

MANTUA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025

John Festa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call: John Festa, Matthew Benner and Susan Lilley; Trustees, Julia Pemberton, Fiscal Officer and Assistant Michelle Stebbins. If you need copies of the minutes or other records, please contact the Fiscal Officer, Julia Pemberton. Others present. The pledge led by Matthew Benner.

The July 10, 2025, meeting covered several key points. The board approved the minutes from June 5, 20, and 27, 2025, with minor corrections. The 2026 budget was approved, totaling \$1.53 million. The road levy renewal was certified at \$193,437. The board discussed the Civic Center flood damage mitigation bid, with a pre-bid meeting scheduled for July 21 and bids due by August 13. The board also addressed the need for a special meeting to finalize the columbarium project before August 1. Additionally, the board discussed the impact of the road levy on property taxes and the ongoing issues with the Portage County Water Resources project.

RES 73-25: Motion by John Festa to approve June 5, 2025, regular meeting minutes with correction to spelling H. Workman and to suspend reading, seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 74-25: Motion by Matthew Benner to approve June 20, 2025, special meeting minutes and to suspend reading, seconded by John Festa. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 75-25: Motion by Matthew Benner to approve June 27, 2025, special meeting minutes and to suspend reading, seconded by Susan Lilley. VOTE-All Ayes

Fiscal Officer presents the 2026 budget, totaling \$1.53 million, including salaries and special revenue accounts. Mentions the renewal road levy and the county's certification of the revenue. Discusses the need to certify the property tax revenue and the resolution passed on June 5 for the road levy renewal. Fiscal Officer Report- Expresses need for Resolution to place renewal road levy

on the ballot and the need to contact the Prosecutor's office again regarding language of the renewal and need for the procedure to get started as soon as possible.

RES 76-25: Motion by John Festa to adopt the 2026 Budget worksheet attached. seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 77-25: Motion by Matthew Benner to accept certify the amount from the county auditor of \$193,437.00 when the road levy is renewed, seconded by John Festa. VOTE-All Ayes

Road Levy and OPWC Funding

Matt Benner asks about the process for renewing the road levy, and Julia explains the steps involved. John Festa expresses relief that they didn't have to raise taxes.

Susan Lilley mentions receiving positive feedback about the ditch maintenance on Mantua Center Road.

RES 78-25: Motion by Matthew Benner to submit application for 2026 OPWC road project funds, seconded by Susan Lilly. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 79-25 John Festa motioned to assign Matthew Benner as CEO of OPWC 2026 road project, seconded by Susan Lilley. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 80-25 John Festa motioned to accept the Fiscal Officer's report, seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 81-25 Air Conditioning Control Pride Heating & Cooling Matthew Benner to accept a contract for \$5,500 air conditioning in School Lane property, seconded by Susan Lilley. VOTE-All Ayes

Civic Center Bid Process

John Festa reads the legal notice for the flood damage mitigation bid for the Civic Center.

The board discusses the bid process, including the pre-bid meeting and the timeline for receiving bids.

John Festa confirms the bid opening date and the criteria for awarding the contract. The Fiscal Officer suggests running two ads in Record Publications & Facebook to promote the bid.

The board discusses the need for insulation in the Civic Center and the impact of the flood damage. The Fiscal Officer expresses concerns about the town hall repairs and the need for a plan.

The board discusses the columbarium project, including the cost and the need for parts.

The Fiscal Officer raises concerns about the financial viability of the project. The board discusses the need for a special meeting to finalize the columbarium project before the August 1 deadline.

The board addresses issues with the Board of Elections regarding accessibility and compliance with ADA standards.

Trail and Roadway Issues

John Festa updates the board on the trail and roadway issues, including the resolution passed to deny permission for the trail. Matt Benner explains the legal and practical challenges of the trail project. The board discusses the impact of the trail on property values and the need for alternative routes. The board receives updates on the traffic studies and the potential for fatal accidents at intersections.

Fair Board and Public Comment

The board discusses the need to change the fair board's photos.

Michelle Stebbins suggests working with the community through social media to get photos for the fair board.

The board opens the floor for public comment, and several residents express concerns about the trail project.

RES 82-25 John Festa motioned to pay bills, seconded by Susan Lilley, VOTE-All Ayes

RES 83-25: Motion made by John Festa to enter executive session in accordance with ORC 121.22 Public Meetings-exceptions-paragraph (G) section 1, to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 84-25 John Festa motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

The board thanks the residents for their input and concludes the meeting.

RES 85-25: Motion made by John Festa to adjourn meeting, seconded by Susan Lilley. VOTE-All Ayes

All formal actions of the Board of Trustees of Mantua Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

John Festa, Trustee & Chair

Susan Lilley, Trustee

Matthew Benner, Trustee

Julia A. Pemberton, Fiscal Officer

MANTUA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MEETING

Special Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2025

John Festa called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll Call: John Festa, Matthew Benner and Susan Lilley; Trustees, Julia Pemberton, Fiscal Officer and Assistant Michelle Stebbins. If you need copies of the minutes or other records, please contact the Fiscal Officer, Julia Pemberton. Others present.

Legal Notice read by Chairman Festa.

RES 86-25: Motion by Matthew Benner to contract with Nelson Granite for the Columbarium quote not to exceed \$40,000.00, seconded by John Festa. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 87-25: John Festa to pass motion attached regarding the renewal of Road Levy 1.5 mil, seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 88-25: Motion made by John Festa to enter executive session in accordance with ORC 121.22 Public Meetings-exceptions-paragraph (G) section 3, Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, seconded by Matthew Benner. VOTE-All Ayes

RES 89-25 Matthew Benner motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Susan Lilley. VOTE-All Ayes


RES 90-25: Motion made by John Festa to adjourn meeting, seconded by Susan Lilley. VOTE-All Ayes

All formal actions of the Board of Trustees of Mantua Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

John Festa, Trustee & Chair

Susan Lilley, Trustee

Matthew Benner, Trustee



Julia A. Pemberton, Fiscal Officer