SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 2026

On May 11, 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 Recker, Trustee Gross, Police Chief Kohli, Fire Chief Austin Miller, Teresa Pulfer, Lesa Wende, Valerie Lester, and Clay Balyeat were in attendance. Howard Gray and Kevin Cooley were absent.

- Trustee Gross motioned to accept the April 27, 2026, Regular meeting minutes. Trustee Recker seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

REPORT OF THE FISCAL OFFICER:

- Absent

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR:

- Zoning and Police issues

PRIVLEDGE OF THE FLOOR:

- **Stacey Brenneman:** Spoke on social media. Would like to see protections in place to protect residents' information. Requests to be considered whether other entities that we post about are held to the same guidelines as the township. Problems may arise from posting residents' addresses and children's information. Vetting of organizations that we may be posting or promoting needs to be considered. Mr. Neff stated that the Township will be updating the social media policy.

RESOLUTION 79-26
Authorization to Hire Part-time Cemetery Labor – K. Lehman

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees authorizes the hiring of Keaton Lehman as part-time labor for Shawnee Township, primarily for Cemetery labor, effective May 11, 2026, at an hourly rate of $17.00 per hour.

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 80-26
Authorization to Purchase Turnout Gear

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of 2 sets of Fire Turnout Gear, from Fire Safety Service, for use by the Shawnee Township Fire Department at a cost not to exceed $8,240.00.

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 81-26
Authorization to Purchase 108SD Plus Conventional Chassis for the Shawnee Township Road Department

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of one 108SD Plus Conventional Chassis, specifications attached hereto, from Stoops Freightliner of Lima, Ohio, at a cost of $111,607.00.

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 82-26
Authorization to Purchase 16X83 MP07 Medium Pipe Utility Trailer - Road Department

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees authorizes the purchase of one 16X83 MP07 Medium Pipe Utility Trailer, specifications attached hereto, from Lininger Trailer Sales and Service at a cost of $3,600.00. The trailer is for use by the Road Department and is a replacement for a trailer damaged in an accident.

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 83-26
Appointment of Delegates and Alternates to Lima Allen County Regional Planning
BE IT RESOLVED that the Shawnee Township Board of Trustees appoints the following as delegates and alternates for Lima Allen County Regional Planning, effective immediately and continuing through 2026:
Delegate 1 – Todd Lause
Delegate 2 – Valerie Lester
Alternate 1 – Paul Neff
Alternate 2 – Joe Recker

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

DEPARTMENTS:

Fire
1. Tour of Nutrien
2. EMS Banquet
3. Fire at Shawnee Weekday Nursery
4. Five-year plan for the FD

Police
1. Update of computers
2. Calls down
3. Law enforcement week – Corey Wilson was nominated as Officer of the Year
4. Toby Luebke saved a life with CPR
5. Michael Gaines saved a life
6. The budget will be out soon

Dispatch
1. Training hours increase
2. Calls down

Zoning
1. Inaudible
2. Grass and weeds

Roads
1. First round of mowing and trimming done. Will start ditch mowing
2. Tile repair, tree trimming, etc., are being worked on

Cemetery
1. Sales and interments
2. Trimming and mowing are going on
3. Donations for the project

Trustee Gross motioned for approval of all the reports as presented, Trustee Recker seconded, and the motion carried 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS:

- New sign up

- Clean up day – Saturday
- Click it or Ticket campaign kick off

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

Trustee Recker made a motion to recess the regular meeting of the Board to discuss the complaint of a Public employee. The Trustees expect to conduct further business upon return to the Regular Meeting of the Board. Trustee Gross seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Neff motioned to reconvene the regular Meeting of the Board. Trustee Recker seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

Trustee Neff made a motion to amend the agenda to include Resolution 84-26. Trustee Gross seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Trustee Neff made a motion to accept the newly amended agenda. Trustee Recker seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

RESOLUTION 84-26
Paid Administrative Leave

Trustee Neff made a motion to place Chief Austin Miller on paid Administrative Leave effective immediately.

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

Mr. Neff read a prepared statement:

Shawnee Township Trustees announced today that the Shawnee Township Fire Chief has been placed on paid administrative leave, effective immediately, pending the outcome of two separate ongoing investigations.

One investigation regarding alleged criminal and ethical violations is being conducted by the Ohio Auditor of State Special Investigations Unit. Shawnee Township officials wish to clarify that this inquiry is a state-level matter and is **not** being conducted by the Shawnee Township Police Department or local administration.

Additionally, Shawnee Township has been made aware of other potential criminal allegations and policy violations. The Trustees are actively working towards an investigation into these matters.

At this time, the Township has no further information regarding the specifics of the investigations. However, the Township is fully cooperating with state authorities to ensure a thorough and transparent process.

"Our primary commitment remains the integrity of our operations and the well-being of our community and our employees," the Township Board of Trustees stated. "We will continue to act in the best interests of the residents of Shawnee Township throughout this process."

To maintain the integrity of both investigations and out of respect for personnel privacy, Shawnee Township will not offer further comment at this time. Additional updates will be provided to the public as they become available and as legal protocols allow.

Mr. Neff hand-delivered Mr. Miller's leave notice directly to Mr. Miller.

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 May 11, 2026 – 7:28 p.m.

Paul Neff, Chairman

Kenny Gross, Vice Chairperson

Joe Recker, Trustee at Large

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