

Minutes of Regular Meeting May 21, 2025

4:00 p.m.: Robert Mack calls the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Mr. Britten, Mr. Mack, Mr. Schaller, Mr. Eckel, Ms. Welch

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Mack asked of any changes or additions to agenda:

Mr. Britten – move up the turnpike barrier to special presentations due to the amount of people here from Mandell Road

Mr. Britten – add possible loss of property tax under trustees

Mr. Schaller moved for approval. Mr. Britten seconded. All yes. Motion approved.

Approval of meeting minutes:

May 7, 2025: **Mr. Britten moved for approval. Mr. Schaller seconded. All yes. Motion approved.**

Special Presentation

General Discussion about the Turnpike barrier wall.

Lisa Bainter, 101110 Mandell.

Lives directly across from area/fence talking about. It is a safety issue along with noise issues. In the past year there have been multiple incidents: people jumping the fence asking for gas / money. The turnpike was 4 lanes and now it is 6 lanes which adds to the noise. Two maintenance workers from the Turnpike were out and said that the fence needs to be replaced. They are replacing it with a 6-foot fence with barbed wire at the top.

Mr. Mack – sounds like this is very timely. It has always been a funding issue. Haraz Ghanbari has been very helpful in making an urgent plea on our behalf. Josh Williams – this is part of his district also.

Mr. Britten – any contact you make copy us for a paper trail.

Walt Celley – from 2012-2023 there were grants available for noise mitigation barriers. We applied 3 times with no applications granted then told the program terminated due to money.

Mr. Schaller – years ago it started from Duxbury and Belmont.

Mr. Eckel – I pulled the file. The last cycle no applications were granted and program terminated. I will check for grants and see if any qualify.

Eric Fischer, 10040 Mandell.

The fence is a joke; they cut it and jump it. There is no protection. It is less than .4 miles of fence needed. The strip of grass that no one claims they own, which I mow at the corner of 10020 down to corner of Belmont Lake, can we privately fund a wall since the land is unclaimed.

Bridget O'Halloran - 10371 Belmont Meadows.

Since the woods were cut down in 2016 there have been many things that have reached our property line. Pop cans, sharp objects etc. I would share anything I have with anyone in this room.

Representative of family from 9975, 9911 and 9880 Mandell Road. The turnpike is in our backyard. They do night construction. The bridge on Grassy Creek is always in need of repair. When the turnpike was built there was not an exit at 75 so many of the rules should not apply.

Mr. Mack – if we do something not on the turnpike of fence, closer to Mandell. I have a plastic fence 8 feet tall that blocks noise.

Mr. Schaller – it would not hurt, but can the township do that.

Mr. Britten – private property

Mr. Schaller – I live by the turnpike on Glenwood Road with an overpass. It is way noisier now than it ever was.

Teresa Fisher, 10020 Mandell. Kudos to the police; they come immediately when someone gets out of a truck. We don't know if they are trafficking drugs or kids. We have 10 kids in our neighborhood, and this is for the safety of the kids. We must teach our children to run in the house and lock the doors when someone gets out of a vehicle. With incident at the schools, it is here, the turnpike is not safe.

Mr. Mack – thank you all for sharing. We all get along with Rep. Ghanbari and the law enforcement team. We will get back to you with feedback.

Maintenance:

None.

Fire/EMS:

None.

Police:

Resolution 2025-025: sell misc. Items on GovDeals. **Mr. Britten motioned for approval. Mr. Schaller seconded. All yes. Motion approved.**

The window is closing on ordering a new car, have less than a month. We are selling two cars and will probably get \$6000-\$8000 dollars. One of those cars does not have AC. The new one will not be here until September, have one arriving in June, which we will owe \$6000 bill through the lease program. It costs \$24000.00 for equipment to outfit a vehicle which would be taken out of the drug fund. Gretchen said we have \$145000 left till the end of the year. Gretchen stated in the Federal Drug Fund as of April you have \$300000.00 with \$245000.00 incumbered, which leaves \$54000.00. Mr. Mack asked Chief Gazarek to explain the drug fund. Per Chief Gazarek, the drug fund is money seized from traffic stops etc., drug trafficking etc. The money is turned over to us after the court case is complete and can only be used for equipment/vehicles/officers. Our K9 program is one of the best which assists other agencies in drug trafficking cases. The revenue fluctuates.

Mr. Schaller – what vehicle are you looking at. / Another Ford Explorer

Mr. Britten – we have had issues with the chargers and the money we have spent on them is a lot to piece them together. You need to make cuts elsewhere, but we need the vehicles.

Mr. Schaller motioned for approval to order another vehicle. Mr. Britten seconded. All yes. Motion approved.

Mr. Mack – Chief Gazarek doesn't do a great job patting himself on the back. We are the lead agency with drug interdiction and drug trafficking because of his leadership. We have good dogs and when the dogs are involved, we are part of the allocation.

Mr. Britten – our police department stopped that gentlemen on 75 and got an illegal immigrant off the streets.

Chief Gazarek – Perrysburg PD was with us, and it was teamwork with other agencies.

Recreation & Recycling:

Permission to apply for the Wood County Park grant. Looking to replace the sidewalk and two benches at Starbright park. **Mr. Britten motioned for approval. Mr. Schaller seconded. All yes. Motion approved.**

Monday is Memorial Day to honor veterans. St. Rose Mass at 9am. Parade at 10am with ceremony following at Fort Meigs.

Zoning:

Motion for declaration of nuisance property. It is a duplex, 10510 and 10512 Carolina. We have been dealing with property for a year. We abated it last year and it continues to be a problem. Grass is at 21".

Mr. Britten motioned for approval. Mr. Schaller seconded. All yes. Motion approved.

Administrator:

Resolution 2025-0026: Wood County Storm Water Agreement. This is the management program, it is the same cost as last year, \$11045.72. Mr. Britten asked if we received any report of what has transpired in the Township. Mr. Eckel stated, no formal report, but Isaac Bailey stops in the office to inform and talk to us. **Mr. Britten moved for approval. Mr. Schaller seconded. All yes. Motion approved.**

Fiscal Officer:

Report on April financials.

Going to start on the budget for next year and start talking about cuts. I am going to talk to all department heads about where cuts can be made. Maybe no Christmas presents and little things like that. We have to work on benefits; health insurance is outrageous. Mr. Britten said the financial committee meets quarterly.

Trustees:

Buttonwood Park agreement with the park district. There was an article in the Sentinel about the county park district doing work at Buttonwood and making improvements. I think we should help when can. Mr. Britten – I would like to see what kind of money they are going to spend. I have seen a lot of damage at Buttonwood with ice chunks. If the river ices over and breaks loose, it can take bridges out. I think it would be good to have a representative involved in the meetings since it is in our township. Mr. Eckel – this is being funded by the Black Swamp Conservatory. They are not doing major renovations; they are just cleaning up.

In the state of Ohio there is a group of people who are trying to eliminate property tax. They have to have signatures by July 2nd. If they get enough signatures, it will be on the November Ballot. If it passes, jobs, fire departments etc. will go away because they are funded by property tax. Townships are funded by property tax.

Mr. Britten – Jon where are we at with building.

Mr. Eckel – We met with Rudolph Libbe yesterday. The original cost 3.6, with the elimination of dispatch it took it down to 3.2. There was a new building code with amount of installation. Now the new number is 3.9. At the end of our meeting and with cuts, we got it down to 3.7. We need to get back to the table with them and get back down to the original.

Mr. Britten – I was told when dispatch out of building that would save 1 mil

Mr. Eckel – when priced out that was the cost of the center

Mr. Britten – we are building the wrong building, this is out of control

Mr. Eckel – 3.8 was the original number, design build. Everything went up and prices have gone up

Mr. Britten – if the property tax goes away in November, we will only have 1 year of taxes, what is a new building going to do for us without property taxes.

Mr. Schaller – a huge % lives in the township

Mr. Britten – if it gets on the ballot, it will pass

Mr. Warnimont – where is the extra money coming from, the general fund

Mr. Eckel – I will do what the trustees want me to do; I would not want to lose the 1.2 ARPA funds. I do understand Mr. Britten's point.

Mr. Schaller – if we wait years how much will it cost then, it is always what if?

Mr. Eckel – If we widdle it back to original 3.6, 1.2 is ARPA and 2.4 out of general fund

Public Comments:

None.

Mr. Britten moved for approval to adjourn. Mr. Schaller seconded. All yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 17:02

Gretchen Welch – Fiscal Officer

Robert Mack -Chairman