

**SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION HELD AT
95 E. Wilson Bridge Road
January 28, 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: Police Chief Tuchfarber, Fire Chief Zambito, Supt. Kayati, Marcus Rose

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was led by Chair Oberle.

Approval of Agenda

Farley requested that discussions include the recent Flint Road Fire and Snow Removal. Kayati requested several items be added, including discussions on: Street Signs, Road Surfacing in 2026, and a complaint from Pocono Road.

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

Approval of Minutes

Farley moved to approve the minutes for January 14, 2026, as submitted. Oberle seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The minutes are approved.

Resident Comments

None

TRUSTEES

Old Business

Potential Levy for Increased Funds for the Fire District

The Board discussed a proposed levy to fund the township's fire and EMS contract with Worthington. Certified numbers from the Franklin County Auditor indicate the levy would need to be 2.34 mills to generate \$370,000 in revenue, adding approximately \$82 per \$100,000 of appraised value to residents' property taxes.

Trustees emphasized that transparency and affordability have been priorities throughout the process, acknowledging extensive conversations with residents, particularly senior citizens concerned about costs. Farley noted that the Homestead Exemption is available to qualifying seniors through the county, and Kunze offered to assist residents with that process.

The Board recognized that failing to act would breach the township's contractual obligations to Worthington; The agreement locks in rates for five years before renegotiation, and the Board expressed confidence in a stronger bargaining position in future negotiations.

Oberle emphasized that Worthington has provided the township with the best service. Kunze agreed and added that the excellent service is a great selling point for real estate, which both helps and hurts us on property valuations. Oberle noted that Worthington offers not only fire protection but also EMS, smoke alarm checks, and other services.

Farley reported receiving no negative feedback from residents and lamented his lack of authority to prevent those 65 and older from facing increased property taxes. Oberle acknowledged the significant difficulty of raising taxes but recommended proceeding, as did Kunze. The Trustees stressed that this was the most cost-effective option for residents.

Farley noted the levy would appear on the May 2026 Primary Election ballot and that the state legislature is working extensively on property tax affordability measures.

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Oberle requested additional comments from those in the audience and those attending virtually.

Farley moved Resolution 01282026A, and Kunze seconded. Oberle asked for a roll call:

Kunze	YES
Farley	YES
Oberle	YES

Farley moved to authorize Adkins to take all necessary efforts to get the levy properly filed on the May 2026 ballot. Oberle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Flint Road Fire

Farley, who also serves as the Board's liaison to the Fire Department, introduced Chief Zambito, who provided a thorough review of the fire on Flint Road over the weekend of January 23.

Zambito noted that the fire was difficult to fight due to its distance from the roadway and the extreme cold. It originally took over eight hours to extinguish the flames, but firefighters had to return to the house a second time after the fire reignited, an unusual occurrence. While one firefighter was injured, there were no fatalities, and the firefighter is expected to make a quick recovery.

The fire departments of Columbus, Westerville, and Washington Township assisted. Township Road Department personnel were also on scene to clear roadways.

Zambito was thanked for keeping the Trustees up to date. Kunze asked if the family or the fire department needed anything and offered assistance.

Sharon Township extends extreme gratitude to the Worthington Fire Department.

FISCAL OFFICER

Old & New Business

None

POLICE

Old & New Business

None

ROAD

Old Business

None

New Business

Snow Removal

Kayati is extremely proud of his team, who were on the roads for 26 straight hours this past weekend. Dustin LeVeck, our most recent addition to the team, proved to be an excellent hire.

Numerous residents have reached out to the Trustees expressing support and appreciation for the work to keep the roads safe.

The Trustees and those in attendance remarked that the change in road conditions was noticeable when driving on and off Township roads. Farley joked, "Kids would have gone to school this week if Tom and Marcus were doing all the roads". Oberle joked that this could be Kayati's last big snow.

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Pocono Road Complaint

A resident reported that some of their packaged building materials were struck over the weekend while snow was being plowed. Upon further investigation, the materials were in the right-of-way. Kayati advised the resident to move the materials to prevent further damage and to take proactive measures to alert other drivers to their presence.

Street Signs

A street sign in Mt. Air was knocked down as a result of a previously reported car accident. Kayati reported that the department is replacing signs throughout the township, and Rose has compiled a list of remaining signs to be replaced, including the previously referenced sign. An estimate of \$989.60 was received to replace the remaining signs in the township. Some materials for the project are already on hand.

Road Resurfacing

Kayati notified the Trustees that he had submitted the resurfacing request to the County Engineer. This year, he intends to resurface Plum Tree Drive and Edgecliff Drive, both east and west of State Route 315, as well as Mulberry Drive from State Route 315 to the township line. The estimated price to complete the project is \$106,035.

There was a discussion about the need to install a turnaround on Mulberry Drive for the Roads Department to safely navigate the area. There have been multiple instances of township equipment getting stuck in the area. Kayati told the Trustees that they would need to sign a request at one of their upcoming meetings for the County Engineer to survey the site.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

RETURN TO ORDER

The meeting was reconvened shortly thereafter at 7:08 pm by Chair Oberle after it had been realized that an agenda item had been missed.

Resident Pat Kelly informed the Trustees of conversations with Scouts regarding the construction of a fence to house/hide the recycling bins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:10 pm, Farley moved to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation involving the Township. Oberle seconded, noted that action might be taken afterwards, and asked for a roll call:

Kunze	YES
Farley	YES
Oberle	YES

The Board returned to regular session at 7:18 pm.

Farley moved to authorize discussions with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office to seek settlement. Seconded by Kunze. Motion passed unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Date

Chair

Fiscal Officer