

SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
January 26, 2026

On January 26, 2026, the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees met at the Shawnee Township, 2530 Fort Amanda Road, Lima, Ohio, for a Regular Meeting of the Board.

Chairman Neff called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The roll call indicated the following present: Trustee Neff, Trustee Gross, Trustee Recker, Police Chief Kohli, Howard Gray, Kevin Cooley, Teresa Pulfer, Lesa Wende, Clay Balyeat, and Valerie Lester.

Trustee Neff thanked Ted Ciminillo and Clark Spieles for their time as trustees.

Motion to amend the agenda to remove the Cemetery Presentation was made by Trustee Gross and seconded by Trustee Recker. All yes.

- Trustee Gross motioned to accept the January 12, 2026, Regular meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
- Trustee Gross motioned to accept the January 15, 2026, Special meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

**REPORT OF THE FISCAL OFFICER:**

- Working on reporting Overtime
- Not much to report

**REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR:**

- Renewal Language for Levy
- IRS problem is resolved

**PRESENTATION: Allen Soil and Water Conservation District**

Lydia and Melinda explained the MS4 Stormwater agreement and training. The agreement is the same as last year. Will review costs to see if there are any changes to be made to cover program expenses. Stormwater training is required and has been distributed to the relevant entities. The Police Department has already completed the training. Contract and payment for participation in the program need to be submitted by April 1, 2026, to ensure matching funding from the State.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

- **Jim Thompson- Spoke on the 1.5 mil renewal levy. Mr. Thompson stated that the push to act now is rushed to put it on the May ballot and not wait until the November ballot. In 2005, the 1.5 mil levy was put on the ballot to make up for the lost revenue from the CAT tax loss. The 2021 4.5 mil levy was also justified to make up for the same CAT Tax loss. Mr. Thompson is concerned that the residents feel misled. He asked the board not to put the levy on the May ballot, but to wait and come up with a plan and present it to the public.**

Mr. Neff, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cooley, and Mr. Recker responded with an open discussion. (Full contents in recording)

**RESOLUTION 26-26**

**Acceptance of Resignation – J. Cox**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees accept the resignation of Full-time Police Officer Joshua Cox, effective January 13, 2026.

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

**RESOLUTION 27-26**

**Resolution to Proceed – Fire Levy Renewal**

RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF A  
RENEWAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION  
(ORC 5705.03, 5705.19(I), and 5705.25)

WHEREAS, on 1/15/2026, this Board passed a resolution declaring the necessity of levying a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation, at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each one-dollar of taxable value, for the purposes of 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 for a period of five years; and,

WHEREAS, the Allen County Auditor has certified to this Board that the dollar amount of tax revenue for such renewal tax, if approved by the electors, would generate \$552,068 during the first year of collection based on the current total taxable value of \$526,155,860 which amounts to \$33.00 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s Market value;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring, that:

Section 1: The Board desires to proceed with the submission of the question of the renewal tax at a rate not to exceed 1.5 mills for each dollar (\$1) of taxable value to the electors of the township 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; as authorized by RC 5705.19(I).

Section 2: The question of the renewal levy shall be submitted to the electors of the entire territory of the township at an election held therein on May 5th, 2026.

Section 3: The form of the ballot to be used at said election shall be substantially as follows:

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Shawnee Township for the purpose of 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; that the county auditor estimates will collect \$552,068 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.5 Mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$33.00 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s Market value, for 5 years, commencing in TY2026, first due in CY2027.

	FOR THE LEVY
	AGAINST THE LEVY

Section 4: The Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to certify, not later than 10 days after the passage of this Resolution, to the Allen County Board of Elections a copy of the 1/15/2026 Resolution of Necessity, the 1/15/2026 Auditor’s Certification, and a copy of this Resolution.

Section 5: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and related to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board in compliance with all legal requirements, including ORC 121.22.

Trustee Gross motioned for approval, Trustee Recker seconded, and the motion carried 3-0

Roll Call: Mr. Gross, Yes Mr. Recker, No Mr. Neff, Yes

**RESOLUTION 28-26**

**Age Limitation for Hiring of Police Officers**

WHEREAS OAG 78-059 and ORC 505.49 grant Non-Civil Service Townships the authority, by two-thirds vote, to adopt rules and regulations for the operation of the district, including the determination of the qualification for the chief of police, patrolmen, and other police force members, and;

WHEREAS the Board wishes to set the minimum age of 21 for the initial appointment of Police personnel as described in ORC 505.49, and;

WHEREAS the Board will not set a maximum age limit, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees set the minimum age limit for the initial appointment of Police Chief, Patrolmen, and other police force members at 21 years old in accordance with ORC 505.49 and Ohio Attorney General Opinion (OAG) 78-059, and;

FURTHER, this Resolution supersedes any Resolution that formerly pertained to age limitations of Police Officers.

Trustee Gross motioned for approval, Trustee Neff seconded, and the motion carried 3-0

Roll Call: Mr. Gross, Yes Mr. Recker, Yes Mr. Neff, Yes

**DEPARTMENTS:**

**Fire**

1. Squad has been busy
2. Importance of carbon monoxide detectors in this weather
3. Looking to hire and get back to full staffing

**Police**

1. Down one officer. Will look at applicants
2. Week away from building being finished

**Dispatch**

1. CPR Training for dispatch

**Roads**

1. Snow plowing
2. Found an elderly lady in the snow and helped her
3. Truck traffic through the Township. Most of those roads are County roads, and the County would need to make any changes
4. Questions on signage

**Zoning**

1. Variance Hearing – CAT
2. Board members
3. Not much building currently

Trustee Gross made a motion to accept the report as presented. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, and the roll being called, all voted yes.

**Cemetery**

1. Sales
2. Donations toward the monument

**TO PAY THE BILLS:**

Trustee Gross made a motion to pay the bills, which Trustee Recker seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Roll Call:            Mr.Gross, Yes                    Mr. Recker, Yes                    Mr.Neff, Yes

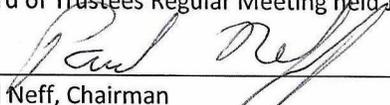
**COMMUNICATIONS:**

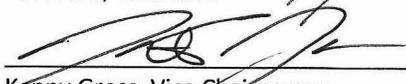
1. Anne Decker is working on the website

**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 Regular Meeting held January 26, 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.