

Montville Township Trustees
January 27, 2026 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Present:

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chairman
Trustee Sally Albrecht
Trustee Rob Skidmore
Police Chief Matt Neil
Planning & Zoning Dir. Paul Jeffers
Service Director Chris Kosman

Also Present:

Commissioner Candidate Julie McNabb

At 1:00 p.m. Trustee Brandon opened the regular meeting of the Montville Township Trustees. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Police Chief Matt Neil offered a prayer. Trustee Brandon welcomed all guests and stated that the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

GUEST RECOGNITION

Julie McNabb introduced herself as a council member in Westfield Village, a small business owner, and is running for Medina County Commissioner in May, 2026 on the Republican ballot. May 5th is the primary election day. Mrs. McNabb said that she believes county government should work with cities, townships and villages, and she is attending today's meeting because she wants to listen and learn.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the January 13th special and regular Trustees meetings. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 naves and 0 abstentions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon reported receipt of the December LST invoice from Medina Hospital totaling \$20,932.40. This was under the budgeted amount of \$27,511 for December. During the month, Montville Township had 69 calls for ambulance.

Chief Neil added that our total ambulance cost for LST for 12 months in 2025 was at \$258,847.21. Montville Township's cost for November was corrected to \$30,746.64, which is a correction from the higher amount originally reported. With the December billing, our average cost per call was \$357.94 in 2025. We averaged 62 calls per month and an average monthly bill of \$23,998.40.

Chief Neil compared Montville Township's LST costs for 2024, with expenditure totaling approximately \$335,000 for the year. In 2023, we were at \$311,000; in 2022, we were at \$318,000; and in 2021, we were at \$227,000. At \$259,000 in 2025, we are just above our LST cost in 2021. This huge difference is partly due to their new form of billing that started in the second quarter of 2025. Chief Neil is hopeful that

we see this same trend of more insurance payments and private pays through all of 2026. Fiscal Officer added that we should also consider the increase in residents and businesses we have had since 2021.

Trustee Albrecht asked if Attorney DeVaney is still planning to attend the next LST advisory board meeting. Chief Neil responded that it would be wise for our legal counsel to attend because she would be able to advocate for us and to respond to questions that arise as far as what is and is not legal, and to questions that the Trustees may have such as fees for non-emergency transportation from nursing homes. Also, Attorney DeVaney has done extensive research on this topic in the past.

Trustee Albrecht asked whether Attorney DeVaney could help us pursue Montville Township being reimbursed for inappropriate charges in the past, considering we can show that our average costs are down significantly despite the average number of calls is similar. Chief Neil did not speculate on what legal outcome will come of any discussions or decisions; his goal is to continue saving the township and residents money.

Chief Neil said that the next LST advisory board meeting is scheduled for February 12th.

Chief Neil said that he has reviewed the new fire bill. It is at a 6% increase from last year, which is correct according to the contract. It will go up 6% again next year, as the contract states.

ROADS: Service Director Kosman requested, and **Trustee Skidmore made a motion purchasing hydraulic equipment from Wurm Hydraulic Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$7,500. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Kosman explained that this is for our small dump truck. It is the new equipment for the cabin chase. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion accepting Preston Pennington's resignation effective January 27, 2026. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski explained that this is a summer employee attending college and was possibly coming back at Christmas but, unfortunately, it was not the case with his internships. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore thanked the Roads Department for all their hard work over the last several snowy days with the huge storm that we have had.

Mr. Kosman said that his department has salted the roads again yesterday but, of course, salt stops working as well when the temperatures are below 20 degrees.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski asked how much salt we have left to order. Mr. Kosman replied that they currently have 500 ton on order, which will finish our contract. We still have a good amount of salt in the barn and doing okay.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Mr. Kosman had no updates to report.

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report.

PARKS: Trustee Albrecht and Mr. Kosman had no updates to report.

Trustee Skidmore said that he had a recent discussion with Chief Neil about putting up a suicide prevention sign at the railroad tracks at River Styx Road. Chief Neil described a recent incident two weeks ago on River Styx Road at the train trestle. He said that, on the east side of River Styx Road where the train trestle meets the ground, it is very close to our path at Austin Badger Park. It is the railroad's easement, and Chief Neil said that he asked them to put up a fence there to somewhat limit access. He is not sure how they will respond.

The Trustees considered putting up a suicide hotline or hazard sign, although the railroad controls that easement. Maybe a could be at the very bottom point where the gravel is and not interfering with the track. Trustee Albrecht thought that a sign may not always work in the way it was intended. Chief Neil will investigate it further and will proceed with whatever direction the Trustees decide.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon said that the next meeting for Medina County Economic Development is scheduled for Thursday morning, February 19th, at the Medina County Career Center South Campus. Discussion will be on the state of the cities.

Trustee Brandon said that the OTA winter conference is scheduled for February 4-6 in Columbus, which several of us are attending. In addition to the workshops, Trustee Brandon plans on attending: the county officer's meeting; the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT) annual meeting, which Montville Township is a member; and the director elections.

Trustee Brandon said that the Medina County Subdivision Regulations Work group meeting will be held on January 29th. This has been going on for a while and is continuing work on updating the county subdivision regulations with County Planning. Also on the agenda: cost of services study update, which has not been updated in several years; and a potential developer's agreement. The county has hired a planning firm to help facilitate the work group meeting.

On February 17th, a Medina County Demographic Results meeting will be held at the Medina County Career Center South Campus. Discussions planned for this meeting: conversation about Medina County's future; Medina County prepares for the next 25 years; demographic trends; population projections; strategic planning. Elected officials, business leaders, non-profits, public agencies, and community members are invited. Trustee Albrecht is planning to attend. Trustee Skidmore requested a copy of the PowerPoint for the meeting if it is available.

The EOY 2025 JEDD financial report that was filed with the AOS was provided to the Trustees.

Trustee Brandon offered congratulations to Service Director Kosman, who is a new member on the NOACA board. Mr. Kosman attended his first NOACA meeting last week.

Trustee Skidmore commented on a recent *Gazette* article he read about NOACA's interest in connecting Brunswick, Medina, Wadsworth with a bike and

walking path. He wondered whether they would be possibly passing through Montville Township. Trustee Albrecht responded that it has been a goal of the Medina County Parks to connecting the communities for a long time. It appears that they will be working with NOACA to do this. She does not know of a route planned. Mr. Kosman said that we do not have a lot of county parkland in our township but they will try and connect; our biggest hurdle is the developments.

Trustee Brandon added that NOACA is a planning agency. It could take many years but they can chase after grant money for these types of projects.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht said that the January issue of the *Montville Living* magazine is out and introduced Trustee Skidmore, our new Community Events Planner/Volunteer Coordinator, and our K-9 officer, Tino. The February issue will include our Easter Egg Hunt flyer Chief Neil's article about the new recycling locations for electrical trash items.

Trustee Albrecht was contacted by a marketing person from Russell Real Estate who does a blast on her internet exposure situations every Friday featuring certain markets. She asked for information on Montville Township. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski suggested referring this person to our township's web site.

Trustee Albrecht said that Kelly Barone is working this year's Easter Egg Hunt and the garage sale event. Mrs. Barone had asked for clarification on the direction for this year's Halloween event. Trustee Albrecht recalled that we did a scaled down event last year which was a lot less work and felt more like a township event. Trustee Albrecht has every confidence that Kelly could handle the larger event this year, if the Trustees want to go that route.

Trustee Brandon was fine with the larger event for this year, provided we have enough volunteers. Trustee Skidmore suggested we wait until after the Easter Egg Hunt before deciding on this year's Halloween event. Mr. Kosman said it does not matter to the Service Department on which way to go for this year.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht reported that a Fox Meadows resident complained about more fiber networks companies digging in her yard. Mr. Kosman said that he is aware of Frontier coming in once again.

Mr. Kosman said that trash pick-up was delayed by one day across the county due to the landfill shutting down for the winter storm, which makes a domino effect.

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion accepting and approving the Public Street – Dedication Plat, Cross Point Drive, Lot 67 and 86, T-2-N, R-14-W of the Connecticut Western Reserve, Montville Township, Medina County, Ohio – 1.2387 acres. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Jeffers explained that this is the road that runs in front of Aldi, Kindercare and Taco Bell. The County Commissioners are the applicants who are setting this road up for dedication. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving Paul Jeffers to attend an on-line course at ONLC.com for Word Press (WP) training, the website program being used by Montville Township. The cost shall not exceed \$895.00 for the two-day online course. Date is subject to availability. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Jeffers explained the reason for what is happening with on-line forms on our web site and that this course would allow more in-house development and maintenance within a quicker timeframe. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

In his zoning report, Mr. Jeffers said that interest has been sparked in the HC property along Montville Drive, which is the parcel where the Brew Kettle was going. The use does not meet the existing district and some other code requirements. Mr. Jeffers does not want to have the Zoning Commission investigate any map amendments or code changes until the idea becomes more solid.

Mr. Jeffers expects to have three plan submissions tomorrow for the Zoning Commission to review in February: Phase II for Hillsong; Assisted Living at Cobblestone, which is north of the VA Clinic; and the preliminary for the rental residential at Cobblestone. If the applications are complete, they will all be on the Zoning Commission's February 25th meeting.

At their last meeting on January 14th, the Zoning Commission approved the preliminary development plan for the VA Clinic with some conditions. These conditions were for the addition of landscaping, realignment of parking lot to gain a foot, lighting overflow and additional notations required on the development plans.

The BZA has no updates, as no applications have been submitted.

POLICE: Chief Neil said that, in December, the Trustees had approved a motion for Sergeant Searle to attend a two-week instructional skills course at Lorain County Community College from February 2-13, 2026. At the time, the south campus of the Career Center was planning to have a daytime academy and we were interested in having Sergeant Searle teach there. The sheriff's office is no longer planning to do the academy, so we no longer need to send Sergeant Searle to the instructional skills course.

Chief Neil provided the Trustees with the Police Department's 2025 annual report, which includes Fire and LST. Trustee Albrecht thought the report was very well done. Trustee Brandon appreciated all the great information included.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$342,816 to the City of Medina for 2026 fire services. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying \$20,932.40 to Medina Hospital for December LST services. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$4,791.50 for 2026 countywide Emergency Management cost allocations. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski noted that this is our usual annual cost. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying \$6,828.12 to Medina County Emergency Management Agency for 2026 All-Hazard Team cost allocations. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. In discussion, it was noted that this is also an annual cost. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that she had emailed a foreclosure notice to the Trustees and asked if they had interest in the property. It is 8 acres of farm property. The Trustees are not interested; Fiscal Officer Pawlowski will notify the Prosecutor of their decision.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving BC and POs for 2026 and paying bills totaling \$413,397.86. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski reminded all that inventory lists are due as soon as possible.

Trustee Albrecht asked about the Earth Day donation per the email received from Soil & Water. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski recommended against donating. We make an annual donation to the SPCA, which is using tax dollars, but the SPCA is providing us a service. We do not receive any service for this Earth Day donation. The Trustees agreed.

Chief Neil commented that the presentation that Officer Eckstine and Sergeant Searle planned for this evening is postponed due to waiting on receiving the pricing information.

At 2:30 p.m. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Klafczynski

Approved By:

Date:

Attested:

Date: