

COMMUNITY ROOM

August 6, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. by Chairperson Hare. Trustees Port and Heutmayer were present. Deputy Fiscal Officer Susan Skrvan-DeYoung and Board Administrator Warren Dovsek were present.

The following Department Heads were present: Road Superintendent Giovanni Maltese, Police Chief Tom Swaidner, Asst. Fire Chief Nick Sambula and Zoning Inspector Frank Kolk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

GUEST SPEAKER: FAIRMOUNT CENTER: A scholarship campaign has been initiated to establish a new general scholarship fund for local youth. The fund is intended for need-based scholarships for lessons and programs, primarily for youth aged 18 and younger. The fund will cover all disciplines, including music, arts, and creative arts therapies, unlike other discipline-specific scholarships offered by the Center. The campaign has raised approximately \$9,000 so far, mostly from individual donations. The goal is to raise at least \$20,000. A question was raised about the legality of the township making a gift or donation to a nonprofit scholarship fund. The board has sponsored Leadership Geauga for a student but is not aware of any precedent for giving a donation or gift to a nonprofit for a scholarship. The board will need to check with the APA to ensure such a donation is within the purview of a township trustee. While a decision on a financial gift is pending, the board noted the Center has free use of the township facility for fundraisers or programs. The board will discuss the matter further to determine if supporting scholarships is something the community wishes to pursue.

GCEO: 2027 ROAD PROJECT REPORT: The streets identified for the 2027 road program are Century, Retriever, Running Trail, and Fox Hills. If a fifth street was added it would put the project approximately \$70,000 over the estimated budget of \$612,000. The total divided budget is \$700,000.

ROAD DEPT UPDATES: Mr. Maltese stated that the township will participate in the ODOT pricing program for road salt. The state bid price for salt has increased significantly, though other counties have experienced larger increases. Morton will be the salt supplier again for the upcoming year. Mr. Maltese stated that for winter 2026-2027, the road crew may adjust schedules to finish their last run by 8:00 PM and not return until 4:00 AM to conserve fuel and manpower, a practice other communities are adopting.

POLICE – PLANNED CAPITAL PROJECTS w/ SIMVAY: Chief Swaidner requested approval for planned capital projects to replace outdated on-site IT hardware. The first project is to replace the firewall, which is six years old, to maintain cybersecurity. The second is to replace the access point, which is older than six years. This hardware is critical for downloading in-car video from cruisers.

Mrs. Heutmayer made the motion to approve the purchase and payment of the Simvay quote for the Police Department's 2026 planned capital projects to replace outdated equipment, consisting of a cybersecurity program in the amount of \$9,873.10 and network integration services in the amount of \$5,750.02, for a total expenditure of \$15,623.12. Ms. Port seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY ROOM

August 6, 2026

SSO UPDATE: The MOU with West Geauga Schools for the SSO program has been renewed for the upcoming school year. The agreement was signed by the school and the township chair, so it is now in effect.

PARAMEDIC CONTRACT/TUITION LOAN AGREEMENT: *Ms. Port made the motion, at the recommendation of Fire Chief Frazier, to enter into a 'Tuition Loan Agreement' with the UH Geauga Medical Center Paramedic Training Program for Mr. Alexander Newton to obtain his 2026-2027 training and certification, approved as to form by the Geauga County Prosecutor's Office. Mrs. Heutmaker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

FIRE DEPT: Asst. Fire Chief Sambula stated that the application period for the full-time employment position has closed, with five or six applications received. Interviews will be scheduled.

Asst. Fire Chief Sambula stated that the delivery of the second ambulance has been pushed back again, from the beginning of 2026 to December 2026.

FACILITIES: WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE: A discussion was held regarding the continuation of service for trash pickup. A decision on the agreement is pending. The community paper shredding and tire pickup event is confirmed for the upcoming Saturday. The vendors have been contacted and confirmed.

RECYCLING CENTER: There are ongoing concerns with illegal dumping at the recycling center. The police department is addressing these concerns, starting with an educational approach. For clear violations, individuals are contacted and given about 12 hours to remove the item before a ticket is issued. For items that could be mistaken as recyclable (e.g., aluminum gutters), individuals are contacted and educated on the rules. A police report is created for documentation. A second offense would result in a citation for illegal dumping. It was suggested that new signage, possibly drawing more attention to the surveillance cameras, could help deter illegal dumping.

ZOING DEPT: A public hearing is scheduled for August 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM for proposed changes to the zoning amendment. The public notice was published, and amendments are available for public viewing.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

IT UPDATE: A central point of frustration has been the lack of direct communication between the two IT vendors. Mr. Hare has to write explicit, step-by-step emails to authorize actions that should be routine, such as wiping and re-provisioning laptops. This was identified as the primary cause of the delay. Ms. Port advises against the continued use of personal laptops for township business; emphasizes township-owned property for compliance and public records; pushes for immediate procurement and backup before any wipe. Chief Swaidner proposed purchasing new laptops as the fastest and safest solution. This would provide the new employees with functional equipment by mid-next week and allow the old laptops to be securely backed up and repurposed and have as backups.

LAPTOP REQUISITION w/ SIMVAY: *Mr. Hare made the motion to authorize the purchase and payment of the Simvay quote for two (2) laptop computers to be used by the Fiscal Officer and Board Administrator, for a total expenditure of \$2,865.06 email dated August 5, 2026. Ms. Port seconded the motion, and the*

COMMUNITY ROOM

August 6, 2026

votes are as follows: Mrs. Heutmayer yes; Ms. Port yes; Mr. Hare no and the motion passed.

ANNUAL LIQUOR PERMIT RENEWAL: *Ms. Port made the motion to approve and renew the Township's 2026-2027 liquor permit without objection. Mrs. Heutmayer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Mr. Hare made the motion to move into executive session to discuss the employment and compensation of public employee pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G) (1). Ms. Port seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting moved into executive session at 3:48 pm.

Item #1: Giovanni Maltese

In at 3:50 pm; out at 4:05 pm

Item #2: Giovanni Maltese

In at 4:05 pm; out at 4:10 pm

Item #3: Susan Skrovan-DeYoung

In at 4:10 pm; out at 4:44 pm

Mr. Hare made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Port seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting moved to regular session at 4:44 pm.

ROAD FOREMAN POSITION: *Mrs. Heutmayer made the motion to approve the proposed wage rate of \$36.50 per hour for the upcoming hiring of a new Road Foreman position upon the current Foreman's retirement. Mr. Hare seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

TRANSFER OF ACCRUED PTO: *Ms. Port made the motion to approve the transfer of forty (40) hours of Paid Time Off (PTO) from the accrued PTO of Jim Koller to that of William Nakoff. Mrs. Heutmayer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

FISCAL OFFICE RECOMMENDATION: *Mrs. Heutmayer made the motion to accept the Deputy Fiscal Officer's findings and recommendation of termination of Jennifer Dorka, Assistant to the Fiscal Officer, effective immediately, August 7, 2026. Mr. Hare seconded the motion, and the votes are as follows: Mrs. Heutmayer yes; Ms. Port no; Mr. Hare yes and the motion passed.*

Mr. Hare made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Port seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Christopher Hare, Chair

Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Ezzone