

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF POLK TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, OHIO**

**Regular Meeting
April 15th, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

The board met in a regular meeting pursuant to notice in the local newspaper and called to order at 7:02 PM. by Chairman Tom Ray. The Chairman called the roll, and the following members were present: Trustees: Tom Ray, Glenn Cheesman and Russell Sellman; Absent: Fiscal Officer -Brett Young. Also attending were Zoning Inspector - Rick Jeffrey; Guest: Michelle Ashbaugh (1164 Knorr Rd), William Napier (1936 Rock Rd) and Bill Scott (3010 Walker Lake Rd).

The minutes of the regular meeting on January 21st, 2026 were read and approved. Glenn Cheesman made a motion to accept minutes and Russell Sellman seconded the motion. The roll call Vote: Rusty Sellman and Glenn Cheesman, ‘aye’. Motion was passed.

The minutes of the regular meeting on February 18th, 2026 were read and approved. Glenn Cheesman made a motion to accept minutes and Tom Ray seconded the motion. The roll call Vote: Rusty Sellman and Tom Ray, ‘aye’. Motion was passed.

The minutes of the regular meeting on March 18th, 2026 were read and approved. Russell Sellman made a motion to accept minutes and Tom Ray seconded the motion. The roll call Vote: Rusty Sellman and Tom Ray, ‘aye’. Motion was passed.

April Check Register

38-2026	Columbia Gas of Ohio	583.57
39-2026	Elan Financial Services	273.90
40-2026	Delta Dental	276.24
41-2026	MedMutual Life	94.50
42-2026	Auditor of State	762.00
43-2026	Vector Security	61.89
44-2026	City of Galion Utility Office	364.08
45-2026	Park National Bank	4,119.49
47-2026	OH Deferred Comp	750.00
48-2026	Frontier	144.53
49-2026	Truly Nolen	65.00
10571	Taylor Steamer	996.10
10572	Saunders Excavating	4,350.00
10573	Stacey Ferguson	85.00
10574	City of Galion, Auditor	18,331.25
10575	Ryan Bash	160.23

10576	Glenn Cheesman	299.84
10577	Ricky Jeffrey	559.90
10578	Sharon Kempf	236.85
10579	Thomas Ray	1,069.65
10580	Russell Sellman	1,069.65
10581	Brett Young	1,658.97
10582	Public Employee Retirement System	1,662.48
10583	Crawford County Township Association	315.00
Total Payments		\$38,206.28

Resolution for Beginning and Ending Checks

RESOLUTION 7-2026

Russell Sellman moved to accept the adoption of Resolution 7-2026 to approve the beginning Check No. 10571 as the check number following the last Check No. 10570 from the last months check register, Glenn Cheesman seconded the motion and the roll called with the following results; Tom Ray, Glenn Cheesman and Russell Sellman voted 'Aye'. So, the resolution was adopted and the motion carried.

'2026' Galion Fire Department Run and EMS Response Report:

<u>FIRE/Ems</u>	<u>Fire/EMS</u>	<u>Mutual Aid</u>	<u>Collected</u>
January	4/17	F-0/EMS-0	\$3,667.19
February	4/8	F-2/EMS-4	\$4,165.97
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
EOY Total:	8/25	F-2/EMS-4	\$7,833.76

'2025' Galion Fire Department Run and EMS Response Report:

<u>FIRE/Ems</u>	<u>Fire/EMS</u>	<u>Mutual Aid</u>	<u>Collected</u>
January	11/25	F-0/EMS-0	\$ 3,812.06
February	2/25	F-0/EMS-0	\$ 749.79
March	12/22	F-0/EMS-0	\$ 5,481.32
April	3/15	F-0/EMS-0	\$ 4,183.96
May	6/17	F-0/EMS-0	\$ 3,826.37

<i>June</i>	<i>9/20</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 4,116.37</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>3/20</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 3,360.03</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>8/17</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 5,801.45</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>5/19</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 2,206.05</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>8/18</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 4,244.65</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>5/13</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 5,197.84</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>4/15</i>	<i>F-1/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$ 4,567.28</i>
<i>EOY Total:</i>	<i>76/226</i>	<i>F-0/EMS-0</i>	<i>\$47,547.17</i>

*Galion millage for fire is .39% and 50%=.89% total.
EMS calls are about 60% and the Fire 40%*

GUEST:

Michelle Ashbaugh (1164 Knorr Rd), William Napier(1936 Rock Rd) and Bill Scott (3010 Walker Lake Rd) – She was wondering about why she can’t fill in her ditch. Trustees mentioned that they would like to keep it open because it would cause more issues especially with their property. They already dipped it. Contractor spoke and asked if he could cut back the ditch more on her side. Trustees mentioned that as long as they didn’t alter the ditch he would be fine with it. Trustees, homeowner and contractor had a brief discussion about project. Trustees mentioned that they would like them to think about it and bring it back to the next meeting. Although, if they decided to proceed to get with Rick and make sure they get a permit; however, they wanted to let them know that it would be their problem if something happens after they alter the ditch.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Complaints: 531 Clarendon Ave

Miscellaneous:

OTA Legislative Alert:

Office Update

At a meeting held on March 26, 2026, the OTA Board of Directors voted to terminate the contract of Heidi Fought as Executive Director. Kyle Brooks has been appointed as the Interim Executive Director.

The OTA Board will begin a search process to permanently fill the Executive Director position. As you know, the OTA has capable employees who are committed to the success of the organization, and we are in good hands during this transition period.

At this time, please understand that the OTA Board and staff are not in a position to discuss the termination in detail since it involves a personnel matter.

OTA Releases Economic Development Report

We are pleased to share with you a newly released economic impact analysis highlighting the vital role Ohio's townships play in our state's economy. The report, *The Economic Contribution of Ohio Townships*, reinforces that townships are essential to Ohio's continued growth, competitiveness, and economic stability.

The findings are significant. Businesses located in Ohio's 1,308 townships generate more than \$413 billion in economic activity and support over 1.8 million jobs, representing nearly 24% of Ohio's total economic output. Townships are vital to Ohio's economy, supporting key sectors including manufacturing and logistics, health care, construction, and small business development.

Townships continue to deliver essential services, such as fire protection, road maintenance, and public safety, while primarily relying on property tax revenue to fund these services and maintaining a significantly lower local tax burden than municipalities. On average, township households pay about \$1,116 less annually in local taxes. Equally important, townships do not levy income taxes.

The full report can be found below and on the OTA Resource Center [website](#), along with a press release, a flyer with key findings, and social media templates for you to share.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
04/13/2026

Ohio Township Association Names Brooks as Executive Director

Blacklick, Ohio – The Ohio Township Association (OTA) today announced that Kyle A. Brooks has been unanimously appointed Executive Director following a vote of the OTA Board of Directors. Brooks, who has served as OTA's Director of Governmental Affairs since 2023, will now lead the Association.

Brooks brings a strong track record of legislative advocacy and member engagement to the role. During his tenure with the OTA, he has led the passage of over a dozen key legislative priorities benefiting Ohio's 1,308 townships.

"Kyle has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and a deep commitment to Ohio's townships," said OTA President Ron Miller. "Over the past several months, he has ensured continuity, strengthened operations, and reinforced the Association's mission. The Board has full confidence in his ability to lead the OTA into the future."

As Executive Director, Brooks will oversee all operations of the Association, including legislative advocacy, member services, education programming, and strategic partnerships. His leadership comes at a pivotal time as townships navigate evolving challenges related to property taxation, infrastructure demands, and state policy changes.

"I am honored and grateful for the trust placed in me by the Board," said Brooks. "This Association exists to serve Ohio's townships, and I take that responsibility seriously. My focus will be on strengthening our support for members, advancing their priorities at the Statehouse, and ensuring OTA remains the most effective advocate for township government in Ohio."

Brooks emphasized a continued commitment to a member-first approach, prioritizing practical resources, clear communication, and strong representation in legislative and regulatory matters.

"We are entering a critical period for township government," Brooks added. "From property taxes to funding and local control, the decisions made in Columbus will have real impacts in every township across the state. It is my goal for the OTA to be at the table, leading those conversations and ensuring our members' voices are heard."

Under Brooks' leadership, the OTA will continue building on its reputation as a trusted resource for township officials while expanding engagement with state leaders, partner organizations, and stakeholders.

"Kyle has earned the respect of township officials, legislators, and partners alike," Miller said. "We are confident he will continue to elevate the Association and deliver results for our members."

Legislation in Committee

HB 646: Data Centers (Click, Deeter) - HB 646 creates a Data Center Study Commission within the Department of Development to study the effects of data centers coming into Ohio. The bill includes an OTA requested amendment to include a township representative on the Study Commission. **The House passed HB 646 by a vote of 97-0. The OTA supports this legislation.** HB 646 will now head to the Senate for further consideration.

HB 361: Local Regulations (Lorenz, Fischer) - The House Local Government Committee held its fifth hearing on HB 361 earlier this week. OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, Kyle Brooks, provided interested party testimony on the bill. HB 361 changes timelines for zoning decisions. To read the OTA's testimony, please click [here](#).

SB 219: RUMAS (Landis) - The House Natural Resources Committee held its second hearing on SB 219, which revises oil & gas laws. OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, Kyle Brooks, provided interested party testimony on the bill. To read the OTA's testimony, please click [here](#).

Request for Information

Water Surcharges

The OTA is requesting information regarding water rates and municipal surcharges on water. If your township residents are charged a surcharge for receiving municipal water, please contact OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, Kyle Brooks, via email at brooks@ohiotownships.org with the percentage rates.

Zoning: Zoning Inspector (Rick Jeffrey) Report March 2026/April 2026

Permits: **#00085 Alisha Sqrow (8045 Millsboro Rd Galion, OH 44833); Pole Barn \$150 CK#405**
 #00086 Ted Talbott (899 Bender Ave, Galion, OH); Building Permit \$150 CK#3553

3/21: Call from Ted Talbott about home on Bender & Elmwood, 3.88 acres 419-631-4371.

3/22: Issued Permit #00085 to Alisha Sqrow for Pole Barn. PD \$150 Ck#405

3/30: Call from Jeremy Keller with Kelco Builders. 419-295-1676

Call from Stephanie Coleman about lettering @ 796 Portland Way N (PDF). 1-602-767-6133

4/2: Issued Permit #00086 to Ted Talbott for 80' x 52' Barndominium. PD \$150 Ck#3553.

PROPERTIES IN NONCOMPLIANCE AFTER POSTING:

- ***Penn property on SR309.***
- ***Nickler property on Hosford Rd.***
- ***Brammer Property on Greenbrier/Chiswick***
- ***Brandt Road Property - fence on property***
- ***Biddle/County Line – Trucks and other things***
- ***6175 Brandt Rd. – Fence Property***

Glenn mentioned about Biddle/County Line Rd Property. He also mentioned that in the same area there is a culvert under the railroad that he contacted the railroad and we should be receiving a call back on them fixing that. He mentioned the old Township building has several cars in the yard and driveway. Glenn mentioned that he talked to the Pest Control Guy and that our couch by the dumpster is covered with bed bugs and to be careful.

There being no further zoning business, the chair called for the consideration of old business.

Taylor Steamers: Cleaned carpets on March 26th.

BWC Safety Consultation Request: Scheduling a Safety Consult for the Township. No date yet.

There being no further old business, the chair called for the consideration of new business:

Al Schrader Letter: Letter needs signed by all Trustees. Trustees are going to look over contract and revisit the retainer fees.

John Beach Letter: Letter increase price from \$30 to \$35 due to gas price increase.

Issue 2, Round 41 Grant: Roads are due by June 30, 2026

Salt Bin Roof Estimate from Strickler Enterprises: Quote and Pictures were submitted to Claims Adjustor; Waiting to hear back from them.

No new business at this time

ROAD REPORT:

Glenn:

Tom: Tile/Drains getting looked at. Got berm

Russell:

The trustee certified that there was money in the funds to pay the bills.

MOTION: Glenn Cheesman moved to pay the township bills and Russell Sellman seconded the motion, on vote: Glenn Cheesman, Russell Sellman and Tom Ray, “aye”, motion carried.

There being no further business, Motion to adjourn meeting by Glenn Cheesman, 2nd by Russell Sellman. On vote: Glenn Cheesman, Russell Sellman and Tom Ray, “aye”. Motion carried.

Adjourned @ 19:55.

Chairman Tom Ray:

V-C Glenn Cheesman:

Trustee: Russell Sellman:

Attest:

Next meeting: May 20th, 2026