

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Greenfield Township Trustees Meeting

December 29, 2025 - Held 6:00 PM

The Greenfield Township Trustees met in regular session at the Firehouse. Trustee Cotner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Cotner led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave Cotner, Lonnie Kosch, and Kent Searle were in attendance.

- Swearing in of Jennifer Sitterley by Judge Fields
- **Cotner presented the minutes of the Special November 6, 2025 Trustees Meeting.**
 - Discussion: n/a
 - Searle made motion to approve minutes as written.
 - Second by Cotner.

ROLL CALL: Cotner: Y Kosch: Y Searle: Y Motion Passed 3-0

- **Cotner presented the minutes of the December 10, 2025 Trustees Meeting.**
 - Discussion: n/a
 - Kosch made motion to approve minutes as written
 - Second by Cotner.

ROLL CALL: Cotner: Y Kosch: Y Searle: Y Motion Passed 3-0

From the Fiscal Officer: (Kull not present)

- **Cotner presented Motion to Pay Bills:**
 - Warrants: 3937-3949
 - Electronic Debits: 308-2025 to 326-2025
 - Discussion: Kosch inquired about things voided and redone back in 2024, just saw when reviewed today. He agrees we need to approve, but has questions about why we are signing some back to 2024.
 - Motion to pay by Cotner
 - Second by Searle

ROLL CALL: Cotner: Y Kosch: N Searle: Y Motion Passed 2 -0

- **Cotner presented Motion to pay Purchase Orders.**
 - Motion to pay by Searle
 - Second by Kosch
 - Discussion: n/a

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

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- **Cotner presented Resolution #2025-1229: Retain Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC for our legal counsel in 2026, and appropriating \$20,000 for their services**
 - Motion to approve: Searle
 - Second by Kosch
 - Discussion: N/A

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

- **Discussion:**
 - Searle raised the issue about minutes from September 24, 2025 not being approved yet, even after multiple emails to the fiscal officer about it. Searle mentioned it's his last meeting and running the township is very difficult without the attendance of all the elected officials since there are questions that can't be answered, such as Trustee Kosch had about the Motion on the Warrants tonight. He hopes in the future the problems between elected officials may be worked out since it's hurting the residents.
 - Cotner commented that Amy Brown-Thomspon said the minutes don't have to be approved and it takes unanimous approval to make changes
 - Searle responded that if they're incorrect then they can't stand as approved and they're at a stalemate
 - Cotner commented that there's been too big of a deal made from passing the minutes and it's gone crazy.
 - Kosch commented that the last minutes that edits need to be made and the last minutes were not changed (pointed out examples of typos from November 24th meeting; it had we are investing into the state of Ohio; Star of Ohio is what we are doing, not state of Ohio; also, the funding - it said the percentage of what we are getting is .9; it is not .9; it is 4.9 percent); it makes a difference if it's not accurate and looks bad on the township or the trustees or whoever's doing the minutes.
 - Cotner asked if Kosch read everything Amy Brown-Thompson wrote up (about approving the minutes)
 - Kosch commented yes and that (the minutes) are a legal document that comes back on the township
 - Cotner responded that Amy Brown-Thompson said (the details) don't matter
 - Kosch commented that during the election transparency is all he heard about and said the trustees are very transparent, the problem is the office

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is not transparent at getting information out or records when people ask. He questioned why put it all back on our trustees, if it's not our fault the information is not (released) correctly. If the minutes are completely wrong, why even record it or take minutes?

- Cotner commented that (the trustees) are not her (fiscal officer's) boss and there's nothing they can really do.
- Kosch commented if it's not correct it looks bad on us (trustees), does it not?
- Cotner repeated that all three trustees need to approve changes to the minutes and said he would not agree to all the changes that Kosch is suggesting for September 24th.
- Kosch said it was very factual and it's important to be in the minutes
- Cotner commented that the minutes are a *summary* of the meeting, not a word-for-word verbatim.
- Kosch said we could have this discussion all night, that's how I feel, that's the way I feel it ought to be operated as trustee, if not, why even take minutes?
- Cotner replied that is what the Amy Brown-Thompson (opinion) is all about.
- Kosch commented that five different lawyers would have five different opinions, if you don't believe me, ask who is taking the minutes (at Sitterley).
- Cotner redirected the meeting to Road Department report.

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Zoning Department: Jeff Williamsen, Zoning Inspector – Not present (illness)

Road and Cemetery Department: Tom Shafer, Road and Cemetery Superintendent

- Shafer presented a cemetery deed for Amber Myers, Carroll Cemetery, section C, Lot 149, Grave #4. Does not require a motion. Passed around for Trustee signatures
- Shafer presented an update on MAC truck and the electrical issues: he reported that the grounding bond is adequate if it stays a dump truck (as manufactured). Once you turn into plow truck and add additional draw (more electrics and emergency lighting), that bond can get weak. We solved with a large diameter grounding lug on the truck frame and that fixed it immediately. Truck back up and running.
 - Cotner asked if the other truck worked well?
 - Shafer agree that yes, it worked very well and “saved our skin”
 - Kosch asked if that was the old international and whether it was fixed?
 - Shafer replied yes, and was fixed - the steering box was bad on it
- Searle asked Shafer for updates on disaster relief reimbursements – Shafer replied there are no updates. No contact with Bill (Maravy) yet, waiting for estimate on pipes.
- Kosch asked Shafer if he ever got back with complaint form (Kim Wickham) that we talked about several times? Shafer responded that he has not. Kosch asked him to get back with them because it helps to circle back when we go up for a levy. Shafer responded that he would. Kosch encouraged him to make contact for better relationships within the township.

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Fire Department: Chief Brad Smith reported on the following business:

- Smith requested a motion to accept Colin Osterman's transition from full-time to part-time – his last day was yesterday (Dec. 28th) as full timer, will go back to part-time effective January 4th, 2026.
 - Searle: motion to accept Osterman's request to move to part-time.
 - Kosch: second

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

- Smith requested a motion to accept JT Whaley's transition from full-time to part-time – his last day will be January 6th (2026) and will move back to part-time effective January 19th, 2026
 - Searle: Motion to approve Whaley's request to move back to a part-time
 - Kosch: Second

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

- Smith reported that Derek Short has a start date of January 2nd (2026) as full timer
- Smith reported a resignation of Mariah McDonald, part-timer, effective immediately (due to time constraints)
 - Searle: Motion to accept the resignation of Mariah McDonald, effective immediately
 - Kosch: Second

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

- Smith reports a good response for full-time applications – up to 12, need to review and determine who to interview. Trustees responded positively.
- Lastly, Smith requested a motion to increase part-time salaries fifty cents over what they are currently making.
 - Motion by Searle
 - Second by Kosch.

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

Kosch asked if this was on par with (other townships). Smith responded affirmatively as to similar rural township departments. Kosch asked if it was difficult to find applicants – Smith

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responded that he's been more selective for most qualified candidates. Discussion on part-time status and process (medic school) is 14 months.

From the Floor:

- Dawn Wyne asked trustees to review ORC 507.04 regarding fiscal officer responsibilities. They must take minutes and must be accurate. Wyne asked if trustees were aware that today's meeting notice not posted in the office or the firehouse? According to resolutions in January 2025, postings are required for meeting changes.
 - Kosch reported that he knows it's on Savvy Citizen but acknowledged that many don't get that.
 - Wyne acknowledged it's on website calendar but not on the website. She reported the calendar is not always accurate, so people can't always go by that. She requested that the Trustees consider holding meetings at 7 pm to better accommodate Greenfield Township residents.
 - Cotner responded that (township) did that once and same people came at 7 that came at 6.
 - Wyne asked that it be considered again please.
 - Kosch said they will ask that questions again first meeting of year (re-organization) since that's when it's always done (days and times)
- Wyne wished Kent (Searle) best of luck, thanked him for his service to the Greenfield Township residents and for acting in best interest of community with honesty and integrity. I (Wyne) hold individuals to a high standard and expects a lot. I (Wyne) respects Kent and Lonnie because honesty and integrity matters even when faced with difficult issues. To Jennifer (Sitterley), I (Wyne) welcome you aboard and I look forward to seeing what you bring to Greenfield Township and how you serve our residents. Wished her luck.
 - Cotner thanked Kent (Searle) for 8 years of service, appreciate it .
 - Wyne later requested copy of tonight's packet.

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From the Trustees:

- **Cotner** clarified that the next trustee meeting is the Public Hearing on **Monday January 5th, 6 pm at the Firehouse.**
- **Kosch** – thanked Kent (Searle) for his service. Expressed that it's been challenging but appreciated his (experience and knowledge) with the Fire Department and how he handled it, and all that he did for the township.
- **Searle** expressed thanks, he enjoyed his time serving. Expressed that it's been an honor to serve the residents. Commented that the elected officials have worked well together most of the time, got a lot accomplished, the township is healthy. Commented that we've only spent 62.62% of funds allocated, which is pretty good, so came in well under budget, healthy and in the black. Feel good leaving that way.
- **Kosch** requested for next year if he could get transcript or a copy of the recording of the minutes, and have packet 2-3 days prior to meeting instead of last minute, relay to fiscal officer
 - Cotner commented that there is always one laying on desk
 - Kosch replied that it would be nice to know about it sooner
 - Cotner commented that the township has never done that (3 days prior)
 - From floor: why can't it be emailed? Could help prepare
 - Kosch agreed it would help, instead of last minute

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Executive Session

- **Searle** Motioned to enter executive session to discuss employee compensation issue
 - Seconded by Kosch

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

- Entered into Executive session at 6:26 pm
- Came out of Executive session at 6:40 pm

- **Searle** commented that he has issue with 3 full-time firefighters that were overpaid for working out of class for 3-4 months this year, from March through June, exceeding \$5,000. The township explored different ways of paying back that have come to not being recommended by Prosecutor's office. (Township) needs to take care of it so Motion that (the three firefighters) pay back overpayment received this year and the Fiscal Officer can (contract with them to) take up to year to pay back in 2026.
 - Second by Kosch

ROLL CALL: Kosch – Y Cotner Y Searle – Y Motion Passed: 3-0

Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Kosch made a motion to adjourn; Trustee Cotner seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Cotner: Y Kosch: Y Searle: Y Motion Passed 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sitterley, by assignment