

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

April 15, 2026

Trustee Board Chairman, Mark Sousa, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM., Mr. Rozzi and Mr. Sousa were present.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa
Joe Rozzi

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the audio/visual as the Official Meeting Minutes of the April 1st Board of Trustees regular meeting.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the bills as presented before the Board.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor for public comment at 6:02 PM.

Michael Blomer, a resident of the Village of Classicway, addressed the Board regarding the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) associated with the Village of Classicway subdivision. The Trustees informed Mr. Blomer that no formal proposal had been presented to the Board at this time and, therefore, they were unable to comment on the project or answer questions related to it. Mr. Blomer proceeded to express concerns about the potential impact of additional housing on the community, including the effect on the existing subdivision, lack of buffering, increased traffic, and potential pressure on property taxes. He also stated that the proposal appears inconsistent with the Township's future comprehensive plan and does not align with the goal of maintaining mixed-use development near the intersection of State Routes 22 and 48. Mr. Blomer urged the Board to deny the proposal should it come before them in the future.

Dan Jacobs, a resident of the Wethersfield subdivision, spoke regarding the apartment development currently under construction at the corner of Willow Pond Boulevard and State Route 48. Mr. Jacobs expressed concern that the development may expand further onto the remaining Gallenstein property. The Trustees clarified that the development referenced by Mr.

Jacobs is part of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) that was approved approximately 30 years ago and is only now being constructed. The Board also noted that it intends to preserve as much commercial-zoned property as possible due to the limited amount available within the Township.

Daniel Hills, also a resident of the Village of Classicway subdivision, spoke regarding the proposed PUD. Mr. Hills stated that he believes the plan is not consistent with the existing character of the neighborhood. In response, the Trustees explained the roles of the various zoning bodies and outlined the procedures that proposals must follow before coming before the Board of Trustees for approval or denial.

Mr. Sousa closed the floor for public comment at 6:15 PM.

New Business

Resolution No. 26-0415A- Establishing the Hamilton Township and City of Lebanon JEDD Fund

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve resolution 26-0415A, a resolution establishing the Hamilton Township and City of Lebanon JEDD Fund (Fund No. 2903).

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

Resolution No. 26-0415B- Approving the Purchase of Real Estate within Hamilton Township and Increase of Appropriations in the General Fund

Mr. Wright stated that the property is located adjacent to the current Administration Building and that the Township is interested in acquiring it as part of the future expansion of the Township campus. Fiscal Officer Elliott inquired whether there were any plans to rent the existing house on the property. Mr. Sousa responded that there are currently no short-term plans for the use of the house.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve resolution 26-0415B, a resolution authorizing a purchase and sale agreement with Mary E. Holliday to acquire certain real property identified as Warren County Auditor parcel number 1604427001, approving the increase of appropriations in the General Fund (100), and declaring an emergency.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

Resolution No. 0415C- Approving the Increase in Appropriations for the Purchase of Police Equipment

Police Captain Rector stated that two officers will be added to the SWAT team this year. As members of the Tactical Response Team, the officers are required to be equipped with night vision goggles. He further noted that the department plans to budget next year for two additional officers and the necessary night vision equipment. Captain Rector also mentioned that participants in the Citizen Police Academy will have the opportunity to use the night vision goggles during the program.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 26-0401C, a resolution approving an increase of appropriations in the Police District Fund (2081) to reconcile budgets for the calendar year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
 Joe Rozzi Yes

Motion- Approving Mowing Agreement with Hinds Landscaping

Mr. Sousa made a motion to approve an agreement with Hinds Lawn Care and Landscaping for the mowing and trimming for the Township’s five cemeteries for a fee of \$2,600 per mowing, with a second from Mr. Rozzi.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
 Joe Rozzi Yes

Motion- Authorizing Agreement with ODOT for Sidewalk Maintenance of new developments on SR 48

Mr. Sousa made a motion to authorize an agreement between the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation and Hamilton Township to maintain the sidewalk section along SR-48 located within Warren County, seconded by Mr. Rozzi.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
 Joe Rozzi Yes

Motion- Approve Purchase of a Cemetery Deed

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the purchase of a cemetery deed as presented to the board.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
 Joe Rozzi Yes

Motion- Approve Hamilton Township Roster as Presented

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve the Hamilton Township Roster as presented before the Board.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor for public comment at 6:32 PM.

Dan Phipps spoke and expressed his appreciation for the Board's approval of the purchase of the neighboring property. He shared that the previous owner, who had since passed away, had always hoped that the property would eventually become part of the Township. Mr. Phipps also expressed concerns regarding discussions at the state level about the potential elimination of property taxes. He asked how higher-cost purchases and construction projects, such as the new Public Works building and other Township facilities, might be affected and what the Board's plan would be if property taxes were abolished.

The Trustees and Administrator Wright responded that they are awaiting additional guidance and clarification from the State regarding these discussions. They explained that eliminating property taxes would have a significant impact on Township services, including fire, police, and public works, and would also greatly affect local school systems. They further noted that, unlike cities and villages, townships are not permitted to levy an income tax. While municipalities may rely on income tax revenue, townships primarily rely on property taxes for funding. The State has discussed the possibility of offsetting the loss through an increased percentage of sales tax, but details remain unclear.

With no further comments from the public, Mr. Sousa closed the floor for public comment at 6:47 PM.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Wright reported that members of the Police Department recently attended the State of Ohio Public Safety Summit in Columbus. During the summit, Officer Molly Hayslip was selected to give a presentation on the Township's Community Policing Program and how the department engages with the public to build trust within the community. Additionally, the Police Department was recognized as one of the first accredited agencies in the State of Ohio to meet the new standards and protocols established by the Governor. Chief Hughes and Assistant Chief Short were also honored with the 2026 Innovation Award.

Administrator Wright also reported on behalf of the Fire Department that a controlled burn is scheduled for April 30 on Grandin Road near Innovation Way. The structure, a house that was donated to the department, will be used for training purposes and will provide a valuable hands-on training opportunity for new hires.

Trustee Comments

The Trustees thanked the residents of the Village of Classicway for attending the meeting and sharing their comments. They also reminded parents to be aware of the laws regarding minors operating motorized vehicles on public roadways. With warmer weather, this has become an increasing safety concern within the community. The Police Department has shared information about these regulations on its social media platforms and wants parents to be aware that citations may be issued for violations.

The Trustees also noted an increase in door-to-door vendors throughout the Township. Residents are encouraged to ask solicitors to provide their Hamilton Township vendor permit. If a solicitor does not have a valid permit, residents should contact the non-emergency police number so an officer can respond and inform the individual of the proper procedures.

Adjournment-

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to adjourn at 6:52 PM.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes