

**SHARON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION HELD AT
95 E. Wilson Bridge Road
February 4, 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: Lieut. Dendiu, Supt. Kayati, Marcus Rose

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

Approval of Agenda

Kunze requested a discussion on the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

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

Approval of Minutes

Farley moved to approve the Minutes for January 21, 2026, as submitted. Kunze seconded. With Oberle abstaining due to his absence from the meeting, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes are approved.

Resident Comments

Pat Kelly noted that Facebook communications with residents are insufficient and that additional communication channels are needed. He distributed flyers to everyone before the January 21st meeting in Tremont Gardens, but had hoped for a higher turnout.

TRUSTEES

Old Business

Levy for Increased Funds for the Fire District

At their regular meeting on January 28, 2026, the Trustees approved the Fire Levy for the Primary Election to be held on May 5, 2026.

Farley notified the other Trustees that Adkins had submitted the required documentation to the Board of Elections and that the Board had no issues with the filing. The Board of Elections will certify the levy at its next meeting.

Road Department 2026 Budget

Farley provided an update following a detailed review of funding needs, with discussions among Farley, Kayati, and Rose. They're getting close to being able to present what the next three years will require.

There's a strong likelihood that temporary revenue streams will be required for less than three years. The goal is to minimize taxation, and the sooner they implement a potential levy, the less revenue will be required. They're looking at one mill or less for 24-36 months.

The Trustees seek a robust conversation with residents. They received guidance from the prosecutor's office that the Township may purchase road department equipment using funds from the Gas Tax Fund. Another option that could be considered is to increase the cemetery's mileage through the joint committee with Worthington.

Feedback from residents has been consistent: police, roads, and cemeteries are the township's core, and residents want them to be delivered with excellence.

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General Fund Budget

Farley noted that the General Fund is in a lot better shape. Revenue from the Local Government Fund has significantly declined, but the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) has performed very well. He remarked that his cash management practices while previously serving as Fiscal Officer increased interest earnings and that the JEDD will keep the Township afloat.

The Trustees plan to discuss long-term plans for the Township Hall. There are possible opportunities to lease additional space to new or existing tenants. Funds have been set aside to complete roof repairs, but the building has additional issues, including ice buildup at the front and water leaks in Tuchfarber's office during rain.

Oberle noted that this is a significant decision with many options to consider and that he seeks a robust discussion. Farley would like an engineer to evaluate the building and provide formal recommendations on the best use of our space, with Kunze expressing support. Farley expects to come away with a checklist of building fixes and enhancements that will start a broader conversation among the Trustees and lessors.

Kayati and Farley discussed the need for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Oberle remarked that the Township must reopen JEDD discussions and suggested approaching Tree of Life and Metro Parks. Kunze has already spoken with Metro Parks, and they would be supportive if the JEDD were with Westerville or Columbus. Kunze will speak with Tree of Life.

A resident asked about the JEDD and zoning rules in the township. Kayati believed residents were permitted to operate businesses from their homes as long as they had fewer than two employees.

Police Budget

Farley and Chief Tuchfarber have been discussing the police budget for the past six months.

Two new vehicles will be purchased, and a take-home vehicle will be transformed into a backup vehicle. The model is unsure, but Dodge is working to meet affordability commitments.

Updated figures show department pay scales are the lowest in the county and need to be increased to support employee recruitment and retention. The budget includes a four to five percent increase for payroll, and the Trustees are exploring a percentage-based difference between the Chief of Police and the Lieutenant.

Farley expected a police department levy next year, as it has been 11 years since the last one. The department is also looking at rifles and other equipment. He expressed full support for the police department and praised Tuchfarber and Kayati for their excellent work.

A resident asked how the township's steps compare with others. The township has four steps, while other departments have ten.

Oberle noted that it's important to take care of the team and that the Trustees have been very thoughtful so far.

Proposed Budget Process - Finishing Steps

Farley noted that he expects to have interim budget proposals for the next meeting. The Trustees and Fiscal Officer are deeply involved in the budget planning process and working hard to ensure the long-term financial health of the township. Farley expects to pass a permanent appropriations budget at the March 4, 2026, meeting.

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New Business

Names and Email Addresses Provided to Receive Newsletter Are Likely Public Records

Farley reported that after further investigation, names and emails provided when subscribing to a township's email newsletter are subject to public records requests without redactions. Farley said he doesn't think this should stop the township from proceeding with his program, but that some acknowledgment should be required at the time of subscription; Adkins confirmed this can be done.

The Trustees reviewed various hypothetical scenarios for handling a public records request for an email list. They also discussed additional ways to deliver information to residents, while acknowledging that residents must also seek it themselves.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

The Trustees discussed membership in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), noting that Sharon Township is among the few townships that aren't members. Kunze expressed interest in joining, citing the resources available to residents. Farley agreed that MORPC is a great program.

Membership costs \$104 per month, or \$1,248 per year. Oberle said it only makes sense if the Township will be involved, but agreed it's a great program. The Trustees noted they're already members of the Columbus and Worthington Chambers of Commerce. Worthington has been very active with MORPC.

Kunze volunteered to take the lead and will reach out to invite a MORPC representative to an upcoming meeting.

FISCAL OFFICER

Old Business

None

New Business

Closing out the 2025 Fiscal Year

Adkins notified the Trustees that reconciliation for January cannot be completed until the 2025 Fiscal Year is closed in UAN. He has provided all the requested reports to the consultants and is awaiting their response.

POLICE

Old Business

None

New Business

Department Staffing

Dendiu updated the Trustees on the department's hiring, noting that two applicants are currently in the interview process. She said they are receiving numerous applicants, but not all meet the department's quality standards.

ROAD

Old Business

None

New Business

Update on Township Salt Use This Winter

Kayati notified the Trustees that the Township is on hold from Worthington for salt until February 16th. If they need any between now and then, they have to go to Franklin County.

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There's also a backup agreement with Perry Township, under which we can borrow salt and replace it when our supply is available.

The salt supply is full now and within budget. Kayati worked with the Worthington Fire Department on Flint Road and had to use some salt. The last snowstorm didn't require much salt use.

Request Form for the County to Survey Mulberry Dr. for a Possible Turn Around

A copy of the letter was provided to the Trustees. The survey is needed to safely turn trucks around in the winter.

Kunze moved to approve the request. Farley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Resident Voicemail

Kayati played a voicemail from a resident praising the outstanding work of the roads department for helping to clear ice on Kanawha Avenue. Kayati provided additional context, noting that Columbus was addressing the water on Riverside, and the road department responded to help clear ice chunks.

Kunze noted that there are still neighbors on High Street who haven't been plowed, and all the Trustees praised the roads department staff for their excellent work.

A resident asked about the recent decrease in township road mileage from a previous meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Date

Chair

Fiscal Officer