

**SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION HELD AT
95 E. Wilson Bridge Road
January 7, 2026
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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call:	John Oberle, Chair	Present
	Laura Kunze, Vice Chair	Present
	Michael Farley, Trustee	Present
	Justin Adkins, Fiscal Officer	Present

Attendance: Chief Tuchfarber, Supt. Kayati, Marcus Rose

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by Chair ad interim Kunze.

Oaths of Office for Laura Kunze and John Oberle

Adkins administered ceremonial oaths of office to Kunze and Oberle, who began their new terms as Sharon Township Trustees on January 1, 2026.

Approval of Agenda

Kayati asked to add a discussion on the Tree of Life to Roads – New Business.

Oberle asked to add Mileage Certification to Trustees – New Business.

Farley moved to accept the amended agenda; Oberle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Resident Comments

A resident complimented the Township's redesigned website and also asked for an update on 5311 Riverside Drive. Farley summarized the situation and promised further updates after speaking with the County.

TRUSTEES

Approval of Meeting Dates for 2026

Farley spoke to the increase in meetings in January due to the Fire Levy discussion.

Farley moved to accept the 2026 Meeting Dates. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

2026 Organizational Appointments

Kunze moved to appoint Oberle as the Chair of the Sharon Township Board of Trustees. Seconded by Farley. Motion passed unanimously.

Oberle moved to appoint Kunze as the Vice Chair of the Sharon Township Board of Trustees. Seconded by Farley. Motion passed unanimously.

Kunze moved to appoint Oberle as the Board's liaison to the Sharon Township Police Department. Seconded by Farley. Motion passed unanimously.

Oberle moved to appoint Farley as the Board's liaison to the Worthington Fire Department. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

Farley moved to appoint Kunze as the Board's liaison to the Sharon Township Road Department. Seconded by Oberle. Motion passed unanimously.

Kunze moved to appoint Oberle as the Board's liaison to the STAR Board. Seconded by Oberle. Motion passed unanimously.

Kunze moved to appoint Farley as the Board's liaison to the Administrative Offices. Seconded by Oberle. Motion passed unanimously.

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Farley moved to appoint Oberle as the Board's liaison to the Walnut Grove/Flint Road Cemetery Board. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

Kunze moved to appoint Farley as the Board's liaison to the Sharon Memorial Board. Seconded by Oberle. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026A Resolution to approve 2026 appointments

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026B Resolution to approve salaries

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026C Resolution to approve movement of appropriations within fund

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026D Resolution to approve per diem rates

Kunze moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Farley. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026E Resolution to approve reemployment of employees

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026F Resolution to approve requests for advance tax payments

Kunze moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Farley. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026G Resolution to employ attorneys for 2026

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026H Resolution to permit the Fiscal Officer to pay adjusted amounts for employee benefits

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026I Resolution confirming the Sealed/Competitive Bidding Procurement Threshold for 2026

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

01072026J Resolution confirming the Spending Authority of Department Heads for 2026

Farley moved to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

SWACO Recycling Cart Rollout

Oberle provided an update on the cart rollout, which was funded entirely by ARPA with no cost to residents. Residents who don't want the carts can have them picked up by the Township. Local Waste will collect previously rented bins and the Township expects to store approximately 50 extra carts. Kunze requested that residents keep unwanted carts when possible so future residents can use them. The May election is approaching, and the Township will need the Hall space for the election.

Fire Levy Preparation

Farley praised the Auditor's office employees and provided a summary of the Fire Levy's history and current path forward. The Trustees are currently considering three options. Farley expressed support for placing the levy on the May 2026 ballot, noting that this approach would still allow another attempt in November if it fails.

The goal is for Sharon Township to become a larger contributor to the Fire Department, thereby strengthening the Township's position in future negotiations.

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Oberle noted that putting the levy on the May ballot would cost less. He complimented the new Fire Chief, Mark Zambito. He also characterized the recent negotiation as successful because both sides were unhappy but walked away as friends, praising Worthington as a good partner. He mentioned that another option would be to contract with the City of Columbus, but expressed concerns about response times and losing a local partner.

A resident referenced news reports indicating that equipment in Columbus was in worse condition and supported staying with Worthington service. Another question addressed the increase per \$100,000 of valuation, estimated at 75% of the previous levy amount.

Kunze highlighted that Sharon Township will be featured on the new fire truck.

The Trustees plan to continue discussing the levy with residents at the January meetings. Farley noted that Legal Counsel should begin preparing the necessary materials with the lawyers.

New Business

Mileage Certification

Kayati presented the 2026 Mileage Certification from the County Engineers to the Board. Oberle noticed a decrease in mileage and asked to hold the certification until the cause of the decrease could be determined.

2026 Permanent Road Department Budget

Farley explained how the Road District and Gas Tax funds work and provided a history of related levies. The Township collects approximately \$200,000 per year in levies for the Road District, which are released in two batches in March and August.

The Gas Tax Fund is currently paying for employee salaries in the temporary budget. There is a functional deficit in the road district fund, with \$231,000 in employee and benefit costs. Farley noted that the Township will begin spending its reserves and will need to purchase two new trucks within the next 18-24 months at an estimated cost of around \$300,000.

Farley acknowledged that the Township has done a nice job of road maintenance over the last 40+ years and expressed gratitude that they're fortunate to address these challenges now. He's confident the team will rise to the challenge, noting that only the two funds are affected.

Farley stated that the Township will need to increase revenues to maintain the same level of services. He's looking for a long-term plan that doesn't change the service profile or core functions. Farley praised the Township's services, calling its road department the best in the county and its police department the best in the county.

Oberle noted the upcoming transition in the Roads Department leadership, the need to work with current and future leadership to find a solution, and asked for input from the Road Department.

Kayati said that they were working on an accurate tracking of the cost-sharing agreement with the cemetery. Currently, more work is being done on the Township side, but he noted that, over the years, it's become increasingly difficult to track this metric as operations have become intertwined. Kayati noted his strong desire to leave the department in good shape as he looks towards retirement; He was praised by the Trustees for his resourcefulness and efforts to increase the lifespan of township equipment.

Oberle remarked that the Township had been here before with the General Fund and that they would work as a team to find a solution. Kayati noted that Adkins found a grant that the department can apply for and is working with Rose to submit it.

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Approval of Minutes

Farley moved to approve the Minutes for December 10, 2025, as submitted. Kunze seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The minutes are approved.

Farley moved to approve the Minutes for December 17, 2025, as submitted. Kunze seconded. Oberle abstained, with Farley and Kunze voting in favor. The minutes are approved.

FISCAL OFFICER

Old Business

None

New Business

November Reconciliation

Adkins presented the November reconciliation report to the Trustees and stated that it was unremarkable and reconciled. Oberle signed the reconciliation.

December Reconciliation

Adkins presented the December reconciliation report to the Trustees. Adkins reported that, while everything reconciled, several payments are listed as outstanding; they are old duplicate entries of cleared transactions and will be voided once the 2025 Fiscal Year is closed. Oberle signed the reconciliation.

Farley praised Adkins in his new role.

POLICE

Old & New Business

None

ROAD

Old Business

None

New Business

Tree of Life School

The school's parking lot changes are causing drainage issues that need to be addressed. A camera was scoped into the stormwater system, and significant issues were identified. The pipe, located in the right-of-way, is made of material that wasn't designed for parking and has been crushed by large vehicles being parked where they are not permitted.

This section has to be done, and the school has already completed camera work at its expense. Kayati is unsure whether the school should pay for the damage since they didn't cause it, but the damage is preventing them from properly hooking into the drainage system. There's no estimate yet on replacement costs.

The entire storm sewer system on Westview will eventually have to be rebuilt or replaced, as it is not a true system like those on Kanawha and Rosslyn. Westview has a history of being a ditch-only street, with residents converting to pipes at different times over the years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Farley moved to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation involving the Township. Kunze seconded and asked for a roll call:

Kunze	YES
Farley	YES
Oberle	YES

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Went in to executive session at 7:57 pm.
Returned to regular session at 8:13 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further matters to discuss, Farley moved to adjourn the meeting. Kunze seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Date

Chair

Fiscal Officer