

THE WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE’S REGULAR MEETING – July 2, 2025

Chairman Paul Runion called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

Trustees: Paul Runion, Bill Hammer and Ken Green  
Fiscal Officer: Lori Kepus  
Zoning Inspector: Steve Michaelis (left at 8 pm)  
Road Supervisor: Jim Busdiecker

EMS – No report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Fire Chief Tim Schnitker sent the following report:

- The X-3 door was repaired by Northwood Door. It was hitting the springs and would not raise properly.
- R-1 has issues. There is no A/C, lights are out on the tower, and the wind detector on the roof for the awnings is broken. I will be getting the AC fixed and estimates on the rest. We can replace the bulb ourselves.
- We are prepping for all the Woodville 4<sup>th</sup> of July events this week.
- Run volume for the Fire Department is way up. Last year we had just a little over 100 calls, and this year we are already around 80.

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Jim Busdiecker deposited 35 tires for recycling at the annual OSS Joint Solid Waste Management District’s Farm Tire Recycling Collection. There was not charge for this disposal. The tires are various tires that have picked up along township roads throughout the year.

With award of the Issue II grant by the OPWC, Trustee Hammer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07 to award the bid and enter into contract with M&B Asphalt for the 2025 Resurfacing of Various Township Roads in Woodville (Lead), Jackson, Madison, Rice, Scott, and Washington Townships in the amount of \$746,623.50. Trustee Runion seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

On May 21, the Trustees awarded the contract for the repaving of TR 163 from TR 16 to the bridge to M&B Asphalt in the amount of \$70,723. Revenue from the Township’s Permissive License Tax Fund will be used for this project. It will be completed at the same time as the Issue II repaving of TR 165 from TR 28 to TR 16 in the amount of \$110,000 (\$63,800 to be paid by the Township and \$46,200 will be paid by the OPWC grant.

CEMETERY – Jim Busdiecker stated that we are going to have too much dirt after excavation of the new grounds for the new addition at Westwood Cemetery and wondered if they can take it to the Road Garage and build a berm. The Trustees had no issues with this idea.

We blew a tire on the 1-ton 504 truck and damaged the fender.

The Township received a letter from the US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency that stated they are reviewing farms in our county. They wanted a reply about the current use of property owned by the Township behind Westwood Cemetery. The Trustees answered the letter stating that the land is currently being turned into a site for future growth of Westwood Cemetery.

ZONING – Steve Michaelis reported on the following:

- I spoke with Mark Buck, CR 62. He is looking for a surveyor. The county health department said he may have some sewer issues that need to be resolved. I told him he cannot rent out the house until everything has been resolved.
- I sent an email to Jim Barney asking for a legal opinion (ag vs business use) on the Allan Huss’s building on US 20. He also currently has a non-compliant storage unit on his property.
- Working on an accessory building permit for Bill Wagner, CR 93.
- The Zoning Commission will hold their next regular meeting on July 9.

Trustee Hammer made a motion to approve the warrants. Trustee Runion seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed. Trustee Green made a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Trustee Hammer seconded. All answered yes to roll call.

Fiscal Officer – Lori Kepus presented the Trustees with the Township’s **balanced bank reconciliation** for the month of June and the updated Fund, Revenue, and Appropriation Status reports.

Below is the June financial report.

June Revenue Received	\$	27,665.79
June Expenses Paid	\$	46,431.13
Balance of all Funds as of 6/30/2025	\$	3,345,198.30

The SLFRF Covid compliance report was submitted.

The Sandusky County Township will hold their annual picnic on July 17 in Fremont.

The Trustees discussed the **2026 Budget proposal** as presented by the Fiscal Officer Lori Kepus. There were no comments from the public.

The township’s budget process generates the township’s 1st official certificate of estimated resources and that is what limits the amounts of appropriations that the Trustees can set for the coming year. Overall, we’re a very financially sound township. The township purchased a new ambulance and fire truck last year so no major expenditures are anticipated in the coming year.

The cost for the basic necessities like natural gas, electric, garbage disposal, gasoline and diesel fuel remain high due to the present economic climate. The contract with Sandusky County EMS will remain at \$250,000.

The Township will again only collect 3.9 mills for EMS operations of a 5.7 mill levy that was passed by voters for EMS services. The Trustees are also discussing building an addition onto the EMS quarters.

The expansion of Westwood Cemetery will also continue next year. The township owns the property behind the cemetery to the woods.

The State of Ohio Department of Taxation settled an appeal from the NEXUS pipeline last August for around 47% of the original stated valuation of the pipeline. NEXUS also said they would pay back taxes with interest, but Ohio allows for interest to be waived during an appeal, so they got out of that obligation and there are very little back taxes that they owe since the lower valuation was settled. The Township has waited since Tax Year 2019 which was paid in 2020 for this to be resolved.

The Trustees have again discussed lowering the millage collected on the EMS levy. **Trustee Hammer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-08 authorizing the reduction the EMS levy from the voter approved 5.7 mill to only collect 3 mills in Tax Year 2025 which is payable in 2026. Trustee Runion seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.** Of the \$467,784 approved for collection, only approximately \$308,518 will be collected. This is the second decrease the Trustees have approved in the last few years. The previous collection rate was 3.9 mill. Kepus will file the budget projections with the county auditor before the July 15 deadline.

Listed below are the final projections for 2026:

2026 BUDGET	Estimated	Projected	Projected	Unencumbered
	Carryover Balance	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
General Fund	562,920.75	203,525.00	139,069.00	627,376.75
Motor Vehicle License Tax	23,484.30	21,500.00	2,000.00	42,984.30
Gasoline Tax	270,967.59	165,000.00	85,500.00	350,467.59
Road & Bridge Fund	305,118.25	270,000.00	184,526.00	390,592.25
Cemetery Fund	237,006.87	63,600.00	55,200.00	245,406.87
EMS Fund	748,493.71	390,070.00	308,900.00	829,663.71
Fire Levy Fund	536,714.50	284,000.00	225,230.00	595,484.50
Permissive License Tax	32,824.39	16,000.00	-	48,824.39
Capital Projects- Issue II Roads	-	46,200.00	46,200.00	-
Permanent Improvement EMS	15,540.00	-	-	15,540.00
Permanent Improvement FIRE	7,030.00	-	-	7,030.00
TOTALS	2,740,100.36	1,459,895.00	1,046,625.00	3,153,370.36

At 8:36 p.m., with no further business, Trustee Green moved for adjournment. Trustee Hammer seconded. This meeting was held in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code's Sunshine Law.