SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 2026

On October 13, 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 4:00 p.m.

The roll call indicated the following present: Trustee Neff, Trustee Gross, Trustee Recker, Chief Kohli, Clay Balyeat, and Kevin Cooley.

The Chairperson read the meeting decorum to ensure a respectful environment and announced streamlining of the meeting due to a scheduled hearing later the same evening. Department head oral reports were suspended for this session, and a motion to suspend the privilege of the floor was introduced pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 504.09.

Trustee Gross made a motion to suspend Department head reports and the privilege of the floor. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, and the motion passed 3 – 0.

- Trustee Gross made a motion to accept the September 28, 2026, Regular meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
- Trustee Gross made a motion to accept the October 9, 2026, Special meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Fiscal Officer:

- Property Taxes
- BWC Reimbursement
- Auditor

Attorney

- Briefing of how the upcoming hearing will proceed

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: None to report

TRUSTEE BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 148-26
Acceptance of Ohio Traffic Safety Office Summer Holiday Enforcement Proposal Grant

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees accepts the Ohio Traffic Safety Office Summer Holiday Enforcement Proposal Grant in the amount of $20,373.11, covering the costs to dedicate an officer for traffic enforcement during specific holidays for the period of Oct 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027.

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

The Chairperson announced a recess at 4:38 p.m., with continuation at 6:00 p.m. the same day and doors reopening at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 for a disciplinary hearing for Fire Chief Austin Miller.

Charges:
Charge 1: Alleged offense from October 2025.
Charge 2: Allegations arising from exit interviews conducted in February 2026.
Charge 3: Complaints regarding physical examinations from March and April 2026.
Charge 4: Computer-related charge; formally dismissed by unanimous trustee vote (3–0) during the hearing.

- Defense argued the governing statute requires immediate filing of written charges and personal service "upon the person" or by leaving a copy at the office; contended certified mail is not personal service; claimed no certificate of service was filed.
- The Hearing Officer distinguished types of service: personal service (hand delivery, by process server), certified mail, publication. Stated certified mail with signed green card can constitute service recognized by common pleas courts but emphasized the trustees must apply the statute's exact language if it specifies personal service. He reiterated that words matter and service types differ legally.
- Trustee's Counsel declined to pursue Charge 4 and later acknowledged a service issue; advisor framed dismissal as within trustees' authority, with pros/cons explained.
- Charge 4 dismissed by unanimous 3–0 vote.
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- The board voted to dismiss the charges "without prejudice.

There was a motion made to dismiss the charges without prejudice. The motion was seconded, and roll being called resulted in:
Roll Call: Mr. Gross, Yes Mr. Recker, Yes Mr. Neff, Yes

Recording available

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.

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held October 13, 2026

Paul Neff, Chairman

Kenny Gross, Vice Chairperson

Joe Recker, Trustee at Large

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