Middlefield Township
Minutes
July 13, 2026 – Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting Called to Order

Present Trustees: Paul Porter, Dave Hauser, Fiscal Officer Mary Ann Pierce, Road Superintendent John Omerza, Secretary Heidi Snyder and from the Geauga County Planning Commission: Linda Crumbie, Rob Rogish and Allyson Kobus.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Porter, at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions and or Deletions for the Agenda

None.

Approval of Minutes

The review/approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2026 meeting of the Board and the June 20, 2026 special meeting of the Board are tabled until Erik Wright is present. Two trustees were present at each of those meetings (Mr. Wright being one of them).

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. **Geauga County Planning Commission:** Representatives here to present regarding Geauga County Farmland Preservation Plan. The original plan was prepared in 1999 and last updated in 2008. Linda and Allyson guided all present through a slide presentation in advance of this week's public forum meeting for Q&A. The plan should be updated every ten years. This update will take until June 2027. All will be on Planning Commission Website. $25000 grant. They are required to have a meeting in any Township with o zoning. There is a task force (18 members on the task force). They have met six times. Upon inquiry, no members are Amish. They have not written the plan yet. Purpose of the forum is for questions and discussion. Middlefield Township has the highest Current Agricultural Use Value ("CAUV") properties. Other townships have higher percentage of prime with drainage. We are only township in county without zoning.

   Update to land use plan needs to be done every 3 years – 53,000 parcels. Also going to discuss ways farmland can be lost (i.e. lot splits and subdivisions). Demographics covered, along with lot size averages, number of farms and farm sizes. Cattle and dairy have seen significant decrease. Will also discuss Beginning Farmer Tax Credit and Farm Transition Planning. Review of additional slides and overview of the stations to be at the Public Forum.

   Brief side discussion into the size of the Western Reserve Land Conservation – 12,033 acres – and on the volume of annexations from Township by Village. Also, discussion on whether Market appears to be driving smaller lot sizes. County has about 10,000 acres in the Park District (tax-free acres). Departed

after presentation.

B. Resolution to Increase Road & Bridge Appropriations: The resolution is to increase appropriations by $400,000. Motion by Dave Hauser to adopt resolution as written, seconded by Paul Porter. All in favor, **Resolution No. 2026-05** adopted.

C. Resolution to Approve 2027 Budget: The resolution is to approve the Budget for 2027. Motion by Paul Porter to adopt resolution as written, seconded by Dave Hauser. All in favor, **Resolution No. 2026-06** adopted. Budget approved.

D. Resolution for Certificate of Need 2.5, 4 yr., R&B Renewal Levy: The resolution is necessary to place the renewal levy on the ballot for the 2.5 mil 4-year Roads and Bridges Levy in November. Motion by Dave Hauser to adopt resolution as written, seconded by Paul Porter. All in favor, **Resolution No. 2026-07** adopted.

Discussion on the timing, but confirming, that there are in fact two existing levies going on ballot for renewal for Roads and Bridges that are each 2.5 mil levies.

E. Resolution for Certificate of Need 2.5, 5 yr., R&B Renewal Levy: The resolution is necessary to place the renewal levy on the ballot for the 2.5 mil 5-year Roads and Bridges Levy in November ballot. Motion by Paul Porter to adopt resolution as written, seconded by Dave Hauser. All in favor, **Resolution No. 2026-08** adopted.

Road Superintendent:

John Omerza reports that Phil Miller is finishing up our part of the project prep and the target date for the County moved up to July 25. Township will mark spots July 21. We have done a little more birming and ditching. Have seeded grass and it looks good. Still waiting on the permit and design part of the process. Signs are up for the start of the road project. Once done there, will move up to Peters & Nauvoo for second round of chip n seal.

Fire District: Paul Porter reported that they had meeting on June 22, 2026 and paid bills.

Ambulance service: Contract for service needs to be updated. The footprint reviewed and is larger that that covered in prior contract. Will need to take in a number of factors when re-negotiating. Currently at $7.59 per sq. foot. Will make sure we have the new measurements. Some historical discussion on aid/ mutual aid.

Sheriff's report: No Sheriff Report.

Fiscal Officer's Reports

Bank/Management Report: Management report and fund summaries / appropriations reviewed. Report signed. Income / expenses year-to-date reviewed.

Bills, purchase orders and checks presented to pay bills in the amount of $105,195.27. Motion to pay bills in amount of $105,195.27 made by Dave Hauser, seconded by Paul Porter. All in favor. Checks and purchase orders signed. Bills paid in the amount of $105,195.27.

An indigent person in Township died. Best Funeral handled and Township paid for services.

One additional update on Salt. John Omerza reports got price for salt. $55.39 represents a 32% increase over last years $42.04. We still have the allowance for 350 tons for next season.

Adjournment: No further business being before the Board, motion by Dave Hauser to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paul Porter at approximately 8:44 p.m. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Paul Porter, Chairman

Mary Ann Pierce, Chief Fiscal Officer

Minutes by Heidi Snyder, Secretary