

# Minutes for Troy Township Trustees Regular Meeting 01/26/2026

Date of the next scheduled Trustee meeting: 02/09/2026

## Call to Order

Trustee Vice Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Roll Call

- Mr. Mike Schuster, Township Trustee Chairman: Absent
- Mr. Luke Wittmer, Township Trustee Vice Chairman: Present
- Mr. Shaun Walker, Township Trustee: Present
- Ms. Sarah Wilkinson, Fiscal Officer: Present
- Ms. Betsy Michalski, Assistant Fiscal Officer: Present
- Mr. Rich Compton, Fire Chief: Present
- Mr. Brad Ross, Assistant Fire Chief: Absent
- Mr. Matt Thayer, Road Superintendent: Present

## Residents and Other Guests

- Mark Caudill, Mansfield News Journal Reporter
- Keith Bacin, Lexington Village Councilman
- Aaron Hoptry, Troy Township Firefighter
- Dustin Hoptry, Resident
- Patrick Compton, Troy Township Firefighter
- Matt Lyon, Troy Township Firefighter
- David Morgenstern, Resident

## Public Comments

Fire Chief Richard Compton opened the meeting with a presentation of awards to Township firefighters Aaron Hoptry, Patrick Compton, and Matt Lyon. Firefighter Brenden Ganshorn is also receiving an award but was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Chief Compton recognized the firefighters for their heroism in saving the life of a Township resident who was stuck in his grain bin and buried in grain. The Township firefighters, along with other area emergency personnel, responded promptly and extricated the resident from the grain bin. The Trustees and others in attendance thanked the firefighters for their service and successful rescue efforts.

The Board and members of the public also expressed appreciation to the Township road crew for keeping our roads safe and passable during the recent winter storms.

## Approval of prior meeting minutes

Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular stated Trustee meeting and the organizational meeting, both held on 01/12/2026. Mr. Wittmer seconded the motion. Vote:

- Mr. Wittmer: Yes
- Mr. Walker: Yes

**Roll Call: Yea: 2; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion carried**

## Zoning: Mr. Thayer, Zoning Inspector, Zoning Report

No zoning.

## Roads: Mr. Thayer, Road Superintendent, Road Report

The road crew completed the following tasks since last meeting:

- Took Township garage signs to Richland County to get trustee and fiscal officer contact information updated
- Cleaned up trees on Home Rd., Wittmer Rd., Orweiler Rd.
- Took chainsaws to Kell Hardware to be sharpened
- Reinstalled a road sign on Voltz Rd.
- Plowed and salted roads twice on 1/15, 1/19, and 1/26
- Plowed and salted roads once on 1/17
- Plowed roads twice on 1/20 and 1/25
- Dug grave in the cemetery on 1/16

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- Washed the F-250
- Performed the following maintenance tasks on the number one and number two dump trucks:
  - Cleaned the windows and interior
  - Applied grease
  - Installed new radiator hoses

Mr. Wittmer made a motion to accept the road report as presented. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Vote:

- Mr. Wittmer: Yes
- Mr. Walker: Yes

**Roll Call: Yea: 2; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion carried**

## Fire/EMS Report

### Chief Compton

- Chief Compton reported that Ontario Truck Center performed repair work on one of the rescue vehicles and will be sending a bill to the Township.

## Correspondence

- Mrs. Wilkinson received an email from Richland County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) requesting Township support for an Ohio Department of Agriculture grant application. The email included a template letter for the Township to submit to the RPC voicing support for the grant. Mrs. Wilkinson will forward this email to the trustees.
- Mr. Wilkinson received a separate email from Strawser Construction Inc. regarding an upcoming Pavement Preservation Seminar and forwarded it to Trustee Chairman Schuster. Mr. Thayer noted he also received this email. The Township road department has attended this seminar in the past and found it was more of a marketing seminar than an educational seminar, so they don't plan to attend this year.

## Finances

Purchase Orders: To be reviewed and approved

Payment of Bills: To be reviewed and approved

Payroll Vouchers: To be reviewed and approved

Bank Reconciliation: N/A

## Motion to pay bills

Mr. Wittmer made a motion to pay bills. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Vote:

- Mr. Wittmer: Yes
- Mr. Walker: Yes

**Roll Call: Yea: 2; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion carried**

### Mrs. Wilkinson, Fiscal Officer and Ms. Michalski, Assistant Fiscal Officer

- Mrs. Wilkinson informed the Trustees that the Township must do its annual inventory review. She provided the representatives of each department with an Asset Confirmation report to use in reviewing inventory and requested that this review be completed prior to the next meeting on February 9, 2026.
- Mrs. Wilkinson noted that the Township's existing contract with Park National Bank (PNB) will end on February 23. The Township needs to sign a new contract if the Trustees decide to keep Township funds deposited in PNB accounts. According to the Township's PNB point of contact, Ohio law requires the term of this contract to be five (5) years, however, the contract is nonbinding. The Township can decide to remove their funds from PNB at any time and move them to another bank. Mrs. Wilkinson will sign the new contract, and the Trustees will discuss the Township's banking relationship with PNB at a later meeting.
- Ms. Michalski received the auditors' standard audit questionnaire for the Township's 2024-2025 audit. The auditors have instructed Ms. Michalski, former Trustee Chairman Tom McCready, and current Trustee Chairman Mike Schuster to each complete the questionnaire independently and return it to the auditors via email.

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## New Business

### Mr. Wittmer

- On October 13, 2025, the Trustees passed Resolution #2025-16, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO AGREEMENT WITH CARGILL, INC., which set forth a contract price of \$64.96 per ton for salt purchased from Cargill during the 2025-2026 season. The contract permits the Township to purchase a total of 1,000 tons of road salt directly from Cargill at the contract price. The road and bridge department has requested approval to order 500 tons of road salt from Cargill at the contract price, for a total cost of \$32,480. The Township plans to purchase an additional 500 tons before the end of the year to take advantage of the current pricing before it increases in 2027.

Mr. Wittmer made a motion to approve the purchase of 500 tons of road salt at \$64.96 per ton, for a total of \$32,480. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Vote:

- Mr. Wittmer: Yes
- Mr. Walker: Yes

**Roll Call: Yea: 2; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion carried**

### Mr. Walker

- No new business.

### Mr. Thayer, Zoning Inspector and Road Superintendent

- Mr. Thayer provided the Board with a listing of Washington Township zoning permit fees, which the Trustees can use when considering whether to raise Troy Township zoning permit fees in 2026.
- Mr. Thayer provided the Board with a report showing hourly pay rates for local road department employees in surrounding areas, including Springfield Township, Washington Township, Richland County, Troy Township, Village of Lexington, and Jefferson Township. Troy Township road workers are paid the lowest hourly rate out of these six localities. Mr. Thayer asked that the Trustees consider raising the Township road workers' hourly rates in order to make their pay more competitive. Mr. Thayer noted that competitive pay rates will be especially important in 2026 as the Township will be hiring a new road employee this spring. Mr. Thayer also noted that many area road departments also offer comp time in lieu of overtime for their employees. In general, employees prefer comp time, and Mr. Thayer believes that offering comp time instead of overtime will help to attract more eligible candidates to Troy Township's road department. The Trustees will discuss these compensation matters at a later meeting when Mr. Schuster is present.

## Old Business

- Mrs. Wilkinson reminded the Board that applications for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Chloride Reduction grant are due on February 6, 2026.

## Motion to Adjourn

Having no further business to discuss, Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wittmer seconded the motion. Vote:

- Mr. Wittmer: Yes
- Mr. Walker: Yes

**Roll Call: Yea: 2; Nay: 0; Abstain: 0; Motion carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sarah Wilkinson, Troy Township Fiscal Officer