

BOARD OF SMITH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES DATE: January 06, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR**

Pledge of Allegiance, led by Fiscal Officer, Audrey Fox. Attorney, Mark Finamore was not present.

Call meeting to order

Roll call:

Mrs. Showalter	Present <u> X </u>	Excused <u> </u>
Mr. Criss	Present <u> X </u>	Excused <u> </u>
Mr. Barnett	Present <u> X </u>	Excused <u> </u>

1. Motion to appoint Fiscal Officer, Audrey Fox, Chairperson Pro Tem. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

FISCAL OFFICER ENTERTAINS MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON.

2. Motion to appoint Mr. Scott Showalter, Chairperson for 2026. passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

*** Fiscal Officer turns gavel over to Elected Chairperson for further proceedings***

CHAIRPERSON ENTERTAINS MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

3. Motion to appoint Mr. Terry Criss Vice Chairperson for 2026. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett Seconded by Mr. Showalter

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter
- Yes No Mr. Criss

SMITH TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL & FIRST REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 06, 2026 @ 7:00pm

4. Motion to appoint Mr. Terry Criss responsible for Public Safety (Fire and Police) for 2026. passed

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Showalter

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter
- Yes No Mr. Criss

5. Motion to appoint Mr. Larry Barnett responsible for the Road Department for 2026. passed

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Showalter

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter
- Yes No Mr. Criss

6. Motion that the Board of Smith Township Trustees shall conduct its meetings in full compliance with the Ohio Sunshine Law and accordingly establishes the following rules for the scheduling and notice of all meetings.

REGULAR MEETINGS – The Board of Trustees will convene one (1) Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees per calendar month. The regular meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. Notice of the Regular Meetings and any changes shall be posted on the Township website.

SPECIAL MEETINGS – Notice of special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be posted on the Township website based on HB 315. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

5. **Resolution 2026-0106-01R** Be it resolved that Trustees and Fiscal Officer of Smith Township shall be entitled to and paid the maximum compensation permitted per the Ohio Revised Code Sections §505.24(C) Compensation of Trustees and Ohio Revised Code Section §505.32 Compensation of Fiscal Officer, as in previous years. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Health Insurance

6. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-02R** Be it resolved by the Trustees that Smith Township will remain with Morris Financial Group as our health insurance broker located in Salem, Ohio. We will keep our health insurance coverage for our employees with Summa. The employee contribution will remain the same for 2026 which is \$200.00 a month for family and \$100.00 per month for single. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Additional Insurances

8. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-03R** Be it resolved that the Trustees approve to provide for, life, dental and vision insurances through OPEC for Township elected officials and full-time employees in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 505.60 et. Seq., as established prior to January 1, 2026. Copies of said policies on file with Fiscal Officer. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Reappoint Police Chief, Road Foreman, Zoning Inspector

9. **Motion to appoint** Be it resolved that the Trustees rehire for 2026. Passed.

Police Chief: Paul Ceresna

Road Foreman: Bruce Betz

Zoning Inspector: Peggy Christy

Moved by Mr Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Authorize annual Uniform allowance for the Police Department

10. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-04R** Be it resolved that the Trustees set the annual uniform allowance for full and part-time Police Dept. Employees in the amount of \$1,000 for full time, \$450.00 for part time, and \$250 for part time receptionist to be paid directly to employee as nonretirement income subject to withholding tax. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Authorize annual Uniform allowance for the Road Department

11. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-05R** Be it resolved that the Trustees set the annual uniform allowance for full-time Employees in the amount of \$700 and \$250 for part-time Employees, to be paid directly to employee as nonretirement income subject to withholding tax. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Appointment and Compensation for Zoning Appeals Board Member

12. Motion to Reappoint the current members of the Zoning commission:

Chair: John James (01-01-2028)

Secretary: Melissa Haidet (01-01-2028)

Member: Rachel Jones (01-01-2027)

Member: Melinda Kinser (01-01-2029)

And the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Member: Dennis Anderson

Member: Judy Smith

and maintain the zoning stipends at the current rates of:

Chairman \$30 per meeting

Secretary \$40 per meeting

Other \$25 per meeting. (Passed)

Moved by Mr Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

13. Motion to establish 2026 mileage reimbursement rate for authorized travel expenses of township at IRS designated amount of \$.725 per mile outside of Smith Township. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Township Service Contracts

14. Motion to continue all current month to month service contracts with all other political subdivisions and Township Vendors, subject to amendment and termination. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Township Officials, Employees Travel Conference, Seminar, Workshop, Training and Education

15. Motion to authorize township employees to attend meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences, schools, training or conventions for fiscal year 2026, and to allow and pay directly or by personal reimbursement all authorized expenses, after a formal request has been processed and approved. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

16. Motion to authorize membership in Ohio Township Association and attendance of the Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and employees to the annual State Association Winter Conference in Columbus 2026 and to pay expenses thereof. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Fiscal Officer

17. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-06R** Be it resolved that the Trustees authorize Fiscal Officer approval to reallocate money within a fund or increase the budget within a fund as deemed necessary, and prepare super blanket certificates for an amount of money not in excess of an amount established by 2026 Budget Resolution. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Mahoning County Auditor Real-estate Tax Advances

18. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-07R** Be it resolved the Trustees approve, Per Ohio Revised Code 321.34, to request from the Mahoning County Auditor the advances for the real estate settlement & personal property taxes for the assessment year 2025, collection year 2026 when funds are available. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Employee wage increases for 2026

19. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-08R** Be it resolved by the Trustees that they approve for the Road Department employees to receive a longevity bonus to be paid as nonretirement wage subject to withholding tax and an hourly wage increase of 2% for 2026 to be paid to the Road Foreman and an increase in hourly wage going to \$25 an hour for the Road Laborer. See longevity bonus schedule below. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

20. **RESOLUTION 2026-0106-09R** Be it resolved by the Trustees that they approve for the Police Department employees to receive a longevity bonus to be paid as nonretirement wage subject to withholding tax and an hourly wage increase of 2% for 2026 to be paid to each employee of the Police Department. See longevity bonus schedule below.

Also pay Part-Time employees will be paid one and a half times hourly rate (overtime) for hours worked on a Holiday, as designated in section 3.6, page 12 of the Personal Policies Manual. Passed.

SMITH TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL & FIRST REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 06, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Longevity Bonus Schedule

<u>Period of Service</u>	<u>Full time Employees</u>	<u>Part time Employees</u>
0-4 years	\$200.00	\$100.00
5-9 years	\$400.00	\$200.00
10-14 years	\$600.00	\$300.00
15-19 years	\$800.00	\$400.00
20+	\$1000.00	\$500.00

- 21. RESOLUTION 2026-04106-10R** Be it resolved by the Trustees that they approve a \$50 a month salary increase to the zoning inspector position going from \$1,500 to \$1,550 a month. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

- 22. Motion to adjourn organizational meeting. Passed.**

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

**** End of Reorganization Meeting ****

**FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE SMITH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOLLOWING THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Call meeting to order

Roll call:

Mr. Criss	Present <u> X </u>	Excused <u> </u>
Mr. Barnett	Present <u> X </u>	Excused <u> </u>
Mr. Showalter	Present <u> X </u>	Excused <u> </u>

Adopt Agenda

1. Motion to adopt monthly meeting agenda. Passed.
Moved by Mr. Barnett Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Approve Monthly Minutes

2. Motion to approve the December 2, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Passed.
Moved by Mr. Criss Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Citizens' Comments None

Approve Financial Reports

3. Motion to approve the Financial Report, and EFTs and Warrants for the month of December 2025 in the amount of \$110,609.23. Passed.
Moved by Mr. Criss Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

The December 2025 bank statement is in balance and was reviewed by the Trustees.
The December 2025 VISA statements have been reviewed by the Trustees.

Trustee and Fiscal Officer Report

Issues Discussed:

- Interest Earned in 2025 - \$33,271.35

Road Report

Bruce Betz, Road Foreman, present and presented the report for the month of December 2025:

Cut tote down and fill with grits for ballast weight on Chevy for plowing clean ups.
4am Call Out for snow covered roads to salt and plow.
Clean, Diesel spray and Grease Plows, remove and put away.
Remove inner door panel of Chevy for inside pull handle replacement, order new.
Empty salt from plow trucks, wash, diesel spray and put away.
Install new door handle on Chevy.
OUPS Ticket No. B534200636-00B for SNW ditch cover.
2 Stop signs in NB and unlock garage for Christmas lights install
Remove MRP school sign and empty garbage at the park playground and pavilion
Push trees back on South Range Rd
Tires to County garage
Reopen NB garage for David Igo again
Salt roads, MRP Sign painting, Salt roads again 6:30pm – 9:30pm call out.
Cut berm on SNW at water ponding on road.
Adjust salt box spinner/screw for tighter tolerances, Salt roads.
93.25 Ton salt delivered from Morton Salt, Pick up Park Signs for PD at Municipal Signs
Call Out to Salt Roads and Plow.
Cut Edges on all snow routes
21.89 Ton Grits/#9s Delivered from Shelly in Canton.
Ditching with Case and Ditching Head
Replace completed MRP sign.
Trees down on Lexington Rd, Early Start, High winds, check signs and trees on all roads.
Spot salt roads and intersections
Supplies picked up from Marlboro Supply for upcoming jobs

Material used:

- 166 gallons diesel
- 50.4 gallons gasoline

Police Report

Chief Paul Ceresna was not present, report given by Trustee Terry Criss. Statistics for the month of December 2025:

- 97 Incident Reports
- 15 Accidents
- 63 Citations
- 150 Traffic Stops
- 420 Business Checks

2025 YEARLY TOTALS:

- 1,344 Incident Reports
- 94 Accident Reports
- 649 Citations
- 1,736 Traffic Stops
- 4,613 Business Checks

Fire Report

No Report Given.

Zoning Report

Peggy Christy, Zoning/Nuisance Property Inspector was present and presented the December 2025 Zoning Report:

- Gave instruction on possible alley closure near Factory Street.
- Spoke with Sean McGuire at Mahoning County Soil & Water re: Heiss
- Fabrication expansion. Forwarded paperwork to fiscal officer for record retention as recommended by Sean.
- Received three calls pertaining to 22150 Harrisburg Westville Rd. Storage unit business possible changes. Unzoned. Referred to county departments.
- Received questions from PUCO representative about Peddler's Permit neither intownship. Referred to Audrey for specifics.
- Received call about well/septic issues on property within twp.
- Owner of a property near corner of Mahoning & Lake Park responded to certified letter. Expressed concerns with a gentleman who will not remove items from her property. Discussed situation. Will attempt remediation.
- Assigned address to parcel on Smith Northwest Rd.
- Received complaint regarding what looks, from aerial view, to be a multitude of vehicles on property at 21275 W. Western Reserve Rd., North Benton. Have not attempted pictures or sent correspondence yet.

Approve Reports

4. Motion to accept all reports. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Barnett

Seconded by Mr. Criss

Roll Call Vote:

- ✓ Yes No Mr. Barnett
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Criss
- ✓ Yes No Mr. Showalter

Adjournment

Motion by Chairman, Mr. Showalter, to adjourn meeting.

Next Regular Meeting is 7:00 p.m. February 3, 2026.