

Montville Township Trustees
July 14, 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

Also Present:

Resident Bill Hanigan
Resident Roland Georgi
Attorney Trina Devanney

At 7:41 p.m. Trustee Brandon opened the regular meeting of the Montville Township Trustees. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Trustee Brandon welcomed all guests and stated that the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

GUEST RECOGNITION

Resident Roland Georgi introduced himself and provided a handout to the Trustees on behalf of his son, Justin Georgi, regarding his proposal for roundabout maintenance. Mr. Georgi explained that his son has been running his landscaping business, Medina Lawn Guys, for five years. He saw a need for landscaping help on the Wooster Pike roundabout and offered to clean up the roundabout and then maintain it bi-weekly for the township at no charge. He would then like to post a sign simply saying "Medina Lawn Guys" on the roundabout. Mr. Georgi suggested a one-year contract with the township to be redone annually.

Trustee Albrecht said that the Trustees have been hoping to find a landscaping company to help with the roundabout and were interested in this relationship with Medina Lawn Guys. She said that the Trustees liked this idea and asked that Medina Lawn Guys work with Service Director Kosman regarding requirements for the sign.

Mr. Kosman informed Mr. Georgi that his son would need to work directly with ODOT since you would be crossing into their right-of-way. The township has no jurisdiction on the roundabout. Mr. Georgi would need to file for the permit to maintain the roundabout from them. In that process, ODOT will dictate the size of his sign, where the sign can be located on the roundabout, and who would install the sign. Mr. Kosman did not know of any cost involved other than Medina Lawn Guys would be required to have liability insurance. Mr. Kosman will research who is the ODOT contact person for Mr. Georgi.

Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers advised that the sign should not have a phone number and could simply read, "This roundabout is serviced by Medina Lawn Guys" so that people know the reason for the sign and it doesn't appear to be inviting other companies to add their advertising to the roundabout. The Trustees agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the June 23rd regular Trustees meeting and the July 1st special Trustees meeting. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the Cobblestone Park Subdivision Phase 1A, Replat #5 replatting all of Block C, dated July 13, 2026. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Jeffers said that this plat is breaking off Block C for the Cobblestone Crossings and creating subplot 44. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Mr. Jeffers requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion appointing Cynthia Yerkey as alternate member on the Board of Zoning Appeals to fulfill the remaining term of former alternate Pat Ryan. Said term is up for renewal in January, 2027. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion.** In discussion, Trustee Skidmore commented that Mrs. Yerkey has worked with project management with ODOT for many years. The Trustees had a difficult decision to make with three exceptionally qualified candidates who are all involved in our community. If we had three openings, we would appoint all three candidates. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

In his zoning report, Mr. Jeffers said that the final plan review for the Crossing at Cobblestone Phase I was tabled until August 12th due to a variance being needed for wetland encroachment. Tomorrow, both Wallick and Retreat at Cobblestone Phase II will be tabled.

The Zoning Commission will meet on July 22nd for Hawks Ridge final for their remaining three phases, and for Hillsong's final approval for their phase two. Retreat at Cobblestone is being moved to this night as well.

Mr. Jeffers said that the BZA has no meetings in the month of July.

Trustee Albrecht said that last Saturday evening was the first outdoor concert for the summer at Blue Heron. She said that the music that evening could be heard at least four blocks away with windows closed. Trustee Albrecht said that there are concerts scheduled on six Saturdays during the summer.

Mr. Jeffers said that they tried to adjust the stage so that the volume of the bass would not travel the ravine, but he now believes that the volume of the amps needs to come down. Certain bands are a bit louder than other bands, and there are a handful of residents that do not want to hear the concerts while other people love it. Mr. Jeffers will get in touch with Blue Heron about the amperage. He added that the port-a-potties had been relocated away from the property line.

Trustee Skidmore asked about the time permitted in our noise ordinance. Mr. Jeffers responded that the concerts are finished by 10:00 p.m.

POLICE: Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying the annual LexiPol policy and Daily Training bulletin invoice of \$8,438.37. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion authorizing the expenditure of up to \$30,000 for the purchase of two DJI Matrice 4T drones from Ohio Drone Repair using Park Foundation funds, and two indoor DJI Avata 2 drones using Safety Services funds. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said it has been five years since their initial drone purchase. The larger drones he would like to now purchase have much better night vision and better zoom, and they have come down in price from \$60,000 each to now \$10,000 each. The smaller drones are used often and are sent in prior to officers entering a scene to keep them from possible danger. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested a breakdown by fund be provided in order to do a purchase order. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Chief Neil reported that he will not be moving forward with the hiring process for the candidate who had been offered a conditional offer of employment as the required pre-employment process was not successfully completed. Chief Neil appreciated the Trustees' time and willingness to interview the candidate, and they will continue searching for the right candidate that meets their established standards.

Chief Neil informed the Trustees that six members of the Montville Police Department responded to the recent incident in Rittman that tragically resulted in the line-of-duty death of one police officer and injuries to four other police officers. Two of our members responded as part of the Medina County SWAT team while four additional members (including Chief Neil) responded to requests for additional manpower and drone support. During the incident, one of our SWAT officers sustained a gunshot injury. He was treated and released from the hospital that same evening, did not miss any work, and has returned to full duty.

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon read the June fire report from Fire Chief Walters. Montville Township had 29 total calls for service during the month of June: 2 building fires; 16 fire alarms; 3 motor vehicle accidents; 1 rescue extrication; 5 EMS assists; 2 leaks and spills.

Chief Neil commented on social media has recently shown how to hook a weed burner to a propane tank. He said that we had lost a home in Lexington Ridge last year and we almost lost another home recently due to residents trying to burn weeds next to their houses. It has also happened in the City of Medina. Chief Neil asked residents to not burn weeds against their houses.

ROADS: Service Director Kosman reported that one of our roads in Lexington Ridge has heaved. Our Service Department did the repair in-house within a week. They had added a bigger expansion joint, and the road should be open for traffic soon. Mr. Kosman said that the road heaving usually happens in the spring when we get rain and then cool weather followed by a heat spell.

Mr. Kosman said that the roadside mower is up and running. Our first pass has been completed. They will probably cycle back for the second mow a little earlier

next month because the first run had not been completed to Mr. Kosman's satisfaction.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Mr. Kosman requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion accepting the bid proposal of \$447,125 from Perrin Asphalt Company for the parking lot resurfacing project. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Kosman said that he has reviewed the bids and recommended Perrin Asphalt's bid to the Trustees. Mr. Kosman said that they are looking at a timeline to start work in September. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Mr. Kosman said that there may be an issue with the air conditioning units in the Administration building. Mr. Kosman has been able to log in remotely to work with his men. They have been working on the problem for about a month and thought it was resolved. Mr. Kosman is wondering if the source of the issue was from being hit by lightning. What is happening with the control boards and communication errors, it is pointing in that direction. It is not under warranty. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski asked if insurance could cover it if we have proof. Mr. Kosman said that it is very difficult to prove. They are still working on figuring it out and Mr. Kosman will keep the Trustees updated.

Trustee Brandon said that ODOT has a project stakeholder meeting regarding the new proposed roundabout at Cobblestone Drive, State Route 162 and State Route 3. The meeting will be on July 29th in the training room here at our Administration Building from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Trustee Skidmore reported that there had been an email communication that went out to the Medina City School district after our last Trustees meeting. The email was reaching out to Superintendent Sable to ask whether they would be willing to consider doing a study with the Safe Route to Schools so that we could consider the sidewalk request. The school district wants to have a meeting for some dialog in September and they will include Allen Biehl. We will need to have the study done first to then apply for the grants that will be needed.

Trustee Skidmore said that he sees people to continue to walk the street quite often and would like to continue to pursue getting the sidewalk through. He also brought up the maintenance portion that the Trustees need to consider, as ODOT had said that we would have to agree to maintain the sidewalk.

Mr. Kosman is not sure that ODOT has been asked that question. We have an agreement with the multi-use trail along Route 18 which was a similar situation. Mr. Kosman has learned that, if you clear a sidewalk and don't treat it, it becomes extremely treacherous. Sometimes not clearing it is safer. Attorney Devanney responded that, the Ohio slip and fall rules on snow removal is: if you remove it you are responsible; if you don't remove it, you're not.

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report.

PARKS: Mr. Kosman requested short executive session at the end of the meeting for discussion of possible litigation regarding parks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon reported that he attended the county officers meeting in Columbus on June 26th. There had been discussion about websites being ADA compliant by April 25, 2028, and Mr. Jeffers reminded all that Montville Township is already ADA compliant.

Trustee Brandon said that there was an update on OPWC small government programs. In zoning updates, there was discussion on positives and negatives on data centers coming throughout the state. They require a lot of energy and water to keep the equipment cool. Some of them have their own power plants that recirculate the water.

Trustee Albrecht asked if they were coming to Medina County. Attorney Devanney said that there is one going through in Lorain County and they are looking at Lake Erie or nearby rivers as a cooling source. People don't want to lose their original farmland. Attorney Devanney doesn't think that this part of Medina County is a prime location because we don't have the cooling sources to provide what they would require.

Trustee Brandon said that ax the tax was talked about at the county officers meeting. It will not be on the ballot this year. They needed 413,000 votes and they had obtained 305,000 votes. Trustee Brandon thought that they may try again in the future.

At the county officers meeting, Trustee Brandon brought up the problems that we have been having in Montville Township with the fiber companies. It appeared that other areas are not having the problems that we are having. It seems that fiber is being installed statewide but, unlike here, they have had only one to two companies at the most who had laid their lines. Trustee Brandon was advised that the right-of-way regulations are in Title 55, and maybe there is something that could be useful in there for us.

Trustee Albrecht presented the letters she had composed to respond to our county engineer and to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration in Washington D.C. Trustee Skidmore asked to be sure that we are not taking on any liability by agreeing to leave the wrongly placed infrastructure as it lies. Attorney Devanney said that she does not think we are taking on any liability unless it is in a place that may cause injury. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that it is in the road right-of-way so it is not in our area. The Trustees agreed with the verbiage and signed the letters so they could be mailed.

Trustee Skidmore made a motion approving the letters going to the County Engineer and to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Trustee Brandon said that the Pulte ribbon cutting ceremony for Hawks Ridge is planned for July 22nd at 11:30 a.m. He will confirm that it is still on and will share any more details he may receive.

Attorney Devanney requested the Trustees consider having the executive session that Mr. Kosman requested, as she was not able to stay until the end of the meeting. At 8:45 p.m.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion entering into Executive Session for potential litigation, which is required to be kept confidential by law and everyone requested to stay are bound to confidentiality. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

At 8:56 p.m. Trustee Albrecht made a motion returning from Executive Session. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht reported the July issue of the *Montville Living magazine* has the new VA Clinic article with a photo. The August issue will have an article about our Montville Township Halloween event with pictures. In September, Trustee Albrecht plans to write about our Safe room.

Trustee Albrecht reported that the first Montville Township community garage sale was successful. We had 45 homes participating this year. She had visited a number of the sales; people thought it was very well managed and loved the idea of the annual sale. One person said that it is too much work for one day and that we should have the next garage sale for three days, Thursday through Saturday.

Trustee Albrecht said that Kelly Barone met with Sergeant Gaede about this year's Halloween event. Because there is construction happening with the VA Clinic, it was decided to keep the event small again this year with the children's spooky walk. Mrs. Barone has many ideas to step it up. We are thinking about adding more scenes, and perhaps a black light for shining on fluorescent painted snakes in the trees.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski thought that the roundabout work that will be happening may curtail a large Halloween event for a couple of years. Trustee Brandon agreed, that there is so much construction happening in that area.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht said that there were no other topics other than the fiber issues covered earlier in the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski reviewed the June bank reconciliation and financial reports and credit card statements. Copies of the prior month reports provided for each Trustee: Fund Summary & Status; Appropriation Status, Revenue Summary, Payment Listing, and the current Fund Status report.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski reported that there were no supplemental appropriations to approve for June.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying \$620.00 to Roderick Linton Belfance for June legal services. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion.** In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that this is for legal services pertaining to public record requests. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion paying Attorney Devanney \$17,746.71 for legal services April through June, 2026. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski provided the Trustees with copies of three depository Resolutions for their review. They are required in order to select our banks by August 22, 2026, when our current agreements expire. She explained that the ORC requires them updated every five years. They will be done in three consecutive Trustees meetings beginning with the first one this evening.

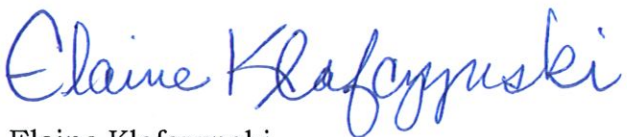
Trustee Albrecht moved Resolution 071426.01 estimating aggregate maximum amount of public funds to be awarded as active and interim deposits. Trustee Skidmore seconded the Resolution. The Resolution was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

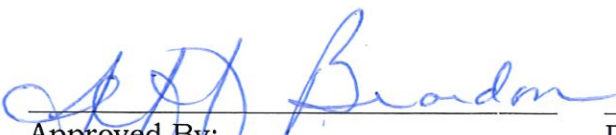
Trustee Albrecht made a motion amending both motions made at the July 1, 2026, special meeting by Trustee Albrecht and seconded by Trustee Skidmore to add the word "unpaid" to the "three-day suspension with dates to be determined by the department for Police Officer Andrew Kawalek. Trustee Skidmore seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said that Mr. Perry mentioned that, in the motion for the body cameras, we had said that Officer Kawalek was getting in trouble for not wearing it when, in fact, he was wearing it but did not activate it. He was fine with the Trustees not amending the motion to reflect that the body camera was being worn but not activated. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Skidmore made a motion approving BC and POs and to pay bills totaling \$296,282.41. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

At 9:10 p.m. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Elaine Klafczynski


Approved By:

7-28-26
Date:


Attested:

7-28-2026
Date: