

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Meeting

Plain Township Board of Trustee Meeting

The Plain Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Station, 9500 Johnstown Road, New Albany, OH 43054.

Ms. Mollard called the meeting to order. Firefighters Logan and Booher led the Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Members Present: Dave Ferguson, Kerri Mollard and Jill Beckett-Hill. Others present: Fiscal Officer Bud Zappitelli, Township Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers. Visitors present: Daniel Logan and his family, Brody Booher and his family, and many firefighters.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

SWEARING IN

Firefighter Daniel Logan was sworn in by Ms. Beckett-Hill.
Firefighter Brody Booher was sworn in by Ms. Mollard

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

**Ms. Mollard made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$357,834.94.
Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 2506041)**

Ms. Mollard inquired about the Heritage Fire Equipment payments. When Assistant Chief Ecleberry returned to the meeting, he explained that the invoices are for the equipment that was ordered for the new engine.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the May 21, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes.
Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: Ms. Mollard and Ms. Beckett-Hill -Aye. Mr. Ferguson abstained. (Resolution 25060402)**

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Collins listened to the New Albany City Council meeting last night. During the public comment period, there were several residents who were frustrated with the detour traffic from

the State Route 605 closure. Straits Farms residents have been very frustrated with the cut-through traffic. The city of New Albany is trying to route local traffic to Fenway Road. The residents on Fenway also expressed some concern regarding the volume of traffic and how fast motorists are traveling. There was a request to keep the road open and there was a request to provide 24-hour construction activity. Mr. Collins also received a report of a Maplewood Cemetery visitor parking in Straits Farms and climbing over the fence. Mr. Collins reported that incident to the city and asked for signage that indicates that the cemetery can be accessed past the closure. State route 605 is expected to be closed for 90 days.

Mr. Collins reported that the pool is officially open and has been very busy the past few days with the warmer weather. Because of the cooler temperatures during Memorial Day weekend, daily gate sales are a little behind last year. However, membership sales are slightly ahead of last year. Swim lesson sales are doing well.

Mr. Collins shared that the McCoy Center completed the seat recovering project. The invoice has been submitted to the Community Foundation for payment out of the capital fund. Mr. Sawyers is investigating solutions to add additional handicapped seating and to update the elevator. Mr. Sawyers is hiring a consulting firm to assist with the project.

Mr. Collins has received a recommendation for the Township's McCoy Board opening from the McCoy nominating chair. All trustees agreed that the candidate was well qualified and a community-minded and engaged candidate. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Zappitelli both felt that the open position should be opened up to the public. Ms. Mollard believes that the McCoy board position is different because there is an expected monetary donation. Ms. Beckett-Hill offered that if the Plain Township Board would like to open this position up to the community, all board positions should be handled the same. She would like to see a policy documented for the guidelines and interview process. All trustees agreed that they would like the Plain Township board representatives to attend the Board meetings at least once a year to provide an update on activity. Ms. Beckett-Hill also shared her working knowledge of what the McCoy Board is responsible for. When she sat on the board, the board was responsible for programming, fundraising and the capital campaign. The board does not vote on capital expenses. The owners or stakeholders vote on capital expenses.

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250604A1.

Whereas, the Plain Township Board of Trustees has approved a pool management contract extension, including opening and closing, with SwimSafe Pool Management, Inc. for the 2025 pool season, in the amount of \$238,226 out of fund 2171-610-53060 (Pool – Contracts).

Be it resolved, to set aside and pay the July pool management payment in the amount of \$47,646 from fund 2171-610-53060 (Pool – Contracts) according to the attached schedule.

Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Mollard asked Mr. Collins about the recommendation from ODOT to reduce the speed limit on State route 62. ODOT will cover the cost of replacing signage.

ZONING

Mr. Collins reported that the township received a variance application for a property on Johnstown Road, north of Central College, a little north of the water tower. This is an international institution that would like to build a worship center for an international guru to make a pilgrimage approximately every three years. The application is requesting the 15,000 sq. ft. worship center to be built on the property where there is already an existing home. The plan also calls for 100 paved parking spaces and 200 gravel parking spaces. The group has engaged an engineer.

The township is waiting for the city of New Albany to approve a commercial curb cut for the Tire Center on State route 62.

ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Mr. Collins reported that the maintenance department worked very hard to get the pool ready to open prior to Memorial Day. The team is now focusing on prepping 39 2nd St. for new renters and mowing.

Mr. Collins also reported that he received a call from a resident on Walnut Street requesting a repair to a clay tile that drains to Blacklick Creek from their property. Mr. Collins explained that the township is not responsible for installations on private property unless there is an easement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Connor reported that the department is entering the busy summer season with Safety Town and school end-of-year celebrations and neighborhood parties. EMS Coordinator Essick is spending a lot of time at Safety Town.

Chief Connor and Assistant Chief Ecleberry met with Assistant Chief Tim Moore from the city of Columbus to discuss the mutual aid relationship and runs to and from Plain Township. Mutual aid runs to Columbus are down, while Plain Township runs are holding steady. Assistant Chief Ecleberry attributes some of the lower runs into Columbus to the response model in the CAD.

Assistant Chief Ecleberry reported that Firefighter Noble found a vendor that the township can purchase tires from at state bid pricing. They could save up to 40% on the cost of tires.

The Chevrolet Tahoe is being delivered tomorrow. It will take another month to get it lettered and the necessary upfitting done.

The bay floor project is completed. AC Ecleberry had Paramount come out to fix the mismatched color and Paramount was very accommodating.

Chief Connor and AC Ecleberry will be hosting a job fair for interns. Interns need to have their Fire card, basic EMT card, and a valid driver's license.

Chief Connor reported that he and Mr. Collins had a meeting with Tom Rubey to discuss options for the substation property. He expects to know something soon.

Mr. Zappitelli inquired about how the proposed legislation to cut property taxes will affect the township's plan to sell bonds. In his opinion, Mr. Collins thought the township should wait until after the election to sell bonds unless legal counsel feels different. Without the ability to collect property taxes, the township would not be able to repay the bonds. State legislature is trying to come up with alternative fixes. The state could authorize townships to collect an income tax but there would be a time delay in getting that approved and starting to collect the tax. Chief Connor does not want to delay the planning of the substation because there is a need in the community and the strategic plan supports a substation. He believes the township will find a solution one way or another.

FISCAL OFFICE

The May 2025 credit card statements were presented.

A draft of the 2026 Tax Budget was presented for discussion.

Ms. Mollard inquired about the negative balance in the Roads fund. Ms. Rogers explained that this is the only fund that is allowed to show a zero or negative balance. This enables the township to request inside millage. Ms. Mollard also asked about the small increase in the Capital Equipment-Fire account. Ms. Rogers indicated that this was based on the budgeted needs of the fire department in 2026.

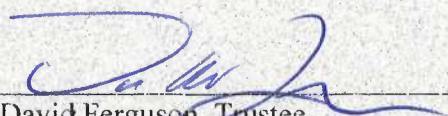
Ms. Mollard also asked Mr. Collins about the cemetery improvements. Currently, that is not budgeted for 2026. This is an expense that would be funded by property taxes.

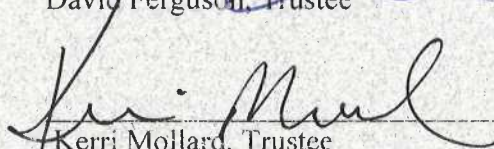
Ms. Mollard would like the Fiscal office to develop a policy regarding the amount of cash the township keeps in a checking account versus a higher interest-yielding account. Mr. Collins offered that there are other townships that have adopted policies that Plain Township could look at.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:



David Ferguson, Trustee

Kerri Mollard, Trustee

Jill Beckett-Hill, Trustee

Bud Zappelli, Fiscal Officer