set up

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through our existing Medicount. We wouldn't go through Medicount to do this. We can do this on our own and it's nothing that they would take a portion of. It would directly go back to us. The job is not that difficult. If you want to move forward with it, then it wouldn't be a big concern of ours. I would just ask if I had a little bit of time to discuss this with the nursing homes just so they understand what is going on. We're probably looking at mid second quarter next year before we start collecting any kind of dollar amount for that.

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Can you talk to me a little bit about what the process would look like as far as identifying those runs.

Interim Fire Chief, Jason Jeffers – I discussed it with a couple of our neighboring departments, and they have software that can do that, but we can't do that. I also discussed it with a neighboring department who has the same reporting software and they have somebody that scans all of their runs then that person gives them to the fire chief who narrows it down to decide what's actually billable for those non-emergency transport runs. To give you a ballpark, it took me about 20 – 30 minutes for month to do it manually. And, then bill it and collect it. We have something in place already to bill on our own because we used to do it with the task unit when it went out of the county. Our administrative assistant has that entire spreadsheet set up where we bill people like that. We would just have to convert it over to billable for non-emergency transports.

Mr. McAbee – I'd like to see the cost to run it through Medicount.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt Resolution 26-62 to charge a fee for non-emergency ambulance transfers. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.

- B. Resolution No. 26-71 Resolution adopting the fiscal year 2027 tax budget, attached hereto and made a part of this resolution by reference. Mrs. Lapensee stated this will adopt the tax budget for 2027. We will adopt our final appropriations in December. When I went through the presentation we ended up with a projected revenue of \$20,124,928. With projected expenses totaling \$19,900,543.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adopt the fiscal year 2027 tax budget. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.

- C. Resolution No. 26-72 Resolution determining to proceed to levy an additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation within the Township. Mrs. Lapensee stated this is the last step in the process for placing the police levy on the ballot. We are awaiting the paperwork from the Auditor's office to confirm the levy amounts generated.

Ms. Schultz – The current value of the township is \$822,589,460.

Mr. McAbee – So we're going to put on a 2.99? If the value goes up, then the mileage comes down? We're going to receive \$2.459 million regardless of what the township's value is.

Mrs. Lapensee – It doesn't matter what the value is. Everything pretty much stays the same. You're still going to collect 2.99 mils.

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to proceed to levy an additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation within the Township.. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Berding – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. McAbee - 'aye'. Motion passes.

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- D. Resolution No. 26-73 Resolution authorizing the administrator to execute a salt contract with the Butler County Engineer's Office for the 2026 & 2027 snow & ice control season. Mrs. Lapensee stated that the salt contract was signed on 6/30/26 and the new price for salt will be \$110.68 which is a 15% increase in cost. (the old rate was \$96.40). Motion made by Mr. McAbee, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to authorize the administrator to execute a salt contract with the Butler County Engineer's Office for the 2026 & 2027 snow & ice control season. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. Berding - 'aye'. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Transportation Improvement District (TID) – Trustee McAbee – No meeting this month.
- B. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – Nothing to report.
- C. Ohio, Kentucky, Indian Regional Council of Government (OKI) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – No meeting this month.
- D. The Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Township (CLOUT) – Trustee Hartkemeyer – There is a bill right now that is going to impact Ohio The Ohio Open Checkbook, that we do, and it looks like if it goes through, they're going to do a local government checkbook. So, that would impact the fiscal office. There has been a lot of action in Columbus about the data centers. They are looking at doing some more property tax reform. That would be HB420 and they're going to be looking at that a little bit more this year. So, there might be some further movement to that. The latest information about the "Axe the Tax" is that they are on track to put that on the ballot probably next year. The other thing is HB96, which is our cyber security training. I think we need to make sure that we have implemented and taken that and done all the things for that.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Hartkemeyer – Something that I think we need to start to think about and I did make some inquiries about this. We have sadly, very sadly, had two suicides in Rentschler Park this summer. And I think we need to try to do some things with that. I don't know how effective or how meaningful this is but clearly, we don't want people to be committing suicide and especially not in our parks. I have reached out to a couple of different organizations that can possibly get some *988 signs* that we can put in our park. I've worked and talked to staff about this. We brought MetroParks into the loop on that and I believe the coroners office had some meetings today. I think this is a good way to start, I know it's not going to fix the problem, but it can't hurt by putting up some of those *988 signs* down at Rentschler Park and even in our parks as well, just so that people are saying, "hey, wait a minute. There're other solutions." We don't want to make a life-ending choice just because things are sad right now. We've been touched by suicide right here in this building and I don't want that for anyone here and I don't want that for anyone in our community if possible. So, if, again, staff if you can continue to follow up with MetroParks on that and with our parks as well to get some of those signs and anything else we can do too to help out with that.

Mr. Berding – I just want to publicly thank both our police department and our fire department for the

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great conversations we've had over the past couple months to just collaborate and work on things that we need to make our township better. So, I want to thank all the personnel that have had those conversations very much.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pickleball Ribbon Cutting August 11th 6:30 PM.
- Regular Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the administration building.

Motion made by Mr. 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 8:04 PM.

President resumes regular meeting at 8:41 PM

ROLL CALL

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

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to authorize the administrator to take actions necessary to execute a temporary side agreement between Fairfield Township and Local IAFF 5276. The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. McAbee – 'aye', Mrs. Hartkemeyer - 'aye', and Mr. Berding - 'aye'. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Berding, second by Mrs. Hartkemeyer to adjourn at 8:44 PM
All in favor.

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Minutes submitted by:

Shelly Schultz, Fiscal Officer

Michael Berding, Trustee Chairperson

Shannon Hartkemeyer, Trustee Vice-Chairperson

Joe McAbee, Trustee