

# Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

May 6, 2026

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

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Cordrey, to approve the audio/visual as the Official Meeting Minutes of the April 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees regular meeting.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

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

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

## **Change of Guard- Chief Quillan Short**

Administrator Wright opened the ceremony by stating that Chief Short has made a positive and impactful transition within the department and alongside Chief Hughes. He noted that promoting Assistant Chief Short to Police Chief was an easy decision.

Trustee Sousa thanked Chief Hughes for his leadership and agreed that promoting Chief Short was an easy choice, adding that it is exciting to promote from within the organization. Trustee Cordrey stated that the promotion is a testament to both the strength of the department and Chief Short's commitment to the township and police department. After working with him for eight years, he said there was no hesitation in supporting the promotion.

Warren County Sheriff Riley shared that he has worked with Chief Short for over 25 years. He told Chief Short that he should be proud to have spent nearly his entire career serving Hamilton Township. Sheriff Riley also offered advice on maintaining a healthy work-life balance and expressed that he was proud of him and wished him continued success.

Warren County Prosecutor Fornshell described Chief Short as steady, dependable, and a strong leader, wishing him good luck in his new role. Trustee Sousa then administered the Oath of Office to Chief Short.

Chief Hughes reflected on knowing Chief Short for 20 years and working alongside him for the last 10. He spoke about Chief Short's dedication to the community, willingness to continue learning, and eagerness to take on additional responsibilities and challenges throughout his career. Chief Hughes also acknowledged the sacrifices made by Chief Short's family over the years and thanked them for their support.

Chief Short's son, Braxton, pinning his father as the new Hamilton Township Police Chief.

Chief Short stated that he is truly honored and humbled to become the new Chief of Police. He thanked the trustees and township administration, both past and present, for their support and confidence in him throughout his career. He also expressed gratitude to the police department and everyone who played a role in his journey to this position.

Chief Short gave special thanks to his family for their continued support and sacrifices over the years, sharing how much he loves and appreciates them.

Addressing Chief Hughes, Chief Short thanked him for his leadership, mentorship, and investment in him, the department staff, and departmental resources. He praised Chief Hughes' commitment to modern policing and community engagement, stating that it is a vision he intends to continue as Chief. Chief Short added that he will ensure the department maintains the highest standards while continuing to embrace innovation, progress, and new technology. He concluded by saying he is honored to continue his journey serving Hamilton Township.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments at 6:43 PM, to which there were none.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution No. 26-0506A- Acceptance of Porters Heath Subdivision**

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve resolution 26-0506A, a resolution accepting public streets for maintenance and setting speed limits on Heath Court, in the Porters Heath Subdivision, Hamilton Township, and declared an emergency.

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey Yes  
Mark Sousa Yes

#### **Resolution No. 26-0506B- Authorizing a contract with Warren County for the 2026 Resurfacing, Chip Seal, and Striping Project**

Mr. Sousa stated that this year's program will consist of 6.5 road miles with an estimated cost of \$951,011.51.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve resolution 26-0506B, a resolution authorizing a contract with the Warren County Engineers Office for the Warren County 2026 Resurfacing, Chip Seal, and Striping Project.

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey Yes  
Mark Sousa Yes

**Resolution No. 0506C- Authorizing Private Sale of Unneeded and Unfit-For-Use Property**

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve Resolution 26-0506C, a resolution authorizing private sale of unneeded and unfit-for-use property in the Police Department.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

**Resolution No. 0506D- Authorizing to Declare 5765 S. St. Rt 48 a Nuisance Property and Removal of Garbage and Other Debris**

Mr. Wright explained that this nuisance property is located near the vacant Kroger site and is a repeat violation previously reviewed by the Board and declared a nuisance. Although the property had been cleaned up, illegal dumping has once again occurred at the location.

Mr. Wright also noted ongoing issues at the Kroger site involving overnight semi-truck parking. The Township's legal team and Police Department are actively working to address the matter. However, because the property is privately owned, the Township is unable to impound the vehicles directly and is exploring legal options to prevent future parking violations and remove the trucks.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to approve Resolution 26-0506D providing for and authorizing the removal of garbage, refuse and other debris at 5765, Parcel 1606425036, in Hamilton Township, declaring a nuisance and declaring an emergency.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

**Motion- Approving Maintenance Agreement with Allscape property Services LLC**

Mr. Wright explained that Striker Road contains landscaped medians within the Township right-of-way that serve multiple subdivisions in both Hamilton Township and South Lebanon. The medians have historically been maintained by a neighboring HOA through a contracted

landscaping company, although no formal maintenance agreement was ever established. The recommendation is to renew the maintenance contract with the same company at the 2025 rate. Services include mowing, weed control, mulch replacement, care of trees and landscaping, and seasonal fertilization.

Motion to approve an agreement with Allscape Property Services LLC for the maintenance of Striker Road medians in the annual amount of \$17,550.

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey Yes  
Mark Sousa Yes

**Motion- Approve Purchase of a Cemetery Deeds**

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

Roll call as follows: Darryl Cordrey Yes  
Mark Sousa Yes

**Motion- Approve Hamilton Township Roster as Presented**

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

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

**Motion- Approving the 2026/2027 Township Health Benefit as Presented**

The Township's health benefit plan will renew beginning July 1, 2026, with an overall medical insurance increase of approximately 16%. Of that increase, 11% reflects actual cost increases, while the remaining 5% is supplemental reserve funding. Dental and vision insurance will both remain at a 0% increase. Staff noted that neighboring jurisdictions are experiencing significantly higher insurance increases.

Mr. Sousa made a motion to approve the 2026/2027 Township health benefits as presented, seconded by Mr. Cordrey.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes  
Darryl Cordrey Yes

**Introduction for Future Consideration- 2028 Replacement of Ambulance**

Hamilton Township Fire/Rescue is currently operating a 2008 ambulance that will need replaced within the next few years as it approaches 20 years of service. To improve reliability and

maximize vehicle lifespan, the department plans to implement a 5-year ambulance rotation schedule: 5 years as a frontline unit, 5 years as a reserve, followed by a re-chassis and another 10 years of service split between frontline and reserve use. The recently replaced 2019 medic, now serving as a reserve unit, already has over 135,000 miles.

The department has received a quote for a 2028 Lifeline Ambulance totaling \$443,143, including the power cot and load system. Due to an approximate two-year build timeline, approval to order the ambulance will be requested soon. Payment would not be due until delivery in 2028.

To avoid financing costs, staff proposes using a temporary advance from the General Fund, which would be repaid within 12 months from the EMS Billing Fund in accordance with Ohio Revised Code requirements. The EMS Billing Fund remains financially stable, supported by growing transport revenues and anticipated annual ASPP Medicaid reimbursement revenues estimated at approximately \$70,000 beginning in 2027. Combined revenues are expected to push the EMS Billing Fund above \$1 million annually within the next 2–3 years.

The Board agreed to bring the motion to purchase the ambulance at the next meeting to vote on the purchase of the new ambulance.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments at 7:06 PM, with nobody coming forward public comments was closed.

### **Fiscal Report**

Fiscal Officer Elliot presented the April financial report. While the Township is currently 33% through the fiscal year, year-to-date expenditures are reflecting at 39% due to the Public Works Facility Fund. Excluding that fund, expenditures are at 32%. This report also marks the first to reflect the Kroger TIF settlement.

### **Administrator's Report**

Administrator Wright reported that the Zoning Commission is currently seeking an additional board member, and interested residents are encouraged to contact Zoning Director Walton with any questions or for more information. Appreciation was extended to Joe Geraci for allowing the Township Fire Department and surrounding departments to utilize his property for live fire training exercises. Fishing with the 5-O is this Saturday at Mounts Park, and it was noted that Director Earley secured a \$980 ODNR grant along with donations from Bass Pro to support the event. Lastly, Public Works crews are completing catch basin repairs in preparation for upcoming street repaving projects, resulting in significant cost savings for the Township.

### **Trustee Comments**

Mr. Cordrey stated that data centers have recently become a topic of discussion and noted that he and Mr. Wright have been reviewing the matter and anticipate taking action on the subject in the near future.

Mr. Sousa commended Chief Short's promotion and highlighted that many past and present department leaders have come through internal promotions. He stated that this reflects positively on the quality of the Township's staff and leadership and gives him confidence in the Township's future.

**Adjournment-**

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Cordrey to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Darryl Cordrey	Yes