SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2026

On September 14, 2026, the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees met at 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, Chief Kohli, Teresa Pulfer, Mike Hastenstaub, Kevin Cooley, Valerie Lester. Chief Miller and Howard Gray were absent.

- Trustee Gross made a motion to accept the August 24, 2026, Regular meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
- Trustee Gross made a motion to accept the August 31, 2026, Special meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
- Trustee Gross made a motion to Table the September 3, 2026, Special meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
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REPORT OF THE FISCAL OFFICER:

- Working through the audit

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR:

- Nothing to report

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

John Keske – 1428 Peacock Drive – Local Podcast: Spoke about his podcast and questioned why people don't want to appear on his personal podcast for the comprehensive plan, and why Missy VanMeter won't work on the school's independent Centennial Committee outside the scope of her township employment.

DEPARTMENTS:

Fire

1. Report Submitted- BC Hasenstaub
2. Donation from Marathon
3. Fully staffed
4. 2 starting paramedic school, 1 starting fire school, 1 in instructor school
5. Training ongoing

Police

1. Report Submitted
2. Elmwood School beginning-of-the-year kick-off with PD, FD, and Trustees
3. Thanks to Kevin for working on correcting billing problem
4. Looking at vehicle replacement
5. Couple scammed – money returned after investigation
6. People interested in positions

Dispatch

1. Report Submitted
2. Commended Jessica on 911 call

Roads

1. Report Submitted
2. Updated inventory list
3. Drainage and catch basin work
4. Continuing road work
5. Leaves starting soon
6. Working on getting cameras up in the drop-off area

Zoning

1. Report Submitted
2. Property maintenance and compliance

Cemetery

1. Report Submitted
2. Day of Caring - 245 monuments cleaned

3. Water features added to the memorial
4. Wreaths Across America

TO PAY THE BILLS:
Trustee Gross made a motion to pay the bills, and Trustee Recker seconded. The motion passed 3-0.
Roll Call: Mr. Gross, Yes Mr. Recker, Yes Mr. Neff, Yes

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Nothing to report

TRUSTEE BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 136-26
Acceptance of Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Full-time Police Officer, Ryan M. Burkholder effective September 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 137-26
Extension of Injury Leave – Lyle Dray

WHEREAS, Lyle Dray sustained a work-related injury and has fully exhausted the initial nine (9)weeks of Injury Leave provided under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS, Article 20, Section C of the current Labor Agreement between the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees and IAFF Local #2550 permits the Board of Trustees to authorize extensions of injury leave beyond the initial period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with Article 20, Section C of the Labor Agreement between the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees and IAFF Local #2550, the Board hereby authorizes an extension of Injury Leave for Lyle Dray for an additional ten (10) days for said work-related injury.

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 138-26
Acceptance of the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Certifying them to the County Auditor

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees accepts the Amount and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission and attached hereto, and;

FURTHER, the Board certifies them to the Allen County, Ohio Auditor.

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 139-26
Declaration of Public Nuisance and Order of Abatement

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Shawnee Township, Allen County, is permitted through Section 505.86, 505.87, and 5579.05 of the Ohio Revised Code to regulate the growing of noxious, nuisance vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris on property, and blighted property throughout the Township; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Trustees may provide for the abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris from land in the Township, if the board determines the owner's maintenance of such vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris constitutes a public nuisance and blighted property; and

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Township Zoning Inspector investigated the conditions and documented the vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris which constitute a nuisance and conditions contributing to the blighted property through the use of date-stamped photographic evidence, as presented in Exhibit "A" as an attachment to this Resolution, for the following properties:

Address	**Auditor's Parcel ID #(PIN)**	**Owner:**
3391 Spencerville Road, Allen County, Lima, Ohio	46-0404-01-001.000	Rose M. Daniels

WHEREAS, the owner(s) of record and all lien holders of record of the aforementioned property have not responded to requests by the Shawnee Township Zoning Department to remove, control said vegetation and to comply with the listed violations of the Articles of the Shawnee Township Zoning Resolution. It is further recommended to the Board of Trustees of Shawnee Township that the existence of the uncontrolled vegetation on the above-referenced property does constitute a nuisance under Ohio Revised Code 505.87, as well as Shawnee Township Resolution #60-18 effective March 26, 2018, and in accordance with ORC 1.08 the above-referenced property does constitute a blighted property.

WHEREAS, violations of the Shawnee Township Zoning Resolution, Exterior Maintenance Code, and ORC are attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, at least seven days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal of any vegetation, the Board of Township Trustees shall notify the owner of the land and any holders of liens of record upon the land that the owner is ordered to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, grass, and noxious weeds, as the owner's maintenance of which has been determined by the Board to be a nuisance; and,

WHEREAS, if such vegetation, grass, noxious weeds, garbage, refuse, or debris is not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provisions for its abatement, control, or removal is not made in seven (7) days, the Board shall provide for the abatement, control, or removal, and any expenses incurred, to include a $ 100.00 administrative fee by the township in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry; and,

WHEREAS, if the Board of Township Trustees determines within twelve consecutive months after a prior nuisance determination that the same owner's maintenance of vegetation, grass, noxious weeds, garbage, refuse, or other debris on the same land in the township constitutes a nuisance, at least four (4) days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal, and any expenses incurred, to include a $ 100.00 administrative fee by the township in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Shawnee Township, Allen County, Ohio, by authority under Section 505.87 of the Ohio Revised Code, as follows:

- ***SECTION 1.*** The Board specifically finds and hereby determines that the uncontrolled growth of vegetation and / or refuse and debris on said property listed above constitutes a nuisance within the meaning of Ohio Revised Code Section 505.87; as well as Shawnee Township Resolution #60-18, and ORC 1.08; and,

- ***SECTION 2.*** The Shawnee Township Board of Trustees hereby directs that notice of this action be given to owners of said property, and lien holders in the manner required by Ohio Revised Code 505.87; and,

- ***SECTION 3.*** The Shawnee Township Board of Trustees hereby orders the owners of said property to remove and abate the nuisances within seven (7) days after notice of this order is given to the owners and lienholders of record; and within four (4) days after notice of this order is given to owners and lienholders of record for the properties previously determined to be a nuisance as follows:

  a. Remove any and all objects on the property as listed in the attached violation that constitute a public nuisance.

- ***SECTION 4.*** If said nuisances are not removed and abated by the said owners, or if no agreement for removal and abatement is reached between the Township and the owners and lien holders of record within four or seven days respectfully after said notice is given, Shawnee Township employees shall enter on the property; remove any and all objects on the property which are in violation of the Shawnee Township Zoning Resolution, the Shawnee Township Exterior Maintenance Code, and the Ohio Revised Code sections that apply, that constitute a public nuisance, and that are listed as attached, and;

- ***SECTION 5.*** The Board of Trustees hereby gives notice to the owner(s) of record that the township's removal of said violations will occur on/after ***August 20, 2026,*** and the owner(s) of record may enter into an agreement with the board to perform the removal of said violations that constitute a public nuisance prior to this date.

- ***SECTION 6.*** That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure pursuant to Section 504.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, or welfare of Shawnee Township, in order to control the violations and public nuisances listed.

- ***SECTION 7.*** That this Board hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting, and that all deliberations of this Board and of its Committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken and open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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 140-26
RESOLUTION EMPLOYING TOWNSHIP'S ATTORNEYS FOR ZONING RELATED MATTERS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Township Zoning Commission has made a recommendation to the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees to hire the Law Firm of Brosius, Johnson and Griggs LLC to provide legal guidance to the Commission on Zoning amendments, language and matters of zoning Law; and

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees ("Board") is authorized by Section 309.09(B) of the Ohio Revised Code to employ attorneys on an annual basis other than the prosecuting attorney to represent the Township and its officers, boards, and commissions in their official capacities and to advise them on legal matters; and

WHEREAS, Section 309.09(B) of the Ohio Revised Code provides that no such attorney may be employed except on the order of the Board, duly entered upon its Journal, in which the compensation to be paid for the attorney's legal services shall be fixed; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it necessary to appoint attorneys to counsel and represent the Township on an annual basis for calendar year 2026 in such matters as the Board or its designee may refer to them; and

WHEREAS, the Board has appropriated the sum of $7,500.00 for legal services for 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees, Allen County, Ohio, accepts the recommendation of the Zoning Commission and authorizes:

SECTION 1. Jennifer L. Huber of Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC, and the law firm of Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC, are hereby employed on an annual basis for calendar year 2026 as the Township's legal counsel to represent the Township and its officers, boards, and commissions in their official capacities and to advise them in connection with such matters as may be referred to said counsel by or on behalf of the Board or its designee.

SECTION 2. The compensation for such counsel during 2026 shall be paid as follows: $235.00 per hour partner attorney time; $215.00 per hour senior associate time; $190.00 per hour associate time; $130.00 per hour law clerk time; and $115.00 per hour legal assistant time; plus out-of-pocket expense reimbursements; provided that the total compensation shall not exceed $7,500.00 without further action by this Board.

SECTION 3. The attorneys may be discharged at any time by a majority vote of the Board.

SECTION 4. The Township Fiscal Officer is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the law firm.

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including, without limitation, Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its adoption.

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

Administrative Hearing: Additionally, this hearing was formally recorded and transcribed, independent of these minutes, by Angie, a hired court reporter

Attorney Dan Sabol, legal counsel for the Township, recommended postponing the hearing until a hearing officer is available.

Attorney Smith questioned Mr. Sabol's representation of the Township in this hearing and other court cases. Mr. Smith questioned personal service to Mr. Miller. Mr. Smith questioned the service of subpoenas. Mr. Smith objected to the postponement of the hearing.

After both parties argued their positions, the Trustees allowed a 5-minute break. 5:54, the Hearing was reconvened. During the break, the defendants' representatives were allowed access to Mr. Miller's computer.

Attorney Smith argued the content of the computer that Chad Bryan (representative of Mr. Miller) reviewed. Trustee Neff explained the chain of custody of the computer.

Mr. Smith asked if the Board would allow Mr. Miller to come back to work.

The discussion expanded to numerous other issues.

Trustee Gross made a motion to extend Mr. Miller's paid administrative leave for 30 days, or until a mutually agreed hearing date is set. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Smith spoke as to the subpoenas again.

Adjournment

With no further business to be brought before the Board of Trustees, Trustee Gross moved for adjournment, Trustee Recker seconded, and the motion carried 3-0. 6:41 p.m.

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held September 14, 2026

Paul Neff, Chairman

Kenny Gross, Vice Chairperson

Joe Recker, Trustee at Large

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