

Hamilton Township Trustee Meeting

June 17, 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	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes

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 July 3rd 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

Swearing in Ceremony/Promotion

Fire Chief Jewett conducted the swearing-in ceremony and pinning for new Firefighter/EMTs and a departmental promotion.

Piotr Mieczkowski was sworn in as a full-time Firefighter/EMT assigned to Unit 1. He brings prior fire service experience from multiple departments and holds Firefighter II and EMT certifications. He is currently enrolled in paramedic school and continues to advance his training.

Ashleigh Meece was sworn in as a full-time Firefighter/EMT assigned to Unit 2. A Hamilton Township native and graduate of Little Miami High School, she discovered her passion for the fire service through a high school internship. She holds Firefighter II and EMT certifications and is currently attending paramedic school.

Andrew Robinson was sworn in as a full-time Firefighter/EMT assigned to Unit 3. He is a graduate of the Great Oaks Fire Academy, certified as a Firefighter II and EMT, and plans to

pursue paramedic school. His background includes strong family ties to public safety and a commitment to continued professional growth.

The ceremony also included the promotion of Justin Cormany to Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Cormany has served Hamilton Township Fire Rescue since 2005 and has advanced through every rank in the department. With over 26 years of fire service experience and completion of the Ohio Fire Executive Program, his promotion recognizes his long-standing leadership and dedication to public safety.

Police Chief Short conducted the swearing-in ceremony for two new full-time patrol officers, administering the oath of office and participating in the pinning ceremony.

Carson Perry was sworn in as a full-time patrol officer. He is a 2023 graduate of Milford High School and served in the United States Air Force Air National Guard as an Electrical Power Production Specialist, including a deployment to Baghdad, Iraq in support of critical communications infrastructure. Following his military service, he graduated from the Butler Tech Police Academy in June 2026.

Zacary Casey was also sworn in as a full-time patrol officer. He is a 2019 graduate of Goshen High School and served in the United States Navy from 2020–2024 as a Naval Air Traffic Controller. During his service, he received multiple honors including the Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. He graduated from the Great Oaks Police Academy in April 2026.

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor for public comment at 6:21 p.m. Mr. Charles Bastin asked for an update on the status of the Village of Classicway Planned Unit Development (PUD) revision proposal. Mr. Sousa replied that there was no current update, and it is unclear whether the developer will withdraw the request or proceed with it at a later date. Hearing no further public comment, Mr. Sousa closed the public comment period.

New Business

Resolution No. 26-0617A- Authorizing Advancement from General Funds to the Lighting District

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve resolution 26-0617A, a resolution authorizing the Township Fiscal Officer to advance funds from the General Fund (1000) to the Lighting District Fund (2401).

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

Resolution No. 26-0617B– Lighting District Compensation for Assistant Fiscal Officer

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 26-0617B, a resolution authorizing compensation to the Assistant Fiscal Officer Ellen Horman pursuant to O.R.C.515.12

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes

Resolution No. 26-0617C– Authorizing Special Assessments for Artificial Lighting in Certain Lighting District

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve resolution 26-0617C, a resolution authorizing special assessments for artificial lighting in certain lighting districts.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

Resolution No. 26-0617D– Adopting 2027 Annual Tax Budget

The Administrator presented the 2027 Tax Budget, noting that Ohio law requires its adoption by July 15 and submission to the County Auditor by July 20. The budget was prepared conservatively by Assistant Fiscal Officer Ellen Horman, the Fiscal Officer, and department leadership to provide estimated revenues and expenditures for the coming year.

The Township is projecting increased revenue from EMS billing as population growth and visitor activity continue to increase service calls. The Administrator noted that declining balances in the Police and Fire/EMS special levy funds were anticipated because these outside millage levies do not grow with inflation or increases in property values due to state-mandated reduction factors.

The report also highlighted the newly established Hamilton Township–City of Lebanon JEDD Fund, which is expected to generate modest initial revenues with significant growth anticipated as additional commercial and mixed-use developments are completed within the district.

Revenue growth is also projected in the Township’s active TIF districts as new commercial development expands the tax base. These revenues are used to reimburse infrastructure costs and support local school districts.

The Administrator reported that construction of the new Public Works Facility is nearing completion, with the final construction payment expected in January 2027. Ongoing debt service payments will continue to be funded primarily through resources previously designated within the former Road and Bridge Fund.

The Board was informed that additional discussion and refinement of the proposed 2027 budget will occur during the annual budget development process and upcoming work session retreat.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 26-0617D, a resolution adopting the 2027 Annual Tax Budget.

Roll call as follows: Joe Rozzi
Mark Sousa

Resolution No. 26-0617E Authorizing Private Sale of Unneeded and Unfit-For-Use Property

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 26-0617E, a resolution authorizing private sales of unneeded and unfit-for-use property in the Police Department.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

Resolution No. 26-0617F– Approving Withdrawal from the Warren County Reginal Planning Commission

Administrator Wright stated that Hamilton Township has evolved significantly since the Warren County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was established in 1971. As a limited home-rule township with experienced staff, knowledgeable members serving on the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, and engaged elected officials, the Township has the expertise necessary to guide its own land use, zoning, and development decisions. He noted that RPC recommendations and conditions have increasingly conflicted with the Township's adopted vision and have at times created confusion for residents and developers. As a result, he believes continued membership in the RPC is no longer an efficient or beneficial use of Township resources.

The Trustees reiterated that the RPC has become largely redundant given the Township's existing planning and zoning structure. They emphasized that Hamilton Township's zoning bodies, professional staff, and resident board members possess direct knowledge of the community and its goals, allowing them to make informed decisions that reflect local priorities. In contrast, RPC board members represent various jurisdictions throughout Warren County and do not have the same direct connection to Hamilton Township's residents, policies, and long-term vision.

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 26-0617F, a resolution withdrawing Hamilton Township's membership from the Warren County Regional Planning Commission.

Roll call as follows: Mark Sousa Yes
Joe Rozzi Yes

Resolution No. 26-0617G- Approving Increase of Appropriations in the General Fund

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve resolution 26-0617G, a resolution approving an increase in Township appropriations in the General Fund (1000) to reconcile budgets for the calendar year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

Resolution No. 26-0617H- Authorizing to Declare 44 Snook Rd a Nuisance Property and Removal of Vegetation and Other Debris

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to approve Resolution 26-0617H providing for and authorizing the removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris at 44 Snook Road, Parcel 1606226009, in Hamilton Township, declaring a nuisance and declaring an emergency.

Roll call as follows:	Joe Rozzi	Yes
	Mark Sousa	Yes

Resolution No. 26-06017I- Authorizing to Declare 0 Mounts Road (Parcel 1728401011) a Nuisance Property and Removal of Vegetation and Other Debris

A motion was made by Mr. Sousa, with a second by Mr. Rozzi, to approve Resolution 26-0617I providing for and authorizing the removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris at 0 Mounts Road, Parcel 1728401011, in Hamilton Township, declaring a nuisance and declaring an emergency.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes

Public Comments

Mr. Sousa opened the floor to public comments at 6:46 PM; with nobody approaching he closed the floor to comments.

Fiscal Report

Fiscal Officer Leah Elliott presented the May fiscal report, noting that the Township is approximately 42% through the year. Year-to-date revenue totals \$8.9 million, representing 53% of budgeted revenue collected. Year-to-date expenditures total \$10.6 million, or 48% of the annual budget.

Ms. Elliott reported that several funds are trending lower compared to prior years, while the Road and Bridge Fund and Motor Vehicle Fund are higher than expected, which she attributed in

part to expenses related to the new Public Works Facility. She also noted that Fire/EMS revenues are expected to increase in line with continued township growth and development.

Clarification was requested regarding the lighting district, and Assistant Fiscal Officer Ellen Horman explained the methodology used to calculate costs.

Ms. Elliott also inquired about the Township Cemetery Fund and whether the Township would be required to acquire additional land once current capacity is reached. Administrator Wright responded that the Township will not be required to provide additional cemetery land in the future. The Trustees and staff discussed the possibility of adjusting rates for existing cemetery lots and agreed the matter will be revisited at the October budget retreat after comparing pricing with neighboring townships.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Mr. Wright began his report by expressing condolences to the family of Mr. Rigdon, who was found deceased in the Little Miami River on Sunday morning. He commended the cooperation between the Township's Police and Fire Departments during the response, noting the effective use of drone technology and the Fire Department's efforts to safely recover the individual while preserving the integrity of the scene.

The Fire Department continues its leadership development program, with officers participating in a second round of individual leadership assessments. Fire crews are also conducting community outreach, including preschool safety visits, and are available to provide safety training for local schools, churches, and businesses upon request.

The Public Works Department remains busy with several capital improvement projects, including full-depth asphalt repairs in the Miami Bluffs neighborhood and catch basin repairs on streets scheduled for repaving. Paving work is expected to begin as early as next week.

The Police Department was selected as the only agency in Ohio to beta test the new Signal 8 software platform, which will streamline field operations by integrating reporting, dispatch, records management, and electronic citations into a single mobile device. The Administrator recognized Chief Short for his leadership in securing this opportunity.

Twenty-seven Township youth are participating in the annual Junior Police Academy this week. The Police and Fire Departments are also developing a new "First Responders Camp" for teenagers, planned for 2027, to encourage interest in public safety careers.

The Administrator attended a HOMEARAMA planning meeting and reported that the 2026 show will be held at the Estates at Bothe Farms from August 29 through September 13. The development features homes on two- to four-acre lots, including one home already pre-sold for \$3.3 million. Hamilton Township Resident Day will be held on September 4, offering residents discounted admission.

Trustee Comments

Mr. Rozzi and Mr. Sousa acknowledged the strong attendance at the Touch-a-Truck event held this past Saturday.

Mr. Rozzi reminded the public about the upcoming Freedom Festival on June 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., which will conclude with a fireworks display donated by Rozzi Fireworks.

Mr. Sousa also informed the public that TPC River's Bend has become a golf cart inspection site for the Police Department due to the high volume of golf carts in the area. He noted that other neighborhoods or organizations with a high concentration of golf carts that are interested in becoming an inspection site may contact the Police Department for additional information.

Executive Session

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to into executive session at 6:58 PM in accordance with ORC 121.22(G)(1) to discuss the employment of a public employee.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to come out of the executive session at 7:46 PM.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes

Adjournment-

Mr. Sousa made a motion with a second from Mr. Rozzi to adjourn at 7:48 PM.

Roll call as follows:	Mark Sousa	Yes
	Joe Rozzi	Yes