

AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

---

**Call to order:** Name

**Pledge:** Status

**Moment of Silence:**

- Before we begin the business of this evening’s meeting, I would like to ask everyone to join the Board of Trustees in observing a moment of silence in memory of John Scheckelhoff, who passed away on Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

John was a lifelong supporter and champion of Weathersfield Township and the Mineral Ridge community. Through his generosity, leadership, and countless hours of volunteer service, he touched the lives of generations of our residents, particularly our youth. Whether supporting our schools, athletics, community events, or local organizations, John never hesitated to give of his time, talents, and resources to make our community a better place. In recognition of his extraordinary dedication and lasting impact, the Township proudly presented John with the Weathersfield Township Community Leadership Award in 2017.

John’s legacy will live on through the many facilities he helped build, the programs he supported, and, most importantly, the countless lives he inspired through his kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to our community.

Please join me in observing a moment of silence in honor and memory of John Scheckelhoff. May he rest in eternal peace, and may his family and friends find comfort in knowing that his remarkable legacy will never be forgotten.

- The Board would also like to take a moment to recognize the passing of Craig Heinz, a former firefighter with our department. Craig was a devoted public servant in the fire the service and our community was fortunate to have him serve our residents.

On behalf of the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees and the residents of our community, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those whose lives were enriched by Craig’s service and friendship.

Please join us in observing a moment of silence in memory of Craig.

**Correspondence/Announcements:**

- The ***Trustees would like to thank Never Muzzled and Legacy Dog Rescue for their donation of five pet oxygen masks to our Fire Department.***
- The ***Trustees would like to mention that the National Night Out event that took place on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 was a success and was well attended.*** Thank you to our Fire Department, Police Department, Lane LifeTrans, and the Trumbull County Sheriff’s office for participating, and to the Weathersfield Community Connection Partners for hosting the event.
- The ***Trustees would like to remind our residents that the 2026 Residential Tree Limb Chipping Program has begun.*** The 2026 Residential Tree Limb Chipping Program began on Friday, May 1, 2026 and will continue each Friday through Friday, October 30, 2026. For tree limb pick-up, you must call the Township by Thursday of each week to be placed on the list for a Friday pick-up. Please keep the following rules and procedures in mind:
  - This program is intended for residential tree limbs up to 3 inches in diameter.
  - The tree limbs must be placed at the curbside with all the cut ends aligned with each other toward the street.
  - No shrubs, stumps, roots, lumber, or railroad ties will be accepted. All tree limbs must be free from vines.
  - We are not a tree removal service; if you are having a tree professionally removed let them do the entire job, you must have them take the tree limbs as well.

| Motion by: Name              | Seconded by: Name      |                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Vote: Steven Gerberry - Vote | Richard Harkins - Vote | Edward Whittaker - Vote |
| Motion Status                |                        |                         |

Section 2. The Township Administrator is further authorized to review, approve, and execute the Grant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, together with any certifications, title encumbrance exhibits, assurances, amendments, or any other agreements, forms, reports, or documents required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or any other state agency for the administration of this grant.

AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

---

Section 3. The Township Administrator is authorized to submit requests for advance funding, reimbursement requests, project status reports, financial documentation, closeout documents, and all other materials necessary to receive grant funds and ensure compliance with all applicable state requirements.

Section 4. The Township Administrator is authorized to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to administer the grant, including executing all documents, certifications, assurances, and related instruments required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to complete the project and secure payment of grant funds.

Section 5. The Board of Trustees affirms its commitment to complete the Weathersfield Township Community Park project in accordance with all applicable requirements of Senate Bill 450, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, applicable provisions governing tax-exempt state bond funding, and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Section 6. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were conducted in meetings open to the public in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 7. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force effective July 29, 2026, the date of the Township’s official notification of the grant award from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

|                              |                        |                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Motion by: Name              | Seconded by: Name      |                         |
| Vote: Steven Gerberry - Vote | Richard Harkins - Vote | Edward Whittaker - Vote |
| Motion Status                |                        |                         |

26-110 MOTION TO ***ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND IMPOSING A TWELVE (12) MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC FACILITIES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OF TOWNSHIP HIGHWAYS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES; SUSPENDING ANY EXISTING AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH WORK DURING THE MORATORIUM; REQUESTING SIMILAR ACTION BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER ROADWAYS WITHIN WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.***

WHEREAS, the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees is charged under the Ohio Revised Code Section 5571.02 with the care, supervision, and maintenance of Township highways and rights-of-way under its jurisdiction, including the authority to regulate activities occurring therein in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5571.16 the Board of Trustees may require any person to obtain a permit from the Township before making any excavation in a Township highway or highway right-of-way within its jurisdiction, and the Township may set conditions for any such permit; and

WHEREAS, there has been a substantial increase in underground utility construction activities associated with the installation of fiber optic communication facilities within Township highway rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, these installation activities have resulted in damage to existing public and private infrastructure, including but not limited to storm sewer systems, sanitary facilities, water lines, natural gas lines, electric lines, roadway pavement, curbs, drainage structures, utility services, underground appurtenances, and other public improvements and utilities located within Township highway rights-of-way; and

# AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
 To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

WHEREAS, Weathersfield Township has experienced numerous incidents requiring the response of the Township Police Department, Fire Department, Road Department, utility providers, and other emergency responders as a direct result of underground utility conflicts occurring during fiber optic installation activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees further finds that during underground fiber optic installation activities within the Oakwood Estates development in Weathersfield Township, a contractor struck an underground natural gas line and, despite the active gas leak and the presence of emergency responders, refused to cease construction operations and failed to comply with the lawful instructions and orders of Township Fire Department personnel who were managing the emergency incident, thereby unnecessarily diverting firefighters from securing the hazardous scene, increasing the risk to public safety, and interfering with emergency response operations; and

WHEREAS, such incidents have unnecessarily diverted public safety personnel and Township employees from their normal duties, created avoidable public expense, disrupted transportation, required emergency traffic control, and exposed Township personnel and residents to unnecessary risks; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2026, a catastrophic natural gas explosion destroyed a residence in the City of Girard while utility construction associated with fiber optic installation was occurring in the immediate area. The City of Girard subsequently suspended further digging by the parties involved pending the outcome of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio investigation because of the significant public safety concerns raised by the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the risk of damage to underground natural gas facilities from digging and/or drilling to install fiber optic lines presents an extraordinary threat to life and property within the township; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that additional incidents involving damage to underground gas and electric infrastructure associated with fiber optic construction have recently occurred in neighboring communities throughout Trumbull County, including a natural gas line strike in Bazetta Township and incidents in Howland Township that resulted in utility outages and a temporary suspension of installation activities while safer construction practices were evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that study is necessary to determine the cause(s) of these repeated incidents of damage associated with fiber optic installations, as they appear to demonstrate a recurring pattern of inadequate utility locating practices, insufficient verification of existing underground facilities, inadequate supervision of subcontractors, or unacceptable construction methods; any of which may significantly increase the risk of catastrophic injury, death, and property damage; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that residents have experienced repeated interruptions of utility service, prolonged restoration delays, unacceptable restoration of lawns, drainage features, pavement, and public rights-of-way, inadequate communication regarding construction schedules, poor responsiveness to complaints, and significant difficulty identifying responsible contractors due to the widespread use of unmarked vehicles and subcontractors lacking readily identifiable company information; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that these repeated deficiencies have imposed substantial administrative burdens upon Township personnel and have generated unnecessary costs associated with inspections, complaint investigations, emergency response, roadway maintenance, restoration oversight, and coordination with utility providers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees hereby determines that a temporary moratorium is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare while installation methods, utility locating procedures, contractor accountability, restoration standards, emergency response protocols, and communication requirements are comprehensively reviewed and improved.



# AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
 To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Weathersfield Township, Trumbull County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. The Board hereby declares that for the reasons described above, an emergency exists and immediate action is required to protect the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Weathersfield Township.

SECTION 2. A moratorium is hereby imposed upon the installation of underground fiber optic facilities within the rights-of-way of township highways under the jurisdiction of the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees. This moratorium is effective immediately and shall remain in effect for twelve (12) months from the adoption of this Resolution, unless earlier terminated or extended by further action of the Board.

SECTION 3. During the period of this moratorium:

- A. No new permits, authorizations, approvals, licenses, or permissions shall be issued for underground fiber optic installation within Township rights-of-way.
- B. Any previously issued authorization, permit, or approval for underground fiber optic installation work within Township rights-of-way is suspended for any location where digging or drilling has not commenced, and at any location where construction has commenced, the permittee shall close the excavation, restore the surface, and suspend work.
- C. Any authorization permitting ongoing underground fiber optic construction within Township rights-of-way is hereby suspended until such time as the Board determines that appropriate public safety standards have been established and satisfied.

SECTION 4. The purpose of this moratorium is to protect the residents of Weathersfield Township while the Township studies the causes of these recent incidents of damage to utility lines and public infrastructure associated with fiber optic installation and determines how best to prevent future incidents. During the moratorium period, the Township will:

- A. Review and study the reasons for the multiple recent incidents throughout the county of damage to water, gas, and electric lines associated with fiber optic installations;
- B. Evaluate best practices, regulations, and standards adopted by other Ohio townships, municipalities, and counties to reduce such incidents;
- C. Adopt a revised permit process and rules pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5571.16 for excavation in township highways or highway rights-of-way within Weathersfield Township, addressing such matters as utility locating practices, verification of existing underground facilities, supervision of subcontractors, bonds, insurance, protective measures, construction methods, repair of damage, cleanup and restoration.

SECTION 5. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit emergency repairs to existing communication facilities necessary to restore interrupted service or protect public safety, provided such work is approved by the Township Administrator or Highway Superintendent.

SECTION 6. The Board respectfully urges the Trumbull County Board of Commissioners, the Trumbull County Engineer, and the Ohio Department of Transportation to adopt similar temporary moratoria or suspensions for underground fiber optic installation activities within their respective rights-of-way located within Weathersfield Township until safer construction practices have been implemented.

SECTION 7. The Township Fiscal Officer is directed to provide certified copies of this Resolution to:

WHEREAS, designation as an Ohio Water Trail recognizes waterways that meet established standards for public access, safety, recreation, stewardship, and educational

AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

---

opportunities, while increasing public awareness of Ohio's water resources and encouraging responsible use of those resources; and

WHEREAS, designation of the Mahoning River Water Trail Extension will position the participating communities to pursue state, federal, and private grant opportunities for the construction and enhancement of canoe and kayak launches, trailhead facilities, directional and interpretive signage, safety improvements, portage facilities, river access points, and other public infrastructure that enhances the overall user experience and protects the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed water trail will encourage outdoor recreation, paddlesports, environmental education, heritage tourism, and appreciation of the Mahoning River while creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the river in a safe and organized manner; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Township Trustees recognizes that the proposed water trail will serve as a regional recreational asset connecting communities throughout the Mahoning Valley, fostering partnerships among local governments, attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and contributing to the continued revitalization of the Mahoning River Corridor; and

WHEREAS, although Weathersfield Township does not currently have a designated launch facility along the proposed extension, Township residents will benefit from convenient access to nearby launch sites and recreational amenities located throughout the proposed trail corridor, thereby expanding opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, fishing, wildlife observation, environmental education, and other outdoor recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Township Trustees finds that supporting the designation of the Mahoning River Water Trail Extension is consistent with the Township's commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities, promoting regional cooperation, improving quality of life for Township residents, protecting natural resources, and encouraging economic development throughout the Mahoning Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Township Trustees of Weathersfield Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. The Board hereby expresses its full support for the application submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources seeking designation of the Mahoning River Water Trail Extension.

Section 2. The Board supports the collaborative regional effort among Trumbull County MetroParks, participating local governments, regional organizations, and community partners to promote the Mahoning River as a premier destination for recreation, tourism, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

Section 3. The Board recognizes that designation of the Mahoning River Water Trail Extension will strengthen future opportunities to secure grant funding and other financial assistance for water trail infrastructure, signage, public access improvements, safety enhancements, educational resources, and related projects benefiting the Mahoning Valley.

Section 4. The Board encourages residents of Weathersfield Township to utilize and enjoy the recreational opportunities created through the Mahoning River Water Trail Extension and supports continued efforts to preserve, protect, and enhance the Mahoning River for future generations.

Section 5. The Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to Trumbull County MetroParks and any other agency as may be necessary in support of the application.

Motion by: Name    Seconded by: Name



AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Vote: Steven Gerberry - Vote Richard Harkins - Vote Edward Whittaker - Vote  
Motion Status

26-113 MOTION TO ***ADOPT A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-050 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2026 DODGE DURANGO V6 PURSUIT VEHICLES FOR THE WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM CROWN CDJR DUBLIN BY MUNICIPAL LEASE-PURCHASE***

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2026, the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution Number 26-050 authorizing the purchase of two (2) 2026 Dodge Durango V6 Pursuit vehicles from Crown CDJR Dublin by municipal lease-purchase for use by the Weathersfield Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the adoption of Resolution Number 26-050, the Township was notified that the 2026 Dodge Durango V6 Pursuit vehicles authorized for purchase are no longer available due to manufacturer production limitations and the inability of the dealership to fulfill the Township’s order; and

WHEREAS, because the authorized vehicles are unavailable, it is necessary to rescind Resolution Number 26-050 so that the Township may pursue the acquisition of alternative police vehicles that best meet the operational needs of the Police Department and comply with applicable purchasing requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that rescinding Resolution Number 26-050 is in the best interest of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Weathersfield Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. Resolution Number 26-050, adopted on March 10, 2026, authorizing the purchase of two (2) 2026 Dodge Durango V6 Pursuit vehicles from Crown CDJR Dublin by municipal lease-purchase, is hereby rescinded in its entirety.

Section 2. The rescission of Resolution Number 26-050 is based solely upon the unavailability of the authorized vehicles and shall not be construed as a determination regarding the merits of the original purchase authorization.

Motion by: Name   Seconded by: Name  
Vote: Steven Gerberry - Vote Richard Harkins - Vote Edward Whittaker - Vote  
Motion Status

26-114 Motion to ***adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) 2026 Ford Utility Police Interceptors at a total purchase price of \$120,758.00 from Statewide Ford Lincoln, using Statewide Municipal Leasing to finance the equipment***

WHEREAS, the Police Department needs two new vehicles, and the Township desires to purchase the Ford Utility Police Interceptor which will meet the needs of the Department; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has received a quote from Statewide Ford Lincoln of 1108 West Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891 for the vehicles, at the State Purchasing Price for the vehicles;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees that:

Section 1. The Township Administrator, Fiscal Officer, and Chief of Police are hereby authorized and directed to execute the documents necessary to purchase (2) 2026 Ford Utility Police Interceptors from Statewide Ford Lincoln of 1108 West Main Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891, with lights, sirens, and other fittings necessary for police use, for a cost not to exceed \$60,379.00 each, for a total purchase price of \$120,758.00 using Statewide Municipal Leasing to finance the purchase for a four (4) year term.

AGENDA

For the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting  
To be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

---

Section 2. This purchase is authorized pursuant to O.R. C. §125.04.

Motion by: Name    Seconded by: Name  
Vote: Steven Gerberry - Vote    Richard Harkins - Vote                      Edward Whittaker - Vote  
Motion Status

Public Comments:

Next Meetings:

Next Meetings: Regular Meeting – Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 3:30 PM, Regular Meeting – Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 3:30 PM, and Regular Meeting – Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment:

26-115    Motion to *adjourn the meeting*.

Motion by: Name                      Seconded by: Name  
Vote: Steven Gerberry - Vote    Richard Harkins - Vote                      Edward Whittaker - Vote  
Motion Status

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick J. Glunt, Fiscal Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Gerberry, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard T. Harkins, Trustee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward K. Whittaker, Trustee