

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

HOCKING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR SESSION

Held: May 27, 2025, 7:00 PM

Location: 1175 Cincinnati Zanesville Road SW, Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

Chairperson Gail Ellinger called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the flag. The following members and visitors were present:

Mrs. Gail Ellinger Present

Mr. Charles Ressler Present

Mr. Steve Wolfe – Present

Mr. Wes Hurley – Present

VISITORS:

See Sign in Sheet with a total of 13 visitors present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Cheryl Kohler was representing the opposition of Carnation Solar in Amanda Township and asked that Hocking Township submit a letter to support Amanda Township.

Connor Kline from Windy Hills stated there was a builder building a new home and trash is blowing over onto his property. The pole barn that is being built is close to the property line maybe 8'. Connor also mentioned the condition of the roads and weight limit signs at the entrance. Zoning Inspector Rich Hogle stated he would follow up with the builder and owner.

Shirley Tipple asked about setting up a 501c account to donate to since the fire levy failed.

Doris Ambuehl inquired why a neighborhood business was approved on Becks Knob Road. The board of trustees stated that was zoned business several years and that if you would like, you can work with Rich Hogle and start the process of a rezoning change.

Rocky Johnson stated the owner of the Hamburg Road property has passed away and there are issues already starting at the property and people getting into the house.

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REGIONAL PLANNING REPORT:

No Hocking Township issues.

ZONING:

Zoning Inspector Rich Hogle reported two permits for the month. One for David Harmon at 3466 Chillicothe Lancaster Road for a garage. The second was for Steve Wolfe at 915 Becks Knob Road for a gazebo. The resident on Mile Hill Road has cleaned the property up. Will be checking on a possible lot split on Stonewall Cemetery Road.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FISCAL OFFICER:

Minutes from the April meeting being read prior by the Board were approved as read, so moved by Trustee Wolfe and seconded by Trustee Hurley. All were in favor with 3 ayes and no negative votes, motion passed. Audit with Perry and Associates is currently being worked on. Medical insurance will be going up 9.5% in August. We received the tornado siren report from the county. All is good for now.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Trustee Gail Ellinger reported there were a total of 56 runs for the month. There were 45 EMS runs and 11 fire runs. Total runs YTD are 452. Mutual aid was provided to Amanda, Greenfield, and Berne townships. There were several major incidents dispatched from auto accidents, overdose, fire structure, chest pains, grass fires, and service/fire alarm calls. ORC 1503.18 prohibits outdoor open burning during the hours of 6:00am – 6:00pm for the months of March, April, May, October, and November.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to pass a resolution for the speed study to reduce the speed to 35 mph. Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.

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2. The fire levy failed. The board of trustees will begin making budget cuts. The four fulltime firefighter positions will be eliminated at the end of June.
3. Application has been submitted for a grant for the School House Park.
4. The conditional use permit for a short-term rental has been withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to accept the lowest bid for tree trimming on Duncan and Meister Roads. Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.
2. Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to have Fairfield County Engineers Office oversee the Whiley Road overhaul project. Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.
3. Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to have Fairfield County Engineers Office oversee the culvert installation on Westfall Road through an OPWC project as well as a few other culvert projects. Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.
4. Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to schedule a joint zoning meeting to start the process of including short term rentals in our zoning code in order to regulate them. Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.
5. Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to submit a letter on behalf of Amanda Township opposing the carnation solar power. Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.

Trustee Steve Wolfe moved to pay the warrants for the month seconded by Trustee Wes Hurley. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes, Hurley – Yes. Motion approved.

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There being no further business to discuss Trustee Steve Wolfe motioned to adjourn and Trustee Wes Hurley seconded the motion.

Gail V. Ellinger

Mrs. Gail V. Ellinger

Steve Wolfe

Mr. Steve Wolfe

Wesley Hurley

Mr. Wes Hurley

Charles Ressler

Mr. Charles Ressler

All formal actions of the Board of Hocking Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code