

Montville Township Trustees
April 28, 2026 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Present:

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chairman
Trustee Sally Albrecht
Trustee Rob Skidmore
Fiscal Officer Mary Pawlowski
Police Chief Matt Neil
Planning & Zoning Dir. Paul Jeffers
Service Director Chris Kosman
Sergeant Chris LaFond
Lieutenant Cory Searle
Event Planner Kelly Barone

Also Present:

Resident Bill Hanigan
Resident Jim Veglia
Lafayette Twp. Trustee Justin Peroli
Medina Twp. Resident Angela Ventura

At 1:04 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

Montville Township's Event Planner, Kelly Barone, recapped Sunday's electronics recycling / Trustees meet and greet event. Over 100 cars with full trunks had come through with their electronics recycling. Mrs. Barone said that Ben from Summit e-Waste Recycling Solutions thought that it was a well worthwhile event and they are looking forward to doing it again.

Trustee Albrecht has pictures of boxes full of printers, computers, telephones screens and many other items from the electronics recycling day. She would like to add paint recycling to the next electronics recycling event. Trustee Brandon added that it was a steady stream of cars during the entire four hours.

Trustee Skidmore noted that many people brought their old televisions to be recycled. He thanked Mrs. Barone for putting the event together.

Mrs. Barone said that our community garage sale is set to go for June 27th, which is the last Saturday in June. Future community garage sale events will always be scheduled as the last Saturday in June. She has been able to contact three-fourths of the HOA list; some are a little challenging with discontinued numbers. Eight residents have already signed up for this year's community garage sale.

Residents Bill Hanigan and Jim Veglia provided the Trustees with a summary handout regarding the fiberoptics issue with Frontier in Country Lakes. They have been working to resolve the issue. They said that, out of nearly 200 areas of damage, Frontier has addressed all of them. That does not mean that they are completed; there are still a couple to look at this coming weekend but they are 95% resolved. Frontier told them that they should have all lawns restored by mid-May. Mr. Veglia said the he is not sure they would have ended up where they are right now if it weren't for Mr. Hanigan keeping after them.

Trustee Albrecht recommended the residents make sure that lawns are restored to the condition they were prior to work and take pictures if needed. This is the only time we will have recourse if things are not restored.

Mr. Hanigan said that, apparently, Brunswick has pushed back and shut them down in their city due to their not following local rules or restrictions. The FCC regulates the fiber operation but the companies that come in must abide by the local restrictions, rules and permits. Mr. Hanigan had contacted our county prosecutor, who has taken action.

Lafayette Township Trustee Justin Peroli returned two uncashed checks (one personal and one a money order) to the Board of Trustees, as he felt that the \$25 filing fee should be an obligation of the township. He also presented a memo that accompanied supporting documentation for the Board on his notice of deficient public records response. He wanted to notify the board of his belief of noncompliance prior to his filing a complaint with the court. The notice was handed to Trustee Brandon.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that the checks returned by Lafayette Township Trustee Peroli will be held until he wants to accept the payment. He has been paid and it is his choice on whether to cash it.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski responded that she emailed a response to Lafayette Township Trustee Peroli's public records request this morning since our legal counsel had not done so yet. She noted that the ORC's three-day requirement for response is three full days, which will be Monday.

Medina Township resident Angela Ventura asked whether it was standard practice for the attorney for the township to pay a settlement claim that is against the township. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski responded that it is standard practice when the township is not at fault. She also explained the township's policy concerning records requests in response to Mrs. Ventura's questioning a public records request that was submitted by Kim Detchon and the need for Mrs. Detchon to meet with the attorney.

Trustee Skidmore said that our Trustees are not sending public records requests to other townships. We have responded to several records requests given to us. Our township tries to be collaborative and works carefully to do things properly to serve our citizens. We love Lafayette Township and Medina Township; Mrs. Ventura is welcome to take video of our meeting but we do not know what the issue may be and we would like to be at peace.

Trustee Brandon felt that Montville Township has and remains transparent. He felt this situation has become vexatious but wanted to work together with Mr. Peroli and Mrs. Ventura. He said that they are welcome to attend Trustees meetings at any time.

Police Chief Neil invited Lieutenant LaFond and Sergeant Searle to speak to the Trustees on the challenges and the trends for staffing police departments over the last several years.

Lieutenant LaFond described how our Police Department has been hiring over the last twenty years. In the past, recruiting started with a couple hundred applicants

and ended with several well qualified candidates to pick from. As society has changed, the landscape is also very different. We no longer see a large candidate pool that we feel fits our mold to represent us and our community on a day-to-day basis. Our goal continues to be finding excellent candidates and bring them in to stay all the way until their retirement. Lieutenant LaFond feels that there are still very qualified individuals, and we have seen them in portions of our process. We do not want to ever lower our standards but, in the upcoming years we have several officers eligible to retire and we need to be prepared for that scenario.

Sergeant Searle explained to the Trustees the hiring practices of other municipalities and how they are dealing with this issue of smaller candidate pools. He noticed that, at recruiting events, Montville Township has less name recognition compared with larger municipalities. Most candidates at the local police academies are already spoken for. The reasons for this include financial incentives other municipalities are able to offer. Once they are in the door and show them what this agency is, they will know that we are a great place to work and live.

Sergeant Searle believes that we are already doing everything we can recruiting wise. We have a fantastic department with excellent benefits but he proposed a way to get candidates that haven't attended the academy and do not have the ability to take six months off of their personal jobs. When they find a good candidate that would be a good fit for us and vice versa, he asked the Trustees to consider bringing them on in a part-time capacity and potentially covering the cost of the academy with several stipulations. There is less concern about which academy a candidate attends than the quality of the candidate. Discussion ensued.

Chief Neil agreed that, with the part-time option for candidates, they will at least be compensated during their 18 weeks at the police academy and are not put in a financial burden before they even start as a full-time officer.

The Trustees felt hiring the right candidates is a priority. Trustee Brandon summarized that he liked the chief's approach and understood that the pool of qualified candidates is not there as it has been in the past. Trustee Albrecht agreed that we need to offer candidates what other agencies are offering. We have to update our procedure until things change again.

Fiscal Officer agrees that these changes need to be made. She recommended the police come back to the Trustees with their recommendation on how they would like to proceed. The Trustees agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the April 14th regular and April 26th special Trustees meetings. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PARKS: Trustee Albrecht asked whether Randy Wallace and his group have begun to work on the bridges in Aaron Smith and Austin Badger Parks. Mr. Kosman

responded that they have had some conversations with them but they have not begun work yet. They may wait until after Memorial Day.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon said that he met with Bethany Dentler and her staff on April 15th recently to discuss questions that the Trustees had with the CRA and the JEDD. Trustee Brandon understood that the CRA and the JEDD are two distinct entities, although they are combined as a package for businesses. Medina County Economic Development is in charge of the CRAs, and the JEDD contract is through the City of Medina. Bethany saw this situation unusual, where a business that is getting tax abatement no longer wants the tax abatement. She said that we should check the JEDD contract with that business.

Moving forward, Trustee Brandon thought we may need to modify the JEDD contracts in order to protect us. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski asked the Trustees to read over some information that she just emailed to them about the JEDD. She said that, when the Duncan Donuts and Taco Bell sale went through, all the tax abatement that Mr. Rose received, which was over \$14,000, ended up being assessed to them as part of the sales agreement. However, there is no written documentation that Duncan Donuts and Taco Bell understand the ramifications of not having the benefit of the CRA but are still required to pay into the JEDD while Mr. Rose received a JEDD grant on top of the CRA that he is passing the cost on to them. Mr. Rose's office finally provided us the contact information for both businesses after a recent conference call with numerous government officials.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that RITA is responsible for collections, and it will be reaching out to Duncan Donuts and Taco Bell, obtain their EIN numbers, find out whether they are paying into the JEDD, and that they recognize that they are still in the JEDD. We want to get to these two businesses to make sure that they are aware of this and have something in writing to cover Montville Township. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski expects that they will be shocked when they receive their tax bills in July.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that the function of the CRA housing council has changed. We need to know who is representing us from County Planning, and we need to make a change on who is representing Montville Township. The roster provided by Medina County Economic Development overlaps the same people, which results in the township's having less representation on a voting board.

Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers said that, when the housing council started out, it was a review committee where they would collect information and bring it back. Somewhere along the line, the people that have been appointed as a review/information gatherer, and council is now voting. Currently, our representatives are Pat Ryan and Dave Wetzell. Now that one of the township representatives should definitely be a Trustee since this is a decision-making board.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion appointing Trustee Jeff Brandon and Planning & Zoning Director Paul Jeffers as the Montville Township representatives on the CRA Housing Council. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. In discussion, Trustee Skidmore said that we appreciate the members that have served for us but that it is in the best interest of the township that we have a little more direct representation as there are decisions being made on his housing council. Trustee Albrecht said that the two members currently serving as representatives will understand the decision. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested Mr.

Jeffers send a letter to Bethany Dentler with this change. She also said that this will be on our future annual organization meetings. Trustee Brandon questioned whether we had two or three seats on this council and that we can adjust as we move along. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Brandon said that the Medina County Veterans Service Center held a briefing on the new VA outpatient facility yesterday. Plans are to break ground on this 20,000+ sq. ft. facility by the end of May. Trustee Albrecht added that the VA is the largest healthcare system in Ohio, and services are completely free to veterans. This facility is expected to open in the fall of 2027. Their staff of 75 will serve approximately 20-26,000 veterans.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht had no other updates to add to what Mrs. Barone had covered earlier.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht had no other updates to what Mr. Hanigan and Mr. Veglia presented on fiber companies in the area. Trustee Brandon said that, now that there are so many lines coming in that they are now being installed halfway up people's yards, which is alarming to residents. He also noticed how stations that were minimal in size are now they seem to be half the size of a bathtub.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski asked if there is something that the County Commissioners can do about the many companies that are continuing to come in? She suggested sending a formal letter to the Commissioners saying how many fiber optics companies are already here and that it is time to put a stop to it. We could include reasons such as how many gas lines have been severed. Trustee Skidmore suggested that the County could require a larger bond to cause new companies wanting to come in to reconsider. Trustee Albrecht will draft a letter for everyone to review.

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion withdrawing the appointment of Jeremy Krahe to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fulfill the vacant seat of Pat Ryan as alternate. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Jeffers explained that Mr. Krahe is not available for the BZA on Monday nights. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion appointing Jeremy Krahe to fulfill Vince D'Angelo remaining term as an alternate on the Zoning Commission, term to expire June 2027. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Jeffers said that he is pleased with this and expects Mr. Krahe to be a great addition to the Zoning Commission. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes., 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

In his zoning report, Mr. Jeffers said that the VA will be going before the County Planning Commission to review a variance request. The variance request is strictly about how to bond the project as the roads and infrastructure is on private property and is not under the County subdivision regulations to allow bonding for private property. Their request is to allow the Port Authority to let them bond the project to begin construction with no changes to the layout of the plat. The result may require the Trustees to redate their signatures on the plat but the motion would still stand that it was approved on April 14th.

Mr. Jeffers said that the BZA will be reviewing variances request for Hillsong and for a reduction to road front for a parcel split on Wooster Pike.

Mr. Jeffers provided two resumes to the Trustees to consider the alternate position for the BZA.

POLICE: Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Skidmore made a motion accepting this quarter's Drug Use Prevention Grant Disbursement of \$1,466.93. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion.** In discussion, Chief Neil explained that this is the Attorney General drug use prevention money applied for last year. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion applying for the Ohio Attorney General 2026 Drug Use Prevention grant for a project total request of \$12,813.90. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said that we do not expect to receive that amount but we are appreciative of everything that we receive. Both of these motions are 100% related to our School Resource Officer. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

Chief Neil requested an executive session at the end of this evening's meeting.

Trustee Albrecht read in the recent OTA *Grassroots Clippings* the recommendation for townships to show their opposition to the elimination of property taxes in Ohio. They proposed that townships adopt a resolution opposing the elimination of all property taxes. A sample resolution was provided, which Trustee Albrecht printed. She said the OTA has also received a legal opinion indicating that ORC Section 9.03 specifically certain subsections do not apply to the ballot issues and they are not on bond or levy issues.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski recommended the Trustees do something to help promote this, such as passing a resolution and maybe sending or distributing postcards to educate residents. Trustee Brandon said that we may not be able to pay for any literature on this. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski did not have the answer but would like to be proactive, especially if it gets on November's ballot. Early voting needs to be taken into consideration. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski will have this on the next Trustees meeting agenda.

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon reported the March invoice for LST at \$25,081.11. This is below the month's budgeted amount of \$26,278. There were 72 calls for service during March.

Chief Neil added a new column to his regular spreadsheet indicating the township's monthly financial burden for Champion Creek.

Trustee Brandon read Chief Walter's fire report for the month of March. Total calls during the month was at 34: 15 fire alarms; 4 motor vehicle accidents; 1 EMS assist; 7 electrical hazards; 3 leaks/spills; 3 smoke/odor investigations; 1 public service.

ROADS: Service Director Kosman reported that Perrin Asphalt was in Montville Lakes last week. We were able to open up the surface to see what was underneath

and the kinds of problems we have. Repair work is scheduled for the end of this week, weather permitting. Also depending on weather, grinding on Summer Lake in Blue Heron will begin.

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

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report.

Trustee Skidmore readdressed the situation where a person is unable to find their deed for their family cemetery plot and the township does not have record of a deed for the open lot. He said that we need to be careful with cemetery lots if the deed cannot be found, making sure that it has not been dealt with through an estate. Someone would need to pull copies of wills, and we could then get an affidavit signed.

Mr. Kosman appreciated the research that Trustee Skidmore did. He spoke to the resident again and learned that the family was trying to do something with the single grave for the family although they do not have a current need for it. They are not interested in an affidavit or doing anything at this time, so the grave will remain vacant.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$25,081.11 to Medina Hospital for March LST services. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying \$81,120.00 to the City of Medina for 2026 dispatch services from the Safety Services Fund #2192 with 80% to police and 20% to fire. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski sent the Trustees and department heads a Resolution adopting the Montville Township cybersecurity policy. If the Trustees agree with having the policy, she suggested putting this in place like we do the fraud reporting. She said that we have until July 1st to do so. The Trustees agreed to consider it and review it at the next Trustees meeting.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Skidmore moved Resolution 042826.01 approving Roderick, Linton, Belfance LLP's engagement letter for legal services. Trustee Albrecht seconded the Resolution. The Resolution was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski advised the Trustees that legal counsel suggested we consider passing a resolution to prohibit taping and recording at township meetings. Trustee Skidmore said that some entities choose to set a time limit or to appoint a representative for a group of people to speak an opinion on a topic. We can set a public meeting policy for not engaging with people coming to speak their opinions during public comment. Trustee Skidmore thought we should get a legal opinion on prohibiting taping our meetings, but he thought we could prohibit tripods or other things that could disturb other people. Discussion ensued. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski suggested we get Attorney Immel's opinion. The Trustees agreed.

Trustee Skidmore made a motion approving BC and POs for 2026 and paying bills totaling \$137,256.35. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

At 3:48 p.m. Trustee Skidmore made a motion going into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel reasons for discipline, which is required to be kept confidential by law and everyone requested to stay are bound to confidentiality. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

At 4:40 p.m. Trustee Skidmore made a motion returning from Executive Session. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

No additional motions or Resolutions were made.

At 4:41 p.m. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Klafczynski

Approved By:

Date:

Attested:

Date: