Allen County, Ohio

Bath Township

Established March 2, 1829

AGENDA MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Trustees of Bath Township met on Tuesday, **February 17, 2026,** in the Township Boardroom, 2880 Ada Road, Lima, Ohio.

Members Present: Brad Baxter, Lisa Fillhart, Andy Heffner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Trustee Baxter leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations:

- Betsy Billingsley presented an annual report on behalf of Visit Greater Lima.

Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the February 3, 2026 special meeting regarding the 2026 final appropriations were received via email & reviewed by the trustees prior to the meeting.

- No additions, corrections, or other changes were requested at this meeting.
- Trustee Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Heffner seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was held as follows and the motion was approved.
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes

The minutes of the February 3, 2026 regular meeting were received via email & reviewed by the trustees prior to the meeting.

- No additions, corrections, or other changes were requested at this meeting.
- Trustee Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Fillhart seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was held as follows and the motion was approved.
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes

The following resolutions were taken up by the Trustees:

RESOLUTION 2-17-26-1: Approving final appropriations to various funds and accounts to provide for necessary expenditures during the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in accordance with the attached "2026 Final Appropriations" report dated February 17, 2026 as if fully written here within.

- The fiscal officer reported a problem with printing within UAN made having copies of the final appropriations in hand for consideration unattainable and thus requested the resolution to be withdrawn and represented at the March 3, 2026 meeting.
- No action was taken regarding this resolution at this meeting.

RESOLUTION 2-17-26-2: Summarized: Authorizing the enrollment of Bath Twp. Fire Department personnel in the Firefighter II Transition Course at Apollo Career Center and authorizing payment for the same.

- Chief Kitchen gave a short overview of this resolution and informed the Trustees that it was connected to a grant.
- Trustee Baxter moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Heffner seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was taken as follows:
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes
    - The motion, and subsequently, the resolution was approved.
- A copy of the full text of this resolution is executed and on file in the records of the township pursuant to applicable Ohio revised and/or administrative codes.

RESOLUTION 2-17-26-3: Approving the hiring of Bridget Martin as a full-time, Level II Firefighter/Paramedic, at a rate of $25.30/hour, effective March 1, 2026.

- Fire Chief Joe Kitchen introduced Bridgit to those assembled and informed the board that Bridget was transitioning from part-time to full-time employment with the department.
- Trustee Baxter moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Fillhart seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was taken as follows:
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes
    - The motion, and subsequently, the resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 2-17-26-4: Approving the hiring of Aaron Cunningham as a full-time, Platoon Chief, at a rate of $31.59/hour, effective March 1, 2026.

- Chief Kitchen gave a brief outline of Aaron's background, resume, and experience and informed the board that Aaron was unable to attend in person this evening as he is an elected member of the Elida School Board and was in attendance at their regular meeting.
- Trustee Baxter moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Fillhart seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was taken as follows:
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes
    - The motion, and subsequently, the resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION 2-17-26-5: Summarized: Providing for the abatement and enforcement of objectionable odors coming from the property owned by Hollinger Farms, doing business as RESOURCE, parcel number 37-1700-04-001.000, in Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio.

- Trustee Baxter addressed the public by giving them a brief history of prior actions taken leading up to this particular resolution.
- Zoning Inspector Ken Meyer reviewed a list of prior enforcement actions attempted.
- Trustee Baxter moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Heffner seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was taken as follows:
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes
    - The motion, and subsequently, the resolution was approved.
- A copy of the full text of this resolution is executed and on file in the records of the township pursuant to applicable Ohio revised and/or administrative codes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- The fiscal officer provided a financial report outlining current account balances and current expenditures: See Addendum A "Financial Report for February 17, 2026 attached to these minutes.
- The fiscal officer reported that payment listings outlining those bills paid by E.F.T.'s, Warrants (checks), and direct deposit related to payroll were emailed to the trustees prior to the meeting along with a current fund status report, a revenue status report, and a cash flow detail by fund report. All trustees in attendance acknowledged receiving the reports.
- A motion was made by Trustee Heffner to approve the payroll, warrants, electronic payments, PO's/BC's opened, reallocations, adjustments, supplemental appropriations and financial reports as presented. Trustee Baxter seconded the motion.
    - A roll call vote was taken as follows:
        - Trustee Baxter: Yes
        - Trustee Fillhart: Yes.
        - Trustee Heffner: Yes.
    - The motion was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Fiscal Officer Reported on the following items:

- **Under Old Business / On-Going Projects**
  - Year-end financial reports for 2025 are complete and available for public review.
  - Regarding the 2024 & 2024 audit updates. Approval to serve as the administrative agent for the Township's OhioPays account has finally been received. Electronic Funds Transfer information was entered into the OhioPays system and we are awaiting review and approval of that information.

- **Under New Business / Projects:** The fiscal officer reported on and/or inquired about the following;
  - The annual Ohio BWC true-up process has been completed.
  - The annual SERB benefits survey has been completed.
  - The fiscal officer inquired as to the status of a new police cruiser.
    - Trustee Fillhart reported this project is currently underway and moving forward, the Allen County Sheriff's Office is handling the purchase.
  - The fiscal officer cancelled the public records review committee meeting scheduled for March 3, 2026 and rescheduled it to April 21 at 6:00 PM. This will allow for a more informed meeting as the fiscal officer is scheduled to attend training on this topic on or about March 18th.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Fiscal Officer Reported that the following correspondence was received and either forwarded via email to the trustees or reported on in this meeting:

- Received a routine & required letter from Medical Mutual identifying employees over the age of 65 who are currently employed with the Township.
- Received a letter from the Allen County Auditor certifying our that our 2026 temporary appropriations do not exceed our estimate of resources.

TRUSTEES BUSINESS

- **Old Business / On-going Projects**
  - Review & Update the Township's Records Retention Policy:
    - A meeting is scheduled with Trustee Fillhart, the fiscal officer, and the administrative assistant for April 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
  - Review & Update the Township's Comprehensive Plan:
    - Nothing new to report on this topic.

Mrs. Fillhart

- Nothing additional waw reported by Trustee Fillhart under Trustees' Business.

Mr. Heffner

- Trustee Heffner made remarks regarding an obvious sewage odor issue which is trying to be identified at the Fire Department.

Mr. Baxter

- Mr. Baxter made some comments to the other Trustees regarding the need to being planning to replace the assistant fiscal officer who will be taking an active duty assignment at the White House for the next 1-3 years a little later this year and the township's administrative assistant who, after serving with distinction for many years, will be retiring at the end of 2026. Mr. Baxter informed the other Trustees that he has spoken with the Fiscal Officer and that he would like to see the township combine both positions into one full-time position.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- **Road Department:**
  - Superintendent Gary Jay Reported on the following items:
    - Making plans to identify and repair pot holes created over the winter.

- **Fire Department:**
  - Fire Chief Joe Kitchen reported on the following items:
    - FD calls for service to date: 198
    - No report. The Fire Chief was excused and left the meeting prior to department head reports.

- **Zoning Department:**
  - Ken Meyer reported on the following items:
    - Submitted a written report outlining recent zoning related activities to the Trustees and gave an overview of the same.
    - The owner of the McKinley property he is attempting to work with refused to sign for a certified letter recently sent.
    - The owner of the Stewart Road property he is attempting to work with was recently sent a certified letter.
    - The owner of the Wolfe Road property he is attempting to work with signed for a certified letter recently sent.

- **Sheriff Department:**
  - There was no ACSO Deputy present at this meeting.

- **Social Hall:**
  - Mrs. Jay was not present at this meeting.

Attendance & Public Comments

- There were 50 individuals present at this meeting including 42 members of the public, 4 township employees, and 4 elected officials.

- Several members of the public addressed the board regarding their concerns about on-going quality of life issues being created by the RE:Source composting facility under development at the corner of Bible and Stewart Roads. Individual addressing the board included:
  - Adam Williams of Stewart Road
  - Eric Coon of N. Cool Road
  - Connie Sheetz of Loescher Road

- Michelle Bardo of Loescher Road
- Eric Schmidt of Kingswood Drive
- Clearance Roller of E. Bluelick Road
- Jason Hart of E. Bluelick Road
- Matt Cunningham of Stewart Road
- Joel Rasor of Stewart Road
- Angela Rasor of Stewart Road
- Brian Schmenk of N. Dixie Highway
- Michelle Hawker of Cynthia Drive
- Matt McPheron of Screaming Eagle Pass (Gaylord, MI)
- Andrew Benchic of Autumn Ridge
- Zach Migura of Loescher Road
- Micah Hollinger of Neubrecht Road
- Ted Shoemaker of Sugercreek Road

- A respectful but lively dialogue was held regarding RE:Source which included questions being asked regarding past, present, and future enforcement actions, what expectations did the trustees have regarding how to communicate with and report on-going concerns to the township, and wanting answers as to how we got here and what the timelines are regarding seeking civil action to enforce the township's zoning rules. Examples of comments included the following:
  - Concerns regarding young immune compromised student at Bath Schools who required emergent medical care for "histoplasmosis" in a Columbus hospital.
  - A suggestion to take a field trip to go see the facility in person.
  - Inquiring as to how often is someone allowed to complain?
  - The persistent odor coming from the facility is "gag worthy."
  - Suggestions regarding providing timelines to address the problem such as 90 days to abate the odor and a further 90 days of no violations to avoid legal action.
  - A veteran who served in Iran & Iraq and experienced horrible odors there who stated it smelled worse here than it did during his service there.
  - Multiple individuals expressed significant frustration with process of getting this far regarding enforcement given this has been ongoing for 18 months already.
  - Expressed concerns and questions over potential watershed issues.
  - Expressed concerns for traffic safety given the frequent and large amount of debris such as mud, stone, etc. on the road way at this particular intersection.
  - Expressed experiencing health related symptoms such as headaches, nausea, etc. and reiterated that this has now become a quality of life issue for surrounding residents.
  - Stated a belief that animal carcasses are the reason for the odor and several stated it often smells like rotting flesh in the area.
  - Inquired as to why the property was rezoned from agricultural to manufacturing.
  - Expressed a concern that the property owner is simply throwing money at it rather than actually trying to mitigate it.
  - Stated it was impeding the natural flow of water and that the drainage had been unlawfully changed.
  - Several stated it was hard to live at home and that they had lost the enjoyment and use of their properties. They can't even open their windows.
  - Several stated concerns regarding the affect the facility is having on property values.
  - Concerns with the noise going on late into the evening was expressed by multiple residents as well.
  - The question "how many people need to be put out for a profit?"
  - A Bath School Teacher in attendance advised that students at Bath Schools are no

longer wanting to go outside for recess.
    - Demands to rezone the property back to agriculture were expressed.
- The trustees, in response to the above comments, led by Trustee Heffner, listened intently, acknowledged the frustrations and concerns being expressed, and provided feedback and information as appropriate.

Executive Session

- There was no executive session conducted at this meeting.

Additional Business & Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bath Township will be held Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Township Boardroom.

Being no further business to come before the board, Trustee Baxter moved, and Trustee Fillhart seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. A roll call vote was taken with all trustees in attendance voting yes, the motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Brad Baxter, Chairman

Berlin Carroll, Fiscal Officer

Lisa Fillhart, Vice-Chair

Andy Heffner, Trustee

FINANCIAL REPORT
February 17, 2026
(Prepared by Berlin Carroll)

Account Balances	Amount	As of Date
First National Bank (Cash Account)	$2,945,623.85	2.16.26
STAR Ohio (Investment Account)	$117,733.54	1.31.26
Total - All Accounts	**$3,063,357.39**	

Current Expenditures	Amount	As of Date
Payroll Wages	$41,861.95	2.18.26
Bills Paid by Warrant (Check)	$27,862.13	2.17.26
Bills Paid by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)	$68,203.95	2.18.26
Other Payments (Direct, Etc.)	$0.00	2.17.26
Total Amount of All Payables	**$137,928.03**	

Current Action Items/Notes

- Supplemental Appropriations or Reallocations:
  - $16,740.46 to fund number 2192-220-360-0000 (Fire Fund – Contracted Services) to allow for payment of various unanticipated repair bills.

- Blanket Certificate(s) Created:
  - 96-2026 in the amount of $16,740.46 to fund number 2192-220-360-0000.

- Purchase Order(s) Created:
  - None