

Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the North Township Advisory Board

Held at the Fire Station in Lapaz, IN

October 6, 2025 at 6:00pm

North Township Advisory Board Members Present:

Steven Davenport, President

Steve Barber, Secretary

Judy Fisher

Emily Haskins, Trustee, North Township

Mathew Haskins, Fire Chief

For other community members present, please refer to the attached sign-in sheet.

*The reader will note that meetings are now livestreamed and available for viewing thereafter. Please refer to our website for a schedule of our meetings, links for the live streams (available for viewing thereafter), approved minutes, and additional information: <https://northtownship.org>.

The meeting consisted of the following.

Mr. Davenport called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

1. Approval of 8/25/25 Meeting Minutes: Mr. Barber moved to approve the minutes as printed, seconded by Ms. Fisher, and passed 3-0.
2. Billing Service Update: Ms. Haskins reported that we have collected \$58,162. Three runs have been sent to collections (in accordance with established policies). Total amount billed = \$152,123. Fees paid to EMS/MC for August = \$1,317.19 and September \$1,481.22 (according to percentages established on the contract).
3. 2026 Budget Presentation:
 - a. Ms. Haskins presented the proposed 2026 Budget, one item at a time (see attached). A discussion ensued, including the following. The Township General Fund = \$134,200. Fire Territory General Fund = \$817,200. With these items plus the Township Assistance Fund and the Equipment Replacement Fund the total for all funds = \$976,400.
 - b. The Certified Net Assessed Valuation for 2026 for fire = \$228,721,018. Therefore, the resulting estimates for the Equipment Replacement Fund for 2026 = \$76,500.
 - c. The total levy rate for all funds is anticipated to be about 0.4277 for 2026. This would be a decrease of 19.97% compared to 2025.
 - d. Ms. Haskins also clarified it is possible that receipts from the ambulance services could either a) mitigate the effects of appeals from property owners for a lower property valuation/tax rate and/or b) lower the amount the township is requesting and the resulting tax rate/levy.
 - e. Ms. Haskins recommended that we request a rate of 0.3907 to DLGF as the 2026 tax rate for the Fire Territory. Mr. Davenport moved that we request a rate of 0.3907 to DLGF as the 2026 tax rate for the Fire Territory, seconded by Mr. Barber, and passed 3-0.
4. North Township Capital Improvement Program: Ms. Haskins presented the Capital Improvement Program, as discussed at our last meeting (see attached). This was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Barber moved to adopt the Capital Improvement Program, seconded by Ms. Fisher, and passed 3-0.
5. Trustee Update:
 - a. Ms. Haskins reported that the state recommended adding whistleblower protections to the employee manual. Ms. Haskins also made changes to the health insurance portion to reflect

previous action by the Township about how we will address health insurance. Mr. Barber moved to adopt these changes, seconded by Ms. Fisher, and passed 3-0.

- b. Ms. Haskins reported that as of today, expenditures from the Township General Fund = 49% of budgeted expenses; Township Assistance = 17% of the budgeted expenses; and Fire Territory = 37% of budgeted expenses. And for point of reference, we are 77.8% through the year.
- c. Ms. Haskins reported that Mr. Smith still anticipates completing the clean-up at the cemetery, as discussed and approved earlier this year.
- d. Mr. Davenport previously asked Ms. Haskins to ask the property owner adjacent to Fairmount Cemetery to identify their intentions for the excavating being done there, and if they will be putting up a fence bordering the cemetery (since we will need to put up a fence sometime). Ms. Haskins intends to send a letter to the property owner.
- e. Ms. Haskins reported that there was a "blood exposure" recently and a report was filed with Workmen's Compensation. The staff member has been tested and will be tested again in 6 months.

6. Good of the order, announcements, or updates from Fire Department:

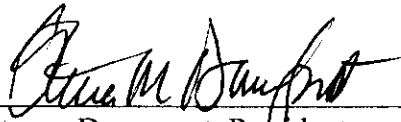
- a. Mr. Haskins reported damage was done to one of the garage entry doors. He presented three different options for repair/replacement, all of which were within \$800 from highest to lowest (see attached). He recommended option #3, full replacement of door, tracking, sections, and springs at a cost of \$7,400. He also mentioned that we could file it with our insurance carrier. Mr. Haskins was not fond of filing with insurance because of the time it may take. Mr. Davenport was not fond of filing with insurance because it is a smaller amount (Mr. Davenport has expertise in the insurance industry). Mr. Barber moved to approve option #3 and to utilize funds from the Fire Territory budget, seconded by Ms. Fisher, and passed 3-0.
- b. Mr. Haskins reported that he has 4 applications and is hoping to be able to schedule interviews in early November.
- c. Mr. Haskins addresses the issue of future, more permanent housing for emergency workers. To clarify, the recent buildout of the upstairs space is considered temporary. He is not in favor of converting the upstairs into permanent housing. We are already pressed for space. He is looking for some guidance from the board regarding their initial thoughts about how to proceed. Possible ideas include:
 - i. Converting upstairs to a permanent dwelling space concerns include the following. A proper ventilation system could cost \$175,000. Currently hardwired CO and smoke detectors have been placed upstairs. One bedroom has been utilized by an emergency worker that lives out of the area. Majority Builders wondered if a sprinkler system would be needed, which would add to the cost.
 - ii. Erect a separate building to the north of the fire station. A breezeway and/or a garage could also be beneficial.
 - iii. Another idea included a structure attached to either the north or east of the present structure.
- d. Mr. Haskins has begun to update a list of equipment.
- e. Mr. Haskins would like for the board to begin looking at the contract with the Volunteer Fire Department.
- f. Ms. Haskins reports that we are still awaiting a final decision on the litigation between Union Twp. and the Union North Ambulance Service and how that might affect the outfitting of one of our ambulances. In a related matter, Mr. Robertson has received information from our sales representative about the load system, the cot, and the Lifepack (the heart monitor). One of the problems is that there are no used Lifepacks available currently. New Lifepacks are quoted at \$49,000. There are remanufactured cots and load systems available. A new Lifepack, used cot,

and used load system is quoted at \$115,363.48. A new Lifepack, new cot, and new load system is quoted at \$145,010.00. This is a difference of \$25,146.53. Mr. Robertson recommends purchasing all new items. Procare maintenance/repair service for these items is \$15,000 for 3 years. It was stated that the availability of reman/used equipment varies, sometimes daily.

7. Public Comment (limited to 2 minutes per person): Nothing stated from the public.
8. Next Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2025, at 6:00pm.
9. Adjournment: Ms. Fisher moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Barber, and passed 3-0.


Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Barber, Secretary

Approved: ☒ As Written/Printed ☐ As Amended ☐ As Corrected




Steven Davenport, President

10-20-25
Date



Stephen Barber, Secretary

10-20-25
Date



Judy Fisher

10/20/25
Date

North Township Marshall County Public Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00pm
LaPaz-North Township Fire Station

Sign-In Sheet

1. Alice Oyler
2. Judy Fisher
3. Ann Dunning
4. Al Roberts
5. Andy Roberts
6. Steve Barber
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