

Draft

**HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
45955 STATE ROUTE 162 WELLINGTON OHIO 44090**

Minutes of April 20, 2026

The regular scheduled Trustee meeting called to order at 6:59 PM with the pledge of Allegiance. In attendance: Jed Lamb, Robert Holmes, Walter Rollin, Matt Combs, Nora Klebow, Amanda Jerore, Henry Smitley, Frances Rollin, Joe Burgoon, Connie Dombrowsi, Mike Wetherbee, and Alaina and Abel.

Motion by Holmes with a second by Lamb to approve the meeting minutes of the April 6, 2026 meeting as written. Roll Call: three yeas.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joe Burgoon representing Lewis Land Professionals discussed the project of pinning the new cemetery lots. The current quote for caps that fit over ½ inch rebar is \$23,850.00. This quote is for Lewis to purchase the caps from Burnsten and includes tax. Joe to facilitate communication between Burnsten and Huntington Township to discuss purchasing the caps directly in order to get them tax exempt. Current quote for labor for the installation of the pins is \$44,080.00; includes 32 hours of labor at \$190/hour, which is their standard rate. Joe mentioned that he expects they would finish the install in less hours than that so it may end up cheaper, but he likes to err on the side of caution when it comes to quoting prices. Joe expects that this project will be done this year, but cannot commit his crew for five straight weeks at this time due to construction season and other projects they have committed to. Joe is also still unsure on the timeline to receiving the caps from Burnsten once they are purchased. Lewis still needs to finalize the cemetery maps with the pins. Once complete, the Township will get digital and mylar copies of where the markers are set. The current contract between Lewis and the Township has a remaining outstanding balance. Joe unsure what that is at this time. Joe and the Trustees discussed the difference between having two versus four pins per lot. The Trustees had previously communicated with Lewis that they preferred four pins per lot. Joe mentioned that they could do one side of every lot to save money, although having four pins does make the lot easier to find. It also comes into play if some markers are lost or damaged due to mowers or freezing. The 12 inch placement isn't below the freeze zone so it could cause some movement. Lamb stated he would like to discuss it further with the Trustees before making a decision. Joe needs to know how many pins the Trustees want before he can finish the map.

Mike Wetherbee, Fire Chief for Wellington Fire District, recapped 2025 numbers. 2025 was the 5th year of their levy cycle. They bought a new engine for \$962,000.00 with all new equipment. They took three bids and accepted the middle bid to get a truck that was ready instead of the lowest bid that would require a two year wait. Rescue Truck 154 is being refurbished for approximately \$132,000.00. It will also include all new equipment. They are doing a lot of work themselves. It just got out of the body shop and is moving on to lighting. Truck is 32 years old, but refurbishing is about a third of the price of purchasing new.

The replacement levy on the ballot was decreased by 0.25 mil to be fair to the residents. They wanted to be realistic and ask only for what they really need. \$100,000.00 set aside to refurbish a second truck and \$50,000 set aside for station upgrades but those are on hold due to the potential property tax abolishment. Lamb asked why they don't bill for their runs the way ambulance does. Wetherbee stated that they could soft bill, but the insurance will only pay what they will pay. Wetherbee discussed that the Fire District would have to consider hard billing if property taxes are abolished. This would mean that whatever insurance doesn't pay the resident would be billed for and any unpaid bills could be sold to collections. Wetherbee had a discussion with the Trustees regarding property taxes being abolished. Wetherbee mentioned that schools and roads would take the biggest hit, because they receive most of the funds from property taxes. Property taxes stay local to the county; going toward schools and fire and roads and other localities. None of it goes to the state. Wetherbee ended by informing that the Fire District gets an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. Which gives the Fire District a rating based on their ability to respond to fires. This rating could be impacted if they have to layoff firefighters and put off purchasing necessary equipment due to property taxes being abolished- which would increase insurance liabilities.

Henry (Hank) Smitley from the South Lorain County Ambulance District discussed their 2025 recap. Hank discussed the levy on the ballot this year. It is a replacement levy for the previous levy that expired but will state "additional levy" due to new state legislation. This levy is a reduction of the previous levy; 2.75mil vs 3.25 mil. If the levy is passed, the first year they will save for an ambulance purchase they will have to make in 5-6 years. They currently have an \$840,000.00 per year staffing budget which allows for two staffed trucks on the road from 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM and one staffed truck on the road from 6:00 PM – 6:00 AM with one truck at home on call. 60% of calls are due to falls, and most of them are repeat callers. Ambulance is currently working with Fire on a program that will offer home visits to these residents to do safety checks and help them fix any potential hazards

to help reduce risks to the residents while also reducing calls and costs to Ambulance. It costs roughly \$1100.00 for an ambulance to show up at a location and insurance will only pay out \$380.00 per run. The rest is written off; unless it is a non-resident or transient, then it may be hard-billed. Mike added that Wellington is currently the third in size for Ambulance and Fire Districts in the state. The state has a task force that is working to approach legislature to help fund districts that work with multiple jurisdictions. Hank said that the state did open funding (around \$10,000.00) to model districts instead of independent jurisdictions.

Connie Dombrowski from Wreaths Across America spoke about the struggle of collecting the wreaths due to the harsh weather we had. Matt Combs' children, Alaina and Abel, helped collect over 200 wreaths in all three cemeteries in a day they had off of school. Connie presented them with certificates thanking them for their service.

RURAL WATER- Lamb: Nothing new

LORCO- Lamb: Nothing new

AMBULANCE-Holmes: Runs for Huntington Township in March: 14. Year-to-date: 45. Total runs for the district in March: 145. Year-to-date: 400. There has been one overdose but no dead-on-arrival (DOA) on overdoses this year. Mileage for March: 3,349. Year-to-date mileage: 11,253. Maintenance costs for March: \$267.81. Year-to-date maintenance costs: \$8,887.07. Next staff meeting n May 5, 2026.

FIRE- Rollin: Chief covered it.

SHERIFF- No new report

OPWC/SWAC- Combs: Paperwork ready to send in for reimbursement for the McMillan Road project. The Stewart Road property has the right of entry form filled out. It is currently in the county's hands. The road is starting to wash away.

LCOOA- Rollin: No new report

CEMETERY- Rollin: Lewis covered. Combs addressed an inquiry from Eric at Ohio Headstone regarding scheduling installations stating that he will reach out when the footers are poured. Right now they are at the mercy of the weather.

ROADS- Combs: Trustees asked what roads he is looking at this Spring. Combs is currently looking at Hawley Road but is unsure when the county will be working on the bridges. A lot of shimming work needs to be done; close to four miles. Combs also discussed a man that needs community service hours inquiring with the Township. He has already discussed with the Sheriff that the man signs a waiver of liability through the courts before community service hours begin. Combs states he could use him to help with roadwork. Trustees gave the go-ahead to move

forward. Lane will be done with school on May 29, 2026 and will be ready to work for the summer. Lamb discussed another young man that inquired about summer work with the Township and training him to replace Lane when he moves on to college or a full-time job. Trustees decided to budget for Lane this year and re-visit the second young-man next year.

EQUIPMENT- Combs: He has priced a new pump on the dump truck at \$750.00 to complete. Stated he and Rob have done everything they can think of to fix the dump truck. Discussed taking the truck to Ben Grimm's brother, Tom, to make sure that's what's wrong before they pay to fix it. Trustees agreed.

RECYCLING- Rollin: No new report

ZONING INSPECTOR- Klebow: No new report. Has, since last meeting, sent several warning letters to residents that have been habitually out of compliance.

ZONING SECRETARY- Jerore: Zoning meeting tomorrow, April 21, 2026. The Township Roster was updated with Christin Brandon for the county.

LCTA- Had meeting to discuss what to do to keep property taxes if there is enough signatures to get it on the ballot.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS- Memorial Day BBQ Sales are going well. The Coffee with a Cop Town Hall with Sheriff Hall went very well. Had a decent number of residents attend. Discussions over having another during an evening or weekend when more residents could attend.

NEW BUSINESS- The Chrissy will be held on June 6, 2026 at 26463 Clark Road. They are using the old dump for parking. This event is held in honor of the late Christine Beebe Sikora and raises money for the Culinary Fights Cancer Foundation. The event begins with a 5k and 1-mile race and is followed by food and live music along with fishing and other water events. Registration has been posted on the Township's Facebook page.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS- Dumpster days are next month. 4H will be there again doing the flowers. Trail Life helped last year. Trustees to reach out to see if they are interested in helping again this year. Dumpsters have been ordered.

Motion by Lamb with a second by Holmes to adjourn. Roll Call: three yeas. Meeting adjourned 8:54 PM.

Attest, Fiscal Officer