

**SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION HELD AT
95 E. Wilson Bridge Road
January 14, 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	Absent
	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 Oberle.

Approval of Agenda

Adkins asked to replace the December Credit Card Statement with a discussion on Email Newsletter Vendors.

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

Resident Comments

A Resident inquired if the Trustees' meeting in Tremont Gardens would be livestreamed.

TRUSTEES

Old Business

Fall/Winter 2025 Newsletter

Oberle thanked Farley for leading the newsletter effort and gathering articles. He noted that the newsletter is long with great content. The goal is to deliver it by email very soon. Trustees plan to increase the frequency of posting and will encourage neighborhood Facebook groups to share the newsletters.

SWACO Recycling Cart Rollout

The Township received more carts from SWACO than anticipated. A huge thank you was extended to Kayati and the entire Road Department staff for picking up the extra bins and storing them in the Township Hall. A current storage location will be needed during the upcoming elections in May 2026; a long-term storage solution will need to be found.

Natural Sound Wall

Resident Pat Kelly provided an update in Kunze's absence. Kunze, Kelly, and others will meet with a representative from the Ohio Department of Transportation to prepare a proposal.

Discussion on 5311 Riverside Drive

Farley reported good news from his conversations with the Franklin County Prosecutors' office. The issue has been reduced to a judgment, and they're in discussions with the current owner, who has expressed a desire to pay back taxes, fees, and fines. There is a process that has to play out, and they're at the end of the court proceedings. The court order applies to future owners, and the prosecutor's office is aware that remediation will be necessary. This is a great update for the three streets involved.

Kayati expressed concern that the owner will have more time to fix the issues, despite having had years to do so. Farley expressed his understanding that the County wished to move on in this matter and would only entertain bona fide offers of clean up.

Potential Levy for Increased Funds for the Fire District

Farley reported that, based on tentative numbers from the County Auditor, the levy would add \$81.90 in taxes per \$100,000 of valuation. An additional \$370,000 is needed.

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Worthington Fire Chief Mark Zambito provided an end-of-year update for 2025. The department completed 576 runs in the township, and 4,000 runs total across all clients, including Worthington, Riverlea, Sharon Township, and parts of Perry Township. He noted they currently have only one engine and discussed hiring progress. Applications are increasing, and they have three candidates for two positions, bringing them to full staffing for the first time in six years.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has done amazing work getting inspections back up to where they need to be. The Olentangy Valley Center has the most inspections.

The firehouse is receiving updates, including \$750,000 being invested in restroom facilities. The current restrooms for both men and women are dated, and there are plumbing issues that need fixing to make the environment more comfortable.

Several trucks have been ordered. The ladder truck will be delivered at the end of February, replacing a 15-year-old truck. The new engine is scheduled for April delivery and has been slightly downsized to save on costs without compromising capabilities, reflecting updated technology and including safety improvements for firefighters. An ambulance has also been ordered, and the budget has been approved for another fire truck. The current frontline truck will be moved to backup status due to high mileage and some mechanical issues. Equipment is currently taking three to four years from purchase to delivery. Sharon Township will be included on the next fire truck logos, which have been in the works for the last three years.

Farley thanked the city for staying ahead of capital management, noting that expenses are increasing 15% per year. He praised the great partnership that honors the department's history and expressed gratitude for the chief's leadership, willingness to attend and speak to residents, and accessibility.

Kayati asked about the ladder truck timeline, and the Chief confirmed it takes 9 months to build once construction begins.

Oberle connected the discussion to the Fire Levy conversation, noting there's a joint meeting with Worthington this week and emphasizing the very special relationship between the partners. He stated that the chief has served the township and its residents well. He praised having the best roads, police, and fire departments with the best leadership, while acknowledging that it does cost money. Oberle also emphasized the need to hear from residents and stated that transparency is their goal, encouraging residents to reach out via phone, text, or email. He concluded by noting that placing a levy on the ballot this year is the least expensive option for residents.

2026 Permanent Road Department Budget

Farley reported having worked with Adkins on the budget, creating an 8-year analysis of revenues and expenditures and a categorized expenditure breakdown for the Road District. Wages are the highest expenditure, and cash reserves began depleting in 2024.

The Gas Tax Fund is currently paying for employee salaries in the temporary budget. A request to the prosecutor's office regarding other applicable uses of the Gas Tax Fund remains outstanding. Farley noted a need to reset expectations for the roads department and said there's a potential levy this year or next year to maintain current service levels.

The Township is being creative and exploring other funding sources, with a levy as a last resort.

New Business

Road Miles Certification

The Township Highway System Mileage Certification received from the Ohio Department of Transportation lists 9.391 miles of public roads that the Township is responsible for maintaining.

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Oberle noticed a decrease at the previous meeting and asked Kayati to research the issue. Kayati reported that the mileage is the same as the previous year, but decreased in 2022 from 9.820 miles. No summary of those changes was found.

Farley moved to accept the certification. Seconded by Oberle. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Contract with Board of Elections to Use Township Administrative Offices for a Polling Location

No changes from the previous contract. It was again noted that the recycling carts will need a new home before the election.

Oberle moved to approve the contract. Seconded by Farley. Motion passed unanimously.

Farley moved to approve Oberle as the signatory for the contract. Oberle seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FISCAL OFFICER

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion on Email Newsletter Vendor

Adkins presented his evaluation of several vendors for email newsletters and discussed the criteria he used. There was a lengthy discussion on implementing an email newsletter and comparing vendors. The Trustees had avoided doing one in the past because they wanted to ensure email addresses were not public records, and this has been confirmed. They discussed the benefits of an email newsletter.

One resident asked about sending a final physical newsletter, but Farley said it wasn't feasible due to the substantial cost of the physical newsletter.

There was a brief discussion on the long-term possibility of sending text messages to residents.

Farley moved to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Oberle. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion About New Tax Laws on Overtime Pay

Adkins provided a brief summary of the overtime changes that occurred in recent federal legislation. He will provide a report for each employee detailing all overtime worked, along with their W-2s, so they can complete their taxes accurately.

Release of 2022-2024 financial data to checkbook.ohio.gov

Adkins announced he had authorized the Auditor to release financial data for 2022-2024 to the Treasurer for publication to checkbook.ohio.gov. The process will take a few weeks, and he will report back when the data is fully accessible to residents.

POLICE

Old & New Business

None

ROAD

Old Business

Ongoing Water Intrusion Issues Related to Kanawha–Rosslyn Sanitary Sewer Project

Kayati stated that he had been notified earlier in the day that the City of Columbus would be out working on Rosslyn Avenue to repair the waterline. He was unsure about who would make necessary repairs to the newly paved roads. These Water lines, which are owned and maintained by the City of Columbus, will continue to be a problem and eventually need to be replaced.

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New Business

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Date

Chair

Fiscal Officer