

MINUTES OF THE WAYNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

June 15th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Trustees Vice-President Andrew Jacobs called a regular meeting of the Wayne Township Board of Trustees to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Elected officials present included: Trustee and Board Vice-President; Trustee Andrew Jacobs; Trustee Brad Coffman; Deputy Fiscal Officer Sharon Coffman. Township Staff present included: Township Administrator Gus Edwards, Scott Fitzsimmons, Fire Chief Jason Beckett, and Zoning Officer Stacey Lowing.

Guests and residents

Sam Fitzsimmons

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Coffman moved, and Mr. Jacobs seconded, to approve the minutes of the June 2nd, 2026, regular session meeting. A voice vote was held, with the following results: 2 yea, 0 nay, 1 absent.

Additions, Removals, or Disclosures from the Posted Agenda

NONE

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- NONE

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Road Department Report

Presented by Scott Camery, Road Superintendent

1. Mt. Holly Road Project

Road Superintendent Scott Camery reported that the Mt. Holly Road pipe replacement project has been completed.

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2. Equipment Auction

The road grader has been listed for sale on GovDeals. At the time of the meeting, the high bid was \$925, with approximately 10 days and 18 hours remaining before the auction closes on June 26, 2026.

3. Administration Building Landscaping

New shrubs have been obtained and planted at the Township Administration Building.

4. Road Maintenance

The Road Department has completed another round of roadway patching. Mr. Camery also reported that several roadside ditching projects remain on the work schedule, and the second round of township-wide mowing is expected to begin shortly.

5. Township Line Road Bridge Project

Township Line Road remains closed while bridge hazard mitigation work is being completed. Mr. Camery advised that the Road Department coordinated to receive the excavated material ("spoils") from the project for future use by the Township.

6. Fleet and Equipment Status

Mr. Camery reported that 100% of Road Department equipment is currently operational and available for service.

Fire Department Report

Presented by Jason Beckett, Fire Chief

1. Personnel

- Fire Chief Jason Beckett recommended the hiring of **Addison ("Addie") Powell** as a Volunteer Firefighter. Chief Beckett noted that Ms. Powell was a member of the Township's inaugural Cadet Program, has since graduated, and will be attending the Warren County Career Center this fall.

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- Chief Beckett also recommended the hiring of **Dennis Adkins** as a Volunteer Firefighter, noting that Mr. Adkins is a long-time community member who recently expressed an interest in serving with the department.
- Additionally, Chief Beckett recommended the hiring of **Peyton Woody** as a part-time Firefighter/EMT. Chief Beckett advised that Ms. Woody is currently employed full-time as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Turtlecreek Township and is in the process of completing her paramedic certification.
- Chief Beckett reported the resignation of Firefighter/EMT Kendall Gosney, who accepted a position with the Miami Valley Joint Fire District. He noted that the new position offers greater full-time employment opportunities and is closer to her residence. Chief Beckett thanked Ms. Gosney for her service to Wayne Township.

2. Administration

- Chief Beckett reported that the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application for a replacement tanker has been completed ahead of the submission deadline. Prior to submission, the application will be reviewed by several fire chiefs with successful AFG grant experience to strengthen the Township's application.
- Chief Beckett also reported that the Department has successfully obtained the title for the Township's 25-horsepower outboard motor.

3. Operations and Equipment

Chief Beckett advised that the proposed purchase recommendation for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs) would be tabled while the department completes additional committee review and evaluation.

4. Training

- Duty crews continue working on their Job Performance Requirements (JPRs).
- Chief Beckett reported that the **Warren County Career Center** utilized the Township's confined space rescue simulator at Station 91 from Monday through Wednesday to conduct a confined space rescue course involving 12 students. Photos from the training are expected to be shared on the department's social media page.

5. Community Engagement

- Chief Beckett attended the Sauerkraut Festival Food Safety Meeting as part of the department's community preparedness efforts.
- Chief Beckett also met with a developer at the Township Line Road and State Route 73 development to review Ohio's open burning regulations regarding the disposal of trees and other vegetative debris cleared from the site.

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He noted that significant construction progress has been made at the development, particularly in areas not readily visible from the roadway.

Zoning Officer's Report

Presented by Stacey Lowing, Zoning Officer

1. Development Activity

Zoning Inspector Stacey Lowing reported that work is underway to complete the **Stage 3 Planned Unit Development (PUD) certification** for the **Miami Valley Roofing** development, which will finalize the PUD process for the project.

2. Zoning Enforcement

Ms. Lowing advised that the Zoning Department is preparing to address a **significant zoning complaint**, with investigation and follow-up anticipated in the near future.

3. Rezoning Application – 4966 North State Route 42

Ms. Lowing reminded the Board of the upcoming public review schedule for the rezoning application for **4966 North State Route 42**, the former golf course property. The application is scheduled to be considered by the **Regional Planning Commission on June 25**, followed by the **Wayne Township Zoning Commission on June 29**. If recommended for approval, the matter is expected to be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration at its **July 21, 2026** meeting.

4. Announcements

Ms. Lowing reminded those in attendance that **Donald "Gus" Edwards' retirement celebration** is scheduled for **Friday at 1:00 p.m.**

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Administrator's Report

Presented by Gus Edwards, Township Administrator

1. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)

Administrator Donald "Gus" Edwards reported that the Township is **awaiting close-out instructions** from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to complete the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program. The Township remains in the queue pending final close-out guidance.

2. Community Events

Mr. Edwards advised the Board that they are invited to attend the **Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** for the new Glasshouse Waynesville office located at **220 N. Main Street** on **June 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

3. EPA MS4 Program

Mr. Edwards reported that the Township continues to monitor the **Ohio EPA's revised Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** criteria based on the **2020 Census**. The Township expects to receive notification from the Ohio EPA in July regarding whether it will be required to participate in the MS4 program or may qualify for an exemption.

4. ODOT State Route 73 Improvements

Mr. Edwards updated the Board on the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) project at the intersection of **State Route 73 and Old State Route 73**. Construction is expected to begin in mid-June and includes widening the intersection and adding a dedicated left-turn lane from SR 73 onto Old SR 73.

He further reported that ODOT will repave **State Route 73 from Springboro to Caesar Creek**, including pavement markings and guardrail replacement where necessary. As of the meeting date, construction activity had not yet begun.

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5. Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Program – Project Year 41

Mr. Edwards reviewed information included in the Board's packet regarding a potential **joint OPWC Project Year 41 application** involving the Village of Waynesville and Wayne Township for improvements to **Old State Route 73**.

Three project alternatives prepared by Choice One Engineering were presented for consideration. Mr. Edwards expressed support for **Option No. 3**, which would complete all improvements from **Lytle Road to State Route 73**, including waterline improvements, stormwater infrastructure, roadway resurfacing, and other associated work.

The proposed project is estimated at approximately **\$1.8 million**, with an anticipated local share of **approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000**, and the remaining costs funded through OPWC if awarded. Mr. Edwards noted that Wayne Township's anticipated contribution toward resurfacing the portion of roadway within the Township is approximately **\$100,000**, with the Township also evaluating whether two culverts along the route should be replaced as part of the project.

6. Resident Concerns

Mr. Edwards provided follow-up information regarding concerns discussed at the previous meeting.

Regarding the **inside radius of Smith Road**, he reported that the roadway is functioning as designed. The paved shoulder is intended primarily for larger vehicles requiring additional turning space, while passenger vehicles should remain on the concrete driving surface.

Mr. Edwards also addressed concerns regarding the **streetlight at the intersection of Smith Road and State Route 73**. He explained that the light was intentionally installed approximately twenty years ago to illuminate the SR 73 intersection for through traffic, improving motorists' ability to identify the intersection while traveling eastbound and westbound on State Route 73. The fixture has since been upgraded to LED technology and continues to function as intended. He noted that any changes or additional lighting would require additional funding from the Township.

7. Retirement Remarks

Mr. Edwards advised the Board that this would be his **final Board of Trustees meeting** prior to his retirement. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve Wayne Township, stating that it had been a privilege to work for the Board, serve the Township's residents, and work alongside the Township's employees throughout his career.

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He reflected positively on his years of service and thanked the Board and staff for the opportunity to serve the community.

Fiscal Office Report
Presented by Scott Fitzsimmons

Fiscal Officer's Report

1. Tax Budget Hearing

Fiscal Officer Sharon Cowan reported that there were no substantive updates at this time. She reminded the Board that the **2027 Tax Budget Hearing** is scheduled for the Board's **July 7, 2026** meeting.

2. Additional Business

The Fiscal Officer reported that there were no additional items requiring the Board's attention.

OLD BUSINESS

No Updates to Report

NEW BUSINESS

PAYING OF THE BILLS

Mr. Jacobs moved to approve the bills as presented for payment, seconded by Mr. Coffman. a roll-call vote was taken, and the results are as follows: Mr. Coffman – Yea, Ms. Colvin – Absent, Mr. Jacobs – Yea.

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RESOLUTIONS

2026-57 ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF KENDALL GOSNEY FROM THE WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion

Mr. Coffman motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted: Mr. Coffman – yea; Ms. Colvin – absent; Mr. Jacobs – yea. The resolution was adopted.

2026-58 APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF ADDISON POWELL AS A VOLUNTEER TO THE WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion

Mr. Coffman motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted: Mr. Coffman – yea; Ms. Colvin – absent; Mr. Jacobs – yea. The resolution was adopted.

2026-59 APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF DENNIS ADKINS AS A VOLUNTEER TO THE WAYNE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion

Mr. Coffman motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted: Mr. Coffman – yea; Ms. Colvin – absent; Mr. Jacobs – yea. The resolution was adopted.

2026-60 A RESOLUTION TO HIRE PAYTON WOODY AS A PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER/EMT

Motion

Mr. Coffman motioned to adopt the resolution. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted: Mr. Coffman – yea; Ms. Colvin – absent; Mr. Jacobs – yea. The resolution was adopted.

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Correspondence/Comments

Correspondence

- None

Elected Officials' Comments

- **Trustee Jacobs** – Trustee Jacobs expressed his appreciation to Administrator Donald "Gus" Edwards for his years of service and dedication to Wayne Township. He remarked that Mr. Edwards' **time, effort, and commitment** to the Township were evident in the lasting improvements made during his tenure, stating that Wayne Township is a stronger organization today because of his leadership. Trustee Jacobs also thanked Mr. Edwards for sharing his extensive knowledge of the Township's history, its residents, and the community. He acknowledged Mr. Edwards as a tremendous asset to Wayne Township and expressed his personal gratitude for the guidance and assistance Mr. Edwards had provided throughout his own service as a Trustee.
- **Trustee Coffman** - Trustee Coffman expressed his sincere appreciation to Administrator Donald "Gus" Edwards for his many years of dedicated service to Wayne Township. He recognized Mr. Edwards for the countless hours he devoted to the Township, his leadership in thousands of projects throughout his public service, and his continued commitment after transitioning from serving as a Township Trustee to serving as Township Administrator. Trustee Coffman thanked Mr. Edwards for his wisdom, guidance, and insight throughout numerous Township initiatives and stated that it had been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside him. He concluded by expressing his gratitude for Mr. Edwards' lasting contributions to Wayne Township and its residents.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jacobs motioned to adjourn. Mr. Coffman seconded the motion, and a voice vote was taken: 2 yea / 0 nay / 1 absent. The Wayne Township Board of Trustees adjourned its meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Andy Jacobs – Vice-President, Board of Trustees

Sharon Coffman – Deputy Fiscal Officer