

BOARD OF SMITH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES DATE: January 07, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FOR THE 2025 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 2025. 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 2025. 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 07, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

4. Motion to appoint Mr. Terry Criss responsible for Public Safety (Fire and Police) for 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025-0107-01R** 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 2025-0107-02R** 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 2025 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 2025-0107-03R** 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, 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025-0107-04R** 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 2025-0107-05R** Be it resolved that the Trustees set the annual uniform allowance for full-time Employees in the amount of \$700, 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 (01-01-2026)

Secretary: Melissa Haidet (01-01-2028)

Member: Les Allen (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 2025 mileage reimbursement rate for authorized travel expenses of township at IRS designated amount of \$.70 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 2025, and to allow and pay directly or by personal reimbursement all authorized expenses, after a formal request has been processed and approved.

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 2025 and to pay expenses thereof.

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 2025-0107-06R** 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 2025 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 2025-0107-07R** 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 2024, collection year 2025 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

- 19. RESOLUTION 2025-0107-08R** Be it resolved by the Trustees that they approve the full time Road Department employee to receive a 3% increase in hourly wages going to \$27.06 for Road Foreman and \$23.34 for Road Laborer.

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 2025-0107-09R** Be it resolved by the Trustees that they approve a longevity bonus of \$100 per years of service in lieu of an hourly wage increase for 2025 to be paid to the employee as nonretirement income subject to withholding tax.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

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

**SMITH TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL & FIRST REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 07, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

19. 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 _____
Mr. Barnett	Present <u>X</u>	Excused _____
Mr. Showalter	Present <u>X</u>	Excused _____

**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 3, 2024 regular meeting minutes and December 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> special 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**

Brendon Sloat reported that there are three houses on Mahoning Ave. in the 634 approximate address area that are falling down and are housing homeless. Peggy Christy, Zoning Inspector, will take pictures to show Trustees.

Anna Vyse reported concerns for a house on the corner of Helen and Osford.

Mr. Jade George would like to meet with the Trustees and welcomes any help they can give him on purchasing homes on the demolition list. Trustee Showalter told him that he would have to contact the owner of the property which is listed with the Mahoning County Auditor.

**Approve Financial Reports**



3. Motion to approve the Financial Report, and EFTs and Warrants for the month of December 2024 in the amount of \$444,080.30. 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 2024 bank statement is in balance and was reviewed by the Trustees.  
The December 2024 VISA statements have been reviewed by the Trustees.

### **Trustee and Fiscal Officer Report**

#### **Issues Discussed:**

- Vacation based on ORC 124.13
- 4. Resolution 2025-0107-01 Be it resolved that the Trustees approve to revise the Smith Township Personnel Manual, per ORC 124.134 to give two weeks' Vacation Leave (10 days) for full time employees after one year of service and proportional days given after first year anniversary to be at the following amounts:
  - Jan-Mar 10 days
  - Apr-June 8 days
  - July-Sept 6 days
  - Oct-Nov 4 days
  - Dec 2 daysAlso, Employees will receive vacation based on years of service at the following rate:
  - 1-3 years 80
  - 4-8 years 120
  - 9-13 years 160
  - 14-18 years 180
  - 19-23 years 200
  - 24 + years 240Passed.

Moved by Mr. Criss

Seconded by Mr. Barnett

Roll Call Vote:

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

### **Road Report**

Bruce Betz, Road Foreman, present and presented the report for the month of December 2024:

- Replaced control head on F550
- Salt roads
- Clean trucks after salting roads

## SMITH TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL & FIRST REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 07, 2025 @ 7:00pm

- Clear floor drains at Road garage
- HPM roads
- Drag Martin Rd. and clean out mud
- Answer callouts for salt and tree removal

### **Material used:**

- 95.2 gallons diesel
- 90.8 gallons gasoline
- 13 ton HPM
- 14 ton 617

### **Police Report**

Chief Paul Ceresna was present. Statistics for the month of December 2024:

- 117 Incident Reports
- 7 Accidents
- 36 Citations
- 164 Traffic Stops
- 402 Business Checks

### **2024 YEARLY TOTALS:**

- 1141 Incident Reports
- 99 Accidents
- 574 Citations
- 1668 Traffic Stops
- 4289 Business Checks

Other:

Replacing engine in Tahoe car #32 at an estimated cost of \$6,900

Accepted the resignation of Carol Wydra, part time Police Patrolperson.

### **Fire Report**

No Report Given.

### **Zoning Report**

Peggy Christy, Zoning/Nuisance Property Inspector was present and presented the December 2024 Zoning Report:

- Handled all phone calls and correspondence related to zoning and nuisance properties.
- Explained permitting process for mobile homes in Smith Township to Paul Berry (owns property across from Dollar General). Sent requested zoning regulations for R-1 zoned district.
- Sent list of properties on our demo list that did not get acted upon to resident upon his request (Jade George). Mr. George would like to meet with the trustees and welcomes any help you could give him. He is in the

## **SMITH TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL & FIRST REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 07, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

business of home rehabs. States he has done this for over 20 years within city limits and now moving their interests to Smith Township area.

- Spoke with Bob Rinehart re: Lexington Rd. demo. He will not have it done by the end of the year as was requested, but it is on his work list for the first quarter of 2025.
- Referred property owner to Mahoning County Planning Commission for plot divisions on North Benton West Rd.

### **Approve Reports**

5. 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 4, 2025.

