

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Call to order: Steven Gerberry

Pledge: Completed

Roll Call: Steven Gerberry - Present Richard Harkins - Present
Edward Whittaker - Present Patrick Glunt - Present

Correspondence/Announcements:

- 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 28, 2025.*** 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 28, 2025 and continue through Friday, May 2, 2025.*** 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 of the Community Document Shredding Event that will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM at the community park.***
- The ***Trustees are pleased to announce that they have secured a Go-Green Community Grant from the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District.*** The grant amount is \$3,500.00 and the grant proceeds will be used for the Community Document Shredding Event and to purchase and install trash containers at the community park. The Board would like to thank Trustee Gerberry for his work on this project.
- The ***Trustees would like to announce that the 2025 Flag Day Festival*** dates will be June 12, 13 and 14. The 2025 Flag Day Parade will be on Friday, June 13 at 6:00 PM.
- The ***Trustees would like to announce that the 2025 Residential Tree Limb Chipping Program will begin in May.*** The 2024 Residential Tree Limb Chipping Program will begin on Friday, May 2, 2025 and will continue each Friday through Friday, October 31, 2025. 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.
- The ***Trustees are pleased to announce that ODOT has secured a safety funding grant for the replacement of sidewalks along SR46 (Main Street) between Stewart Street and Seaborn Street.*** The project will be constructed in the summer of 2027.
- The ***Trustees would like to remind our residents to remove decorations from the cemeteries by April 30, 2025*** so our crews can clean-up the cemeteries for spring.
- The ***annual Community Garage Sale will take place this year on June 19, 20, and 21 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM on each of those days.*** The organizers are going to have a list of addresses and a map this year, so please text Cheryl your information at 330-565-2449 if you plan to participate.
- The ***Trustees would like to announce that our annual street sweeping will begin sometime in April, depending on the weather.***
- ***Yoga in the park will return each Saturday from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM beginning in May and ending in August.***

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

- The *Trustees would like to remind our residents that open burning is not permitted within the Township.*

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:

None

New Business:

25-037 Motion to *approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting that was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM.*

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

25-038 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

25-039 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

25-040 Motion to adopt *a Resolution Accepting a Generous Donation from Teresa Springsteen in Memory of John C. Springsteen and Expressing the Board’s Profound Gratitude*

WHEREAS, John C. Springsteen, a retired City of Rensselaer, New York Volunteer Firefighter and an Honorary Weathersfield Township Firefighter, was a dedicated public servant whose lifelong passion for the fire service left a lasting impact on all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, John’s legacy of courage, community service, and devotion to firefighting continues to inspire the Weathersfield Township Fire Department and the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, following John’s passing, his widow, Teresa Springsteen, has chosen to honor his memory through an incredibly generous donation of \$10,000 to the Weathersfield Township Fire Department; and

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

WHEREAS, this donation will have a significant and meaningful impact on the Fire Department by enhancing training opportunities, upgrading vital equipment, and improving the safety and effectiveness of the Department’s operations in service to the residents of Weathersfield Township; and

WHEREAS, the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees recognizes this contribution as a reflection of both John’s enduring legacy and Teresa’s generosity and commitment to supporting our first responders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Weathersfield Township Board of Trustees hereby formally accepts the \$10,000 donation from Teresa Springsteen and extends its deepest appreciation for this extraordinary act of generosity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board acknowledges the lasting impact this donation will have on the Fire Department’s ability to protect and serve the community, and honors the memory of John C. Springsteen, whose spirit will continue to live on within the Department he so deeply admired.

This resolution stands as a testament to John’s legacy and Teresa’s generosity, both of which will continue to strengthen and support our community.

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

25-041 Motion to ***accept a \$200.00 anonymous donation.*** This generous donation can be used for any purpose that the Board of Trustees deem appropriate.

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

25-042 Motion to ***authorize Township Administrator David Rouan, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to complete and execute the OTARMA Renewal Questionnaire and to submit all necessary documentation and schedules*** as required to receive a renewal quotation for our liability and property coverage.

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

25-043 Motion to ***authorize Township Administrator David Rouan, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to renew the Group Policy for Life Insurance with The Standard Insurance Company of Portland Oregon, for a term of three years beginning June 1, 2025 and continuing through May 31, 2028.*** The rates remain the same, the rate for Basic Life is \$0.567/\$1,000 of Benefit and the rate for Basic AD&D is \$0.030/\$1,000 of Benefit.

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

25-044 Motion to ***authorize Township Administrator David Rouan, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to apply for the PY2025 Community Development Block Grant for the proposed demolition of 10 homes throughout the Township.***

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

25-045 MOTION TO ***ADOPT A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 505.86 TO REQUIRE OWNER OF PROPERTY AT 1380 DEPOT STREET TO DEMOLISH STRUCTURE WHICH IS UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND TO REMOVE JUNK VEHICLES PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 505.871***

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §505.86 authorizes a Board of Trustees to declare structures within the Township to be a nuisance by reason of being insecure, unsafe, structurally defective, or unfit for human habitation, and to provide for the abatement of said nuisance by repair or demolition and removal of said structures; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §505.871 authorizes the Board of Trustees to require the removal of junk motor vehicle(s) in the township; and

WHEREAS, the Trumbull County Board of Health, at their meeting on February 26, 2025, declared the structure located at 1380 Depot Street, Mineral Ridge, Niles, Ohio 44440 (“the Property”) to be Unfit for Human Habitation, and

WHEREAS, the Property has been inspected by the Township Zoning Inspector, who has determined that the motor vehicles located on the Property are "junk motor vehicles" which is defined in Ohio Revised Code §505.173(E) as a vehicle meeting all of the following criteria: being (1) three model years old or older, (2) apparently inoperable, and (3) extensively damaged, including but not limited to, any of the following: missing wheels, tires, engine or transmission.

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

Section 1: The Structure on the Property is hereby determined to be a nuisance and a threat to the public health and safety as unfit for human habitation and must be demolished and removed.

Section 2: The Board of Trustees determines the motor vehicles on the Property are "junk motor vehicles" as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 505.173 as a vehicle meeting all of the following criteria: being (1) three model years old or older, (2) apparently inoperable, and (3) extensively damaged, including but not limited to, any of the following: missing wheels, tires, engine or transmission. There are multiple vehicles stored on the grass in the back yard, and four motor vehicles parked on the driveway, including a tractor.

Section 3: Notice shall be given to the owner(s) of the Property and any lienholders (Parties in Interest) by certified mail or as otherwise provided in R.C. 505.86, of the Township’s declaration of nuisance and demand to abate said nuisance by demolition, and removal of the vehicles, and of their right to request a hearing pursuant to RC 505.86(B) and(C) and 505.871.

Section 4: If the Property Owner or other Party in Interest fails to request a hearing before the Board within twenty days or provide for the repair or demolition and removal of said junk vehicles, within thirty days of issuing notice, the Board authorizes the Township Administrator to enter into contracts with private contractors or the Trumbull County Land Bank for the demolition of the structures on the Property and removal of the junk vehicles.

Section 5. The total costs incurred by the Township for the demolition and removal of the structure and junk vehicles and abatement of the nuisance, including all associated site restoration work, and the costs incurred in providing notice shall be paid from the Township general fund, and the Township Fiscal Officer shall certify the total costs incurred to the county Auditor who shall place the costs upon the tax duplicate to be a lien upon such lands from and after the date of entry. The costs shall be collected as other taxes and returned to the Township general fund.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

25-046 Motion to ***adopt a resolution appointing Daune Austin to the position of Township Highway Superintendent in accordance with ORC §5571.02 effective March 10, 2025.*** The Board hereby adopts the Township Highway Superintendent Job Description

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

and shall enter the Memorandum of Benefits agreement with Duane. Duane has been employed with the Township Highway Department for over 39 years and is an invaluable part of our organization. The Board wishes to thank Duane for his willingness to accept the position and looks forward to working with him for many years to come.

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

- 25-047 Motion to **accept the retirement resignation of Administrative Assistant Lynda Briach** effective May 31, 2025. The Board Trustees would like to thank Lynda for her many years of service with the Township and hope that she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

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

- 25-048 Motion to **hire Ryan L. Zagotti as a part-time police officer** within the Weathersfield Township Police Department effective February 28, 2025. The part-time police officer position shall receive the rate of pay, benefits, and other considerations as set forth in the policies and procedures as adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Board would like to welcome Ryan to our organization and appreciate his willingness to serve our community.

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

- 25-049 Motion to **adopt a resolution to promote Fire Captain Jeffery Tucker to the position of Assistant Fire Chief within the Weathersfield Township Fire Department**, effective today's date, with a six (6) month probationary period. The Board hereby adopts the Assistant Fire Chief Job Description and sets the salary for the position at \$800.00 per month.

The Board of Trustees sincerely appreciates Assistant Fire Chief Tucker's dedication and willingness to accept this role and the significant responsibilities that come with it. This decision was not an easy one for the Board, as our department is fortunate to have two other outstanding highly qualified Fire Captains.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank Fire Chief Tom Lambert, all our Fire Officers, and every Firefighter within the Weathersfield Township Fire Department for their unwavering service and commitment to our community. Your dedication, professionalism, and teamwork are the foundation of our Fire Department's strength, and we deeply value each of you.

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

- 25-050 Motion to **go into Executive Session** at 7:30 PM to consider the compensation of a public employee and to conference with legal counsel concerning pending or imminent litigation.

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

- 22-051 Motion to **come out of Executive Session** at 8:31 PM.

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Weathersfield Township Trustees Regular Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Public Comments:

Open Comments

Next Meetings:

Next Meetings: Regular Meeting – Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 3:30 PM, Regular Meeting – Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 3:30 PM, and Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment:

25-052 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