



Bethel Township Board of Trustees
June 24, 2025
Workshop Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER Time: 6:00 pm Presiding: Trustee Reese
Roll call: Administrator Smith: Present Fire Chief Cahill: Present Fiscal Officer Ross: Absent
Trustee vanHaaren: Present Trustee Reese: Present Trustee Dick: Present
Assistant to the Fiscal Officer Fortunato: Present

PUBLIC COMMENTS on item on the agenda:

1. Jenny Hodge – benefits of pickleball courts.

NEW BUSINESS

Administration

1. None

Zoning

2. Property nuisances – summons to court. Trustee consensus was to pursue outstanding violators by starting with two cases, prepared by the attorney.
3. Fee schedule of penalties for violating zoning code – ORC 519.99 & ORC 519.24. No fee schedule is required, the Township will follow the ORC.

Fire

4. Staffing – new hires. Two will be on the agenda for approval at the upcoming business meeting, Chief Cahill stated four more are in the process of applying.

Road Dept

5. West Charleston Road repairs
 - a. Trustee vanHaaren stated that the contractor is doing a great job, they have cleaned out the ditches and pulled back the bank.

Fiscal Office

6. Meeting minutes: 6/3/2025 business.
 - a. No corrections to the minutes, they will be on the upcoming business meeting agenda for approval consideration.
7. Budget
 - a. Trustee Reese proposed at a minimum we remove Cintas and TextMyGov expenditures because the Township has discontinued their services.
 - b. Trustee vanHaaren suggested adding \$207,000 for the Friendship Park shelter and \$50,000 for potential mapping of the Park to the budget.
8. Healthcare insurance – switching to Aetna
 - a. Assistant to the Fiscal Officer Fortunato to check with SEBO to obtain a new quote since it has gone into second quarter of the year.

Trustee Items

9. None

OLD BUSINESS

Administration

1. Budget – 5 year plan will be discussed at the retreat.
2. Board retreat – July 18th 1-5 pm at the Tipp Center.
3. Walnut Street dead end – Administrator Smith waiting on Atty Lopez.
 - a. Administrator Smith stated we will need the legal description for the resolution to vacate.
 - b. Trustee vanHaaren suggested contacting the tax map department to get a plat map of Brandt.
4. Archive Social – on hold.

Zoning

5. Hook up GIS computer to the network, update GIS – Administrator Smith working with the County
 - a. Administrator Smith reported that GIS is up and running, he is looking into training on the system.
6. Updates to zoning resolution text
 - a. Zoning Director Smith reported the meetings are going well.

Fire Dept

7. Training program for new recruits
 - a. Fire Chief Cahill stated he will be meeting with Bethel seniors and is working on Safety Days.
8. Expired helmets – still waiting on County prosecutor for waiver.
9. Surplus equipment sales – list is prepared, will combine with road dept surplus.
10. Fire Dept discussion with Elizabeth Twp.
 - a. Fire Chief Cahill stated discussions have terminated so no news at this time.

Road Dept

11. Seasonal worker
 - a. Road Superintendent Yocum submitted a list of tree cutting needs to Administrator Smith who will work on obtaining quotes.
 - b. Administrator Smith stated road workers Mr. Yocum and Mr. Campbell will be on-site to control traffic and supervise.
12. No parking signs for Lisa and Gibson
 - a. Miami County determines where to place the signs.
 - b. Administrator Smith will ask Sheriff to ask the trucks to not park in the right-of-ways and to turn their engines off which are running throughout the night.
13. Surplus equipment sales – old mowers – will work with Fire Dept to create a complete list.
14. Friendship Park digital mapping – on hold until Board retreat.

Fiscal Office

15. Healthcare insurance – switch to Aetna (discussed in New Business section).

Trustee Items

16. Short-term rental lodging tax - Administrator Smith to research if zoning regulations are required before a tax can be imposed
 - a. Zoning Director Smith stated there is nothing in the Ohio Revised Code that prevents imposing a tax even if there are no rules in our zoning code related specifically to short-term rentals.
 - b. The tax needs to be added to the Township's zoning resolution text at a max of 3%.
 - c. Trustee Reese will search for an example resolution.
17. Meeting room / shelter
 - a. Trustee Reese reported that resolutions authorizing the file of the grant and authorizing appropriation of funds for the project were needed to be postmarked by July 1 to support the grant application for the shelter/pickleball courts at Friendship Park.
 - b. Discussion took place regarding the design of the shelter, pickleball courts, picnic tables, walking path, and a potential basketball court.

18. **RESOLUTION #25-06-050:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A NATUREWORKS GRANT APPLICATION
Motioned by Trustee Dick Seconded by Trustee vanHaaren
Vote: Trustee Dick: YES Trustee vanHaaren: YES Trustee Reese: YES
19. **RESOLUTION #25-06-051:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$207,460 TO THE 2025 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS TO BE USED TO CONSTRUCT A SHELTER & PICKLEBALL COURTS AT FRIENDSHIP PARK
Motioned by Trustee Dick Seconded by Trustee vanHaaren
Vote: Trustee Dick: YES Trustee vanHaaren: YES Trustee Reese: YES
20. House Bill 113 – amend ORC regarding annexation and add section 3311.222
a. Introduced Feb 18, 2025, refer to committee Feb 26, 2025.
b. Proponent testimony provided April 30, 2025.
c. Opponent testimony provided June 11, 2025.
21. Position for an anti-annexation employee – no new news.
22. Trustee goals and objectives – no new news.
23. Review/update our Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual – no updates at this time.

OTHER DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Bus Drivers Wanted sign
 - a. Bethel Local Schools Transportation Director requested approval to place a banner along SR 40 on the Township owned property.
 - b. Trustee Reese suggested to him that Big Mike's, who typically lets us put community signs up, may be a better location due to it being a very busy 4-way intersection. Transportation Director agreed this might be a better location and mentioned they have a relationship with Big Mike's as that is where they purchase fuel for the buses.
 - c. Trustees agreed it was acceptable to place a banner on the Township lot along 40 as requested.
2. Cost savings:
 - a. Switch from Waste Management (\$630.18/month) to Havenar Waste Removal (ex-firefighters, \$95/month) for a savings of \$6,422.16 (\$7562.16 vs \$1140). Trustee vanHaaren asked if they were bonded. Assistant to the Fiscal Officer Fortunato will ensure they are bonded before switching.
 - b. Discontinue rental of acetylene and/or oxygen tanks from AirGas for Road Dept for a savings of \$106.77/month or \$1281.24/year
 - c. Received a check from Cintas for \$102.85 for mats that we did not have but were being billed over the last 3 years. In addition, purchased our own mats (\$432.47) and cancelled the service (savings of \$1,248/year).

PUBLIC COMMENTS on any topic: **NONE**

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Motioned by Trustee Dick Seconded by Trustee vanHaaren
Vote: Trustee Dick: YES Trustee vanHaaren: YES Trustee Reese: YES

Time in Executive Session: 7:48 pm
Return to regular session time: 8:06 pm

APPOINTMENT

1. **RESOLUTION #25-06-052:** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JIM LESKOWICH ALTERNATE TO THE BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2030
Motioned by Trustee Dick Seconded by Trustee vanHaaren
Vote: Trustee Dick: YES Trustee vanHaaren: YES Trustee Reese: YES

2. Trustee Kama Dick performed the swearing in of newly appointed Zoning Board member Jim Leskowich.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter executive session, (1) which is necessary to protect the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project, for the purpose to consult with an attorney regarding negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance and (2) for the purpose to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Motioned by Trustee Dick Seconded by Trustee vanHaaren

Vote: Trustee Dick: YES Trustee vanHaaren: YES Trustee Reese: YES

Time in Executive Session: 8:15 pm

Return to regular session time: 9:03 pm

ADJOURNMENT motioned by Trustee Dick Seconded by Trustee vanHaaren

Vote: Trustee Dick: YES Trustee vanHaaren: YES Trustee Reese: YES

Time: 9:03 pm

ATTACHMENTS

1. Digital audio recording of the meeting containing discussion and public comments.
2. Resolutions
3. Oath of Office signed by Jim Leskowich

Minutes prepared by Trustee Reese


Julie Reese, Trustee, President


Kama Dick, Trustee, Vice President


Beth van Haaren, Trustee


Rhonda Ross, Fiscal Officer