

SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING  
January 15, 2026

On January 15, 2026, the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees met at Shawnee Township, 2530 Ft. Amanda Road.

Chairman Neff called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The roll call indicated the following present: Trustee Neff, Trustee Gross, Trustee Recker, Fire Chief Miller

**RESOLUTION 25-26**  
**Resolution of Necessity**

WHEREAS, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the requirements of the Shawnee Township Fire Department, and;

WHEREAS, the Township is currently levying a 1.5 mill, 5-year levy for the purpose of the Shawnee Township Fire Department, such levy being last approved by the voters of the Township at an election held therein on November 2, 2021, first placed on the tax list and duplicate of the county for TY2022, and;

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees of Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio determines that the amount of taxes which may be raised outside the ten-mill limitation through the current 1.5 mil levy, will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary current expenses of the Shawnee Township Fire Department and that it is necessary to levy a renewal tax outside the ten-mil limitation, and;

WHEREAS before seeking to have a levy approved by the electors of Shawnee Township, the Board of Trustees must seek the certification of the Allen County Auditor in compliance with Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, submitted for the Primary election held on May 5, 2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio, that the County Auditor is hereby requested to certify to the Board of Trustees:

1. The total current tax valuation of Shawnee Township, and
2. The dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by 1.5 mills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED In accordance with Section 5705.19 of the Ohio Revised Code, that the purpose of the tax is to generate funds to pay expenses for providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; at a rate not exceeding one and one half (1.5) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$150 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, and is for a period of 5 years, commencing and appearing on the tax list for the year beginning the tax year 2026 and payable in 2027. Such tax is authorized to be submitted to a vote of the electors of Shawnee Township pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, which shall be the renewal of an existing tax of 1.5 mills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Allen County Auditor is requested to issue the certification within ten days after receiving this Resolution.

Trustee Gross motioned for approval, Trustee Recker seconded, and the motion carried 3-0  
Roll Call: Mr. Gross, Yes Mr. Recker, Yes Mr. Neff, Yes

**Discussion:**

Trustee Neff explained why there was a need to have a special meeting to accept the Resolution of Necessity for the Fire Renewal Levy.

Fire Chief Austin Miller explained the need for the renewal and the process to get the language on the ballot.

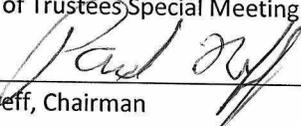
The question was asked if the Township would put it on the ballot again in November if it did not pass in May. Mr. Gross stated that it is not unusual to see levies on the ballot for a second time if the levy does not pass. There would be a discussion regarding the situation if it didn't pass in the May primary. If it didn't pass in November, it would have to be put on the ballot as a new levy for new money. Mr. Neff made a statement about having the discussion period of this meeting and how things are put out on social media negatively.

Mr. Thompson asked if this levy was promoted initially as a replacement for the loss of funding in 2005 from the CAT tax money. Also, the 4.5 levy was promoted to recover the CAT TAX LOSS. He feels as if the Township is asking the community to cover the loss twice. Mr. Thompson said the 4.5 mill levy made the township whole from the loss of the CAT tax, and it is hard to understand why this 1.5 mill levy should be on. The trustees explained that this procedure is to put it on the ballot, and the people have the right to vote yes or no. Mr. Thompson asked what the emergency was to have this special meeting, and if there was no threat to staffing or servicing of the department. Mr. Baker stated that this levy would be at a new rate. Mr. Thompson stated that the way the Board is presenting this, that it is more hurtful than helpful. The Trustees and Chief Miller explained the timeline again.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to be brought before the Board of Trustees, Trustee Gross motioned for adjournment, Trustee Recker seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Board of Trustees Special Meeting held January 15, 2026

  
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Paul Neff, Chairman

  
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Kenny Gross, Vice Chairperson

  
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Joe Recker, Trustee at Large

Minutes prepared by Missy Van Meter, Administrative Assistant, Shawnee Township.