

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

**Regular Meeting
November 19th, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

The board met in a regular meeting pursuant to notice in the local newspaper and called to order at 7:00 PM. by Vice Chairman Glenn Cheesman. The Vice Chairman called the roll, and the following members were present: Trustees: Glenn Cheesman, Russell Sellman. Absent – Trustee Tom Ray; Fiscal Officer- Brett Young. Also attending were Zoning Inspector Rick Jeffrey.

The minutes of the regular meeting on August 20th and September 17th were moved to December 17th Meeting due to unable to approve them.

The minutes of the regular meeting on October 15th were read and approved by Russell Sellman, 2nd by Glenn Cheesman. Roll Call vote: Russell Sellman and Glenn Cheesman voted ‘aye’. Motion passed.

November Check Register

136-2025	Columbia Gas of Ohio	191.40
137-2025	Elan Financial Services	31.40
138-2025	Truly Nolen	65.00
139-2025	Vector Security	56.40
140-2025	Delta Dental	174.06
141-2025	MedMutual Life	94.50
142-2025	Frontier	144.69
143-2025	Park National Bank	4,119.49
144-2025	City of Galion Utilities	303.15
146-2025	OH Public Employees Deferred Comp	750.00
10471	Stacey Ferguson	85.00
10472	City of Galion Auditor	18,331.25
10473	Keller Auto Parts	310.06
10474	Saunders Excavating	1,000.00
10475	Bucyrus Road Materials	98,860.81
10476	John Beach	30.00
10477	Cole Distributing Inc.	136.51
10478	Ryan Lee Bash	292.57
10479	Glenn Ellis Cheesman	193.38
10480	Rickey E. Jeffrey	542.39
10481	Sharon Ann Kempf	350.32
10482	Thomas William Ray	934.02
10483	Russell Addison Sellman	934.02

10484	Brett Alan Young	1,281.56
10485	Public Employee Retirement System	1,542.14
TOTAL		\$ 130,754.22

Resolution for beginning and ending check numbers:

RESOLUTION 17-2025: Russell Sellman moved to accept the adoption of Resolution 17-2025 to approve the beginning Check No. 10471 as the check number following the last Check No. 10470 from the last months check register, Glenn Cheesman seconded the motion and the roll called with the following results; Russell Sellman and Glenn Cheesman voted 'Aye'. So, the resolution was adopted and the motion carried.

'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
June	9/20	F-0/EMS- 0	\$4,116.37
July	3/20	F-0/EMS- 0	\$3,360.03
August	8/17	F-0/EMS- 0	
September	5/19	F-0/EMS- 0	
October	8/18	F-0/EMS- 0	
November			
December			.
EOY Total:	67/198	F-0/EMS- 0	\$25,529.90

'2024' Galion Fire Department Run and EMS Response Report:

<u>FIRE/Ems</u>	<u>Fire/EMS</u>	<u>Mutual Aid</u>	<u>Collected</u>
January	4/16	F-0/EMS-0	\$4,864.59
February	6/16	F-0/EMS-0	\$6,043.83
March	7/20	F-0/EMS-0	\$4,076.99
April	5/16	F-0/EMS-0	\$4,766.83
May	2/19	F-0/EMS-0	\$4,410.68
June	6/25	F-0/EMS-0	\$3,462.48
July	5/14	F-2/EMS-0	\$4,155.21
August	6/14	F-5/EMS-0	\$1,763.06
September	6/11	F-3/EMS-0	\$1,032.37
October	11/29	F-0/EMS-0	\$637.64

<i>November</i>	7/24	F-0/EMS-0	\$3,062.89
<i>December</i>	5/24	F-0/EMS-0	\$1,375.74
EOY Total:	70/228	F-0/EMS-0	\$39,452.31

Galion millage for fire is .39% and 50%=.89% total.

EMS calls are about .60% and the Fire .40%.

Guest: Mary and Ken Burkhart 5663 Monat Dr. wanted the township to release the right away rights to Brook Dr. to be able to close in a ditch. A discussion about the why and process ensued. The trustees are in favor of this. A Resolution will be drafted and be able to be signed at the next meeting.

Donald Corbin 657 Grove Ave.

CITIZENS REQUEST/COMPLAINTS:

Drain Issue on 8062 Tracht Dr. – Resolved
Pot Holes on Jackson and Countyline Rd

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

BWC Approves Base Rate Increases for Townships

In their September Board meeting, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation approved a 12.3% base rate increase for townships effective for the January 1, 2026, rate year. Townships can expect an 8.7% average collectible rate change, when class experience, anticipated premium change from experience rating, anticipated premium change from post-policy credits, and administrative costs are factored. While most other public employers are projected to pay less in premiums next year, townships, cities, special districts, and public hospitals will see increases. This will be the first increase for townships since 2011.

Ohio Minimum Wage to Increase to \$11/Hour in 2026

The Ohio Department of Commerce (DOC) announced that Ohio's minimum wage is scheduled to increase to \$11 per hour for non-tipped employees and \$5.50 per hour for tipped employees effective Jan. 1, 2026. This adjustment represents a 2.8 percent increase from the current 2025 rates of \$10.70 for non-tipped employees. The change reflects the mandate of the Constitutional Amendment (II-34a) passed by Ohio voters in November 2006, which states Ohio's minimum wage shall increase on Jan. 1 each year by the rate of inflation.

In addition to the wage rate adjustment, the threshold for business applicability will also change. Effective Jan. 1, 2026, the Ohio minimum wage will apply to businesses with annual gross receipts of more than \$405,000, which is an increase from the current \$394,000 threshold. For employees at businesses with annual gross receipts of \$405,000 or less per year after Jan. 1, 2026, and for 14- and 15-year-old workers, the state minimum wage remains tied to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

OTA Legislative Alert:

Legislation in Committee

HB 137: Allow Levy Request Declination (Lorenz) - The House Local Government committee held its third hearing on HB 137 this week. HB 137 would allow a county, township, municipality, or school district to decline to submit a library levy to the ballot.

HB 476: Online Raffles (Craig, M., Thomas, D.) - HB 476 codifies the use of online raffles for fundraising purposes. The House Finance committee held its first hearing on the legislation, where the OTA provided proponent testimony. To read the OTA's testimony, please click [here](#).

HB 439: Application of Brine (Rader, Brennan) - HB 439 would prohibit the application of brine from oil and gas wells on roads. The House Natural Resources committee held its first hearing on the bill.

HB 124: Property Tax Assessments (Thomas, D., Hall, T.) - HB 124 would require the Department of Taxation to consider only a sample of arm's length property sales submitted by the county auditor when conducting sales assessment ratios when adjusting property values. The Senate Local Government committee held its first hearing on HB 124.

HB 335: Property Tax Relief Now (Thomas, D.) - The House Ways and Means committee held its fourth hearing on HB 335 this week. HB 335 would cap the assessment rates of homes at the rate of inflation for a period of three years.

HB 361: Local Regulations (Lorenz) - The House Local Government committee held its third hearing on HB 361 this week. HB 361 changes building permit regulation timelines. The Committee adopted a substitute bill which included provisions the OTA has concerns about. Sub HB 361 includes a provision that makes adopting zoning mandatory for townships with populations over 5,000. If your township opposes this mandate, please contact Kyle Brooks, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at brooks@ohiotownships.org.

SB 219: RUMAS (Landis) - SB 219 had its fifth hearing in the Senate Energy committee this week. SB 219 changes oil & gas laws regarding RUMAs. The OTA is watching this legislation, and supports mandatory RUMAs for oil & gas companies that are operating heavy equipment on township roads.

HB 520: Blue Ribbon Commission (Thomas, D., Mathews, T.) - HB 520 would mandate each county to create a "Blue Ribbon Commission" to study how to improve efficiency in the county. The House Local Government committee adopted an amendment to change the membership of the Commission from one member of each township to only one member to represent all townships. The OTA has concerns with the representation of townships on the Commission. If your township opposes this legislation, please contact Kyle Brooks, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at brooks@ohiotownships.org.

HB 335: Property Tax Relief Now (Thomas, D.) - HB 335 caps inside millage at the rate of inflation for a period of three years. The Senate Local Government committee held its third hearing on HB 335 this week. The Committee is set to possibly report the bill out next week, where it will then head to the Senate floor for a full vote.

HB 303: Establish Community Solar (Ray, Hoops) - HB 303 establishes a Community Solar Energy Facility (CEF) program in the state. The bill defines Community Energy facility as a single facility that generates electricity by means of solar. The bill allows a township to prohibit or limit the CEF construction within the township. The OTA is monitoring this legislation closely to protect township regulatory authority over these solar facilities.

Auditor of State Bulletin 2025-012

Auditor of State Bulletin 2025-013

OTA Winter Conference February 4 to 6. Registration opened November 3rd.

ZONING: Zoning Inspector (Rick Jeffrey) Report October 2025/November 2025

Permits: #00080 – Bard; Ron Fairchild @ 5404 Crawford Morrow County Line Rd.

- 11/5 Call from Ron Fairchild about 5404 Crawford Morrow Line (Building on Slab) Warehouse 419-565-0712
- 11/6 Call from Tom Garverick about address plaque; Told him I would get back to him
- 11/8 Called & left message John Kagle 419-564-8288 about set backs for new home Knorr Rd
- 11/12 Call from Gina @ Eco Home Solar about solar panels for Todd Eagle @ 370 Evans Ave. Left Message 614-565-8412
- 11/14 Spoke with Ron Fairchild about building a 30x50 pole barn. Has 2 parcels 1 is 4.9 acres has – 30x28 Garage now 840 sq ft. Told him in order to build 30x50 he would have to combine both parcels; Total 17 acres.
- 11/18 Call from Alan Garverick @ 595 Chiswick Pl about building size 419-971-6773
- 11/19 Issued permit #00080 to Ronald Fairchild @ 5404 Crawford Morrow County Line Rd. for a Barn. Pd Cash \$75.00

Motion made by Russell Sellman to accept the report from Al Schrader that the case against Akers Property is closed and finalized. 2nd by Glenn Cheesman. The roll called with the following results; Russell Sellman and Glenn Cheesman voted ‘Aye’. Motion Passed.

West of Biddle on Brandt front yard is getting bad and trashed.

Glenn mentioned to Rick about getting ahold of Al and asking about Junk Vehicles and properties in probate if there is anything the township can do to refund a little bit of money and clean up properties. Rick mentioned he would get ahold of him.

Glenn mentioned about Westmoor Property (Bostic Property) getting bad and trashy. Rick mentioned he would check it out.

PROPERTIES IN NONCOMPLIANCE AFTER POSTING:

- Old Penn Property (Currently BLS Triumph Holdings LLC property) on SR309. 110 W Sandusky St. Frederickton, OH 43019-1253
- Nickler property 6337 Hosford Rd. Passed Away in 2017, hasn't paid property Tax since 2015
- Brammer Property on Greenbrier/Chiswick
- Biddle Property(End Near Countyline Rd) - Multiple Trucks on Property
- Brandt Property- Multiple Trucks and questions in regards to if property transfers to Residential from Commercial.

Zoning Board Meeting Update: Meets every 2nd Monday of each quarter at 6:30 PM unless meeting is changed and advertised in the newspaper.

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

Fraud Training still needs to be completed by Marty Faulds and Jeff Zeisler. Nothing yet

Allen Sanders- interested in plowing snow for the Township. Ryan mentioned he had a guy interested in helping during the summer with mowing.

Business Cards – Are ordered and should be in soon.

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

Declaring the Necessity of a Levy

RESOLUTION: 18-2025: Russell Sellman moved the adoption of resolution 18-2025 Declaring the Amount of Taxes that may be Raised by Levy at Maximum Rate Authorized by Law without a Vote on the Electors to be Insufficient and Declaring the necessity of a Levy in excess of such rate.

Glenn Cheesman seconded the motion and the roll was called with the following results: Glenn Cheeseman and Russell Sellman voted 'aye', so the resolution was adopted and the motion was carried.

Legal Opinion

Motion to adopt the Legal Opinion regarding Funding for Debt Services (Mower) by Russell Sellman. 2nd by Glenn Cheesman. The roll call vote with the following results: Glenn Cheesman and Russell Sellman voted 'aye', so the motion passed. Letter attached from County Prosecutor. This would start in 2026.

Highway Mileage Certification

Motion by Russell Sellman to approve the 2025 Township Highway System Mileage Certification for Polk Township, 2nd by Glenn Cheesman. The roll call vote with the following results: Glenn Cheesman and Russell Sellman voted 'Aye'. The motion passed. Trustees approved and signed the certificate.

Vector Security increase of 5% for next year; Med Life Insurance Premiums – No Increase for 2026 and 2027.

Email address created for trustees: polktrustees@gmail.com. All Trustee information and files can be sent to there. Rick mentioned

ROAD REPORT:

Glenn

Russell: No Issues with Roads

Tom: Absent

Ryan mentioned that he needed another load of patch.

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

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

Adjourned @ 20:04.

Chairman Tom Ray: _____

V-C Glenn Cheesman: _____ **Absent** _____

Trustee: Russell Sellman: _____

Attest: _____

Next meeting: December 17th, 2025

End of the Year Meeting and 2026 Budget Appropriations