

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting

Held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Call to order: Steven Gerberry

Pledge: Completed

Roll Call: Steven Gerberry - Present
Edward Whittaker - Present

Richard Harkins - Present
Patrick Glunt - Present

Correspondence/Announcements:

- The **Trustees would like to congratulate Probationary Firefighter Jordan Stremo for completing his Firefighter I training and for passing the Firefighter I certification** through the state.
- The **Trustees are pleased to announce that the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP) has secured an Ohio EPA grant to remediate and remove the abandoned gas station at 3625 Main Street (SR46) in Mineral Ridge**, the project is already out to bid. The Board would like to thank TNP for their work on this project.
- The **Trustees would like to remind everyone that Annual Veterans Banner Program for 2026 is open. Up to 52 banners will be installed on the light poles located in the Township Park.** Banner orders began to be accepted on February 2, 2026 and will continue through March 13, 2026. This program provides a meaningful way for our community to honor local veterans and active service members by displaying personalized banners throughout Township Park. Program details will be available on our Facebook page or can be picked up at our Administration Building during regular business hours Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.
- The **Trustees would like to remind our residents of the dates for this year's Spring Clean-Up Program which will be held the week of April 27, 2026.** Residents should put their material out on the same night as their regular pickup.
- The **Trustees would like to remind our residents of the dates for this year's Scrap Tire Pickup Program. Curbside collection will begin on Monday, April 27, 2026 and continue through Friday, May 1, 2026.** There is a limit of four car tires (off rims) per household, large truck tires will NOT be accepted. You can also drop-off your tires between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM during the collection week at the Township Administration Building at 1451 Prospect Street, Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440.
- The **Trustees would like to remind our residents that the Community Document Shredding Event will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM at the community park.**
- The **Trustees were notified by Armstrong of an upcoming rate increase for video service and for internet service for those areas of the Township that are serviced by Armstrong.**

Reports:

- Financial Report – Presented by Patrick Glunt
- Administrator's Report – Presented by David Rouan
- Zoning Report – Presented by Kelly Clarke
- Police Report – Presented by Police Chief Michael Naples
- Fire Report – Presented by Fire Chief Tom Lambert
- Lane LifeTrans Report – Presented by Lane's Chief Tom Lambert
- Law Director's Report – Presented by Cherry Poteet

Note: All reports are on file in the Fiscal Officer's office.

Comments from the public will be heard on agenda items at this time; there will still be an opportunity for individuals to address the Board during our public comments part of the meeting.

Old Business:

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None

New Business:

26-026 ***MOTION TO ADOPT A PROCLAMATION HONORING FIRE CHIEF THOMAS LAMBERT IN RECOGNITION OF 40 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE.***

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Thomas Lambert began his distinguished fire service career in 1985 as a Junior Firefighter, demonstrating at an early age a calling to serve others and a commitment to public safety; and

WHEREAS, through dedication, professionalism, and exceptional work ethic, Chief Lambert progressed through every rank of the fire service, including Probationary Firefighter, Firefighter, Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain, and ultimately was appointed Fire Chief of Weathersfield Township in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Chief Lambert has devoted four decades of continuous service to protecting life, property, and the well-being of residents, responding to medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, motor vehicle accidents, devastating fires, and countless critical incidents during the most difficult moments in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his public service, Chief Lambert began his career with Lane's LifeTRANS in 1996 in the wheelchair transportation division and advanced through the organization as a dispatcher, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, and ultimately assumed the role of Chief Operating Officer in 2018, reflecting his broad expertise in emergency medical services and organizational leadership; and

WHEREAS, in his dual roles as Weathersfield Township Fire Chief and Lane's Chief Operating Officer, Chief Lambert is entrusted with complex operational, administrative, and personnel responsibilities, requiring exceptional leadership, sound judgment, and clear communication, all of which he demonstrates daily with integrity and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Chief Lambert is widely known throughout Weathersfield Township and the greater Mahoning Valley as a trusted expert in fire service and emergency medical services, earning the respect of colleagues, partner agencies, elected officials, and residents alike; and

WHEREAS, beyond his professional accomplishments, Chief Lambert is unanimously recognized as a kind, caring, and compassionate individual, a devoted family man and grandfather, and a person of deep faith, who bears the emotional weight of trauma and tragedy with quiet strength while remaining a steady and reassuring presence for those he serves; and

WHEREAS, Chief Lambert's ability to "hold it together" for others, often in moments of chaos, fear, and loss, has made an immeasurable difference in the lives of countless individuals and families, embodying the very highest ideals of public service; and

WHEREAS, the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees wishes to formally acknowledge and recognize the extraordinary, unprecedented, and ongoing impact of Fire Chief Thomas Lambert's 40 years of service to the community and the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees does hereby recognize, honor, and commend Fire Chief Thomas Lambert for 40 years of exceptional service, leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the residents of Weathersfield Township and the Mahoning Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board expresses its deepest gratitude for Chief Lambert's continued service, his steadfast leadership, and the profound example he sets for future generations of firefighters and emergency medical professionals; and

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BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED, that this proclamation shall stand as a lasting expression of the community's respect, appreciation, and admiration, and that the Board looks forward with gratitude to many more years of Chief Lambert's service to Weathersfield Township.

Motion by: Steve Gerberry Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

- 26-027 Motion to ***approve the minutes from the Reorganizational Meeting that was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting that was held on Tuesday January 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM, and to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting that was held on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 3:30 PM.***

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

- 26-028 Motion to ***approve the drawing warrants upon our treasury and paying township bills.***

Motion by: Rich Harkins Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

- 26-029 Motion to ***adopt a resolution to approve the Then and Now Purchase Orders pursuant to the list provided by the Fiscal Officer.***

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

- 26-030 Motion to ***adopt a resolution to transfer \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund*** effective January 27, 2026.

Motion by: Rich Harkins Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

- 26-031 Motion to ***hire Evan Warholic as a Probationary Firefighter***, effective today, subject to successful completion and pending the results of the preemployment screening and testing. Evan will be trained and evaluated over the next six months by the Fire Chief and his fire officers. At the conclusion of the six-month probationary period, the Fire Chief will determine if Evan should be promoted to Firefighter. The Board of Trustees would like to thank Evan for his interest in becoming a Weathersfield Township Firefighter and for his volunteerism and commitment to the residents of our Township.

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

- 26-032 Motion to ***hire Connor Shilling as Junior Firefighter***, effective today. As a Junior Firefighter he will begin training pursuant to the Junior Firefighter Program as previously established by the Fire Chief and the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees would like to thank Connor for his interest in becoming a Weathersfield Township Firefighter, for his volunteerism, and for his commitment to the residents of our Township.

Motion by: Rich Harkins Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

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26-033 Motion to **appoint Michael Paulus to the Township Zoning Commission as an alternate member**, term commencing February 10, 2026 and term ending December 31, 2030; and to set the Zoning Commission rate of compensation at \$25 per meeting attended for the commission members and for the alternate commission members. The Trustees would like to thank Michael for his interest to serve on the Zoning Commission.

Zoning Commission	
Member	Term Ending
Dave Sylak	December 31, 2026
Joe Carl	December 31, 2027
Jonathan Noel	December 31, 2028
William Henning	December 31, 2029
Brad Lang	December 31, 2030
Alternate Member	Term Ending
Michael Paulus	December 31, 2030

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

26-034 Motion to **authorize Weathersfield Community Connection Partners to use the community park property for the 2026 Weathersfield Township Flag Day Festival** beginning on the morning of Monday, June 8, 2026 and ending Monday, June 15, 2026. The property can be used for any purpose associated with the festival.

Motion by: Rich Harkins Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

26-035 Motion to **adopt a resolution to amend the hourly rate for a part-time police officer, last amended by Resolution 22-013, from \$18.00 per hour to \$20.00 per hour**. The reason for the increase is to attract new part-time police officers to our Police Department.

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

26-036 Motion to **adopt a resolution to hire Jacob Sigley as a part-time police officer within the Weathersfield Township Police Department, effective today**. The part-time police officer position shall receive the rate of pay, benefits, and other considerations as set forth in the policies, procedures, and resolutions as adopted by the Board of Trustees. Jacob has previously served as a part-time police officer within our department as well as a volunteer firefighter. The Board would like to welcome Jacob back and thank him for his willingness to serve our community in this capacity.

Motion by: Rich Harkins Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

26-037 Motion to **accept the resignation of Police Officer Nathan Novotny** effective February 21, 2026. The Board Trustees would like to thank Nathan for his service with our Police Department and to the residents of our community. Nathan is taking a position with the city of Niles Police Department.

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

26-038 **MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING TRUSTEE EDWARD WHITTAKER AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRUMBULL COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL AND DELEGATING VOTING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §3709.03**

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WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Weathersfield Township is a member of the Trumbull County Combined Health District and participates in the governance of the District through representation on the Trumbull County Combined Health District Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of Trustees is the statutory representative to the Trumbull County Combined Health District Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §3709.03 authorizes the Board of Trustees to designate an alternate from among themselves to serve at the meetings of the Advisory Council and to exercise voting authority on behalf of the Township if the Chair of the Board of Trustees is unable to attend the meeting of the Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of Trustees is unable to attend the 2026 annual meeting of the Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Weathersfield Township to designate an alternate from among themselves to ensure continuous representation and the ability to vote at the 2026 annual meeting of the Advisory Council;

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

1. Trustee Edward Whittaker is hereby designated as the alternate to the Chair of the Board of Trustees for purposes of attending the 2026 annual meeting of the Trumbull County Combined Health District Advisory Council, in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code §3709.03; and
2. Trustee Edward Whittaker is hereby delegated the authority to vote on behalf of the Chair at said meeting of the Advisory Council, in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code §3709.03; and
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Motion by: Rich Harkins Seconded by: Edward Whittaker
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

Public Comments:

Next Meetings:

Next Meetings: Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3:30 PM, Regular Meeting – Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 3:30 PM, and Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment:

26-039 Motion to ***adjourn the meeting.***

Motion by: Edward Whittaker Seconded by: Rich Harkins
 Vote: Steven Gerberry - Yes Richard Harkins - Yes Edward Whittaker - Yes
 Motion Carried

Patrick J. Glunt, Fiscal Officer

Steven J. Gerberry, Trustee

Richard T. Harkins, Trustee

Edward K. Whittaker, Trustee