

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
8600 BLOUGH AVE SW ♦ P.O. BOX 161 ♦ NAVARRE, OH 44662
PHONE: 330-756-9207 ♦ WEBSITE: bethtwp.com

May 19, 2026 Minutes

Lambert called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The pledge was recited by all present. Upon Role Call the Result was:

LAMBERT HERE

VESELENAK HERE

URBACH HERE

Veselenak made the motion to accept the minutes from May 6, 2026 meeting as they have read them through email. Seconded by Urbach. All in Favor: YES Veselenak made the motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Urbach. All in Favor YES The bills are in the amount of \$8,576.46.

RESOLUTION #2026-10

A resolution of the Bethlehem Township Board of Trustees, Stark County, OH, opposing the elimination of all property taxes in Ohio.

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Township Board of Trustees provide essential services to the residents of Bethlehem Township, Stark County, Ohio including road repair and maintenance, upkeep and maintenance to equipment to do said repairs and maintenance, repairs and maintenance to the township garage and the township hall which offers a free voting location to the Stark County Board of Elections and convenience for our residents, along with repairs, upkeep and maintenance to the Navarre Bethlehem Township Community Park. The property taxes also support funds to pay for the Zoning Department of the township which was voted in by the residents and took effect on November 20, 1973. The township also contributes to the Stark County Health Department.

WHEREAS, property taxes are a primary source for these services in our township; and

WHEREAS, eliminating this funding would result in deep cuts to our budget and services, as well as public safety services, schools, and services for seniors, children, and vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the loss of property tax revenue would likely require significant increases to income taxes, sales taxes and/or other statewide taxes, shifting the burden rather than solving it; and

WHEREAS, while property taxes are a serious concern for many Ohioans, eliminating them entirely without a responsible alternative is a reckless and unsustainable approach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Board of Trustees hereby opposes any effort to eliminate all property taxes in Ohio; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Township Board of Trustees supports responsible property tax reform that addresses the affordability concerns while protecting public safety, schools and other critical community services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the governor of Ohio, members of the Ohio General Assembly and other appropriate officials.

Upon Role Call the Result was:

VESELENAK YES

URBACH YES

LAMBERT YES

RESOLUTION #2026-11

**A RESOLUTION PLACING A twelve (12) MONTH MORATORIUM ON ANY NEW DATA CENTER
ATTEMPTING TO OPERATE OR LOCATE IN BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP**

Veselenak made the motion for the Resolution to place a twelve (12) month moratorium on any new data center attempting to operate or locate in Bethlehem Township.

WHEREAS, Data Centers have become a controversial topic in Ohio and the effects on local political subdivisions and local populations remain to be seen. Further study must be done on the impacts on health, safety, utilities and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Township has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Bethlehem Township to engage in a thorough and comprehensive review of the impacts of Data centers as well as related activities and to review the current Bethlehem Township zoning regulations to determine the necessity of amending the zoning regulations to address this matter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Bethlehem Township Board of Trustees, Stark County, Ohio to place a twelve (12) month moratorium on the operation/location of any new Data Center in Bethlehem Township to allow time to assess Data Center impacts on health, safety, utilities and infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Bethlehem Township Board of Trustees to consider adding a dedicated section on Data Centers to the Bethlehem Township Zoning Code during the moratorium to fully and completely address the issue.

Seconded by Urbach. Upon Role Call the Result was:

VESELENAK YES

URBACH YES

LAMBERT YES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1) Vicki Owen-Merry addressed the board. She stated that the park board met the other day. They do have signs to install on both sides of the bridge. She thanked Hughes for installing the posts for the signs. They are going to freshen up the metal on the bridge with black paint.
 - a. Informed the board that a wheel chair cannot enter the bridge due to a drop off at the bridge and asked if the township could install some dirt. Lambert suggested using some 304 and asked Hughes if he could do that. Hughes responded yes.
 - b. The Park Board is going to raffle off a gun as a fund raiser.
 - c. They are looking at funding for a pavilion by the wetland area. It would serve two purposes, one for families using the sled ridding hill and one for educational seminars for the wetland.
 - d. For the 250th the Navarre Garden Club will have 3 certificates for businesses that decorate for the celebration.
- 2) Jack Flinner asked if the county has been notified about the culvert on Brinker and Sherman? Veselenak said she will call them. Flinner stated that the county did one in Pike Township on Dueber.
 - a. Also, Flinner stated there is a water problem on State Rt 21. Lambert gave Flinner our ODOT district contact.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- 1) We are going to need some berm material on Kemary. Florence still needs paved and Karvo stated they would probably berm Kemary at the same time, weather permitting. Hughes did put some asphalt at the driveway on Kemary where Karvo repaired the culvert that was damaged when butt joints were being cut. The residents are ok with what Hughes has done.
- 2) We are behind on mowing at the cemeteries due to weather. We will try to catch up.
- 3) Hughes has been getting a lot of calls on the edge of Fohl Rd deteriorating east of the park entrance. Hughes did tell them to call the Village due to them being responsible for that. Lambert asked if the culvert has anything to do with that? Hughes stated no, he has been out there during downpours and it is draining fine. Veselenak stated she has a copy of 2018 agreement between Stark County Engineers and the Village of Navarre that Navarre now has jurisdiction on that section of Fohl Rd. She will forward to all the members.
- 4) The Village has contacted Hughes to do some road mowing in the Village.
- 5) Spoke with Art from 20/20. Art stated the cost has not went up that much for him and he will send an updated quote.
- 6) Hughes has all the information for the sign grant for Veselenak. He did not have the form for posts and hardware.
- 7) Hughes said he has received calls from all the alarm companies. Matics stated she has \$20,000.00 in fund 2231 (permissive Motor Vehicle) and \$10,000.00 in fund 1000 (General) earmarked for contracted services for the building. Total out of the general fund would be \$2,998.46 and from permissive motor vehicle \$2,083.67. Urbach made the motion to accept the estimate from Protech Security in the amount of 5,082.13. Seconded by Lambert. All in Favor: YES.

URBACH REPORT

- 1) Received a call about solicitors in the township and asked Flinner if there was anything in the Zoning Resolution on that. Flinner responded, not to his knowledge. Veselenak stated she went through the new zoning resolution that they received at the last meeting and did not find anything.
- 2) They went to the meeting on the Data Centers. It was given by the company that is building in Perry Township. It was all one sided and there was no Q&A allowed. They did state they are looking at four other sites.

VESELENAK REPORT

- 1) The "Large Recycling Event" for the township will take place on Saturday, August 1st from 9:00 to noon at the Township building.
- 2) The dates for yoga in the park are August 11th, September 22nd and October 13th at 6:00 pm.
- 3) We need to establish which roads we want to file for the 2027 OPWC grant. We discussed Biery and Beth from Brinker to the south end of Beth. Biery is going to be a big project. Hughes stated we need to do research on the road agreement for Biery. It was decided to have Hughes contact the engineers to do up a plan for both roads. Veselenak stated we would need two separate applications which is not a problem. Plans should be sent to Veselenak by the end of June.

LAMBERT REPORT

- 1) Matics gave all the trustees the agenda for the Commission Board meeting for tomorrow and wondered if there were any concerns with what they are working on for changes to the zoning resolution. There was some discussion on these and there were no concerns.
- 2) Stated he went to the CUE meeting and they have accepted the 15% increase from Cargil for this coming season. CUE has asked that if we want to change the amount of salt for the 2026-2027 season to get a hold of them by May 26th. Matics stated the quote from CUE is \$72.20 per ton up from \$62.89 from the 2025-2026 season. The

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amount for the 400 ton for this coming season would be \$28,880.00. CUE also stated they asked for a 12% increase instead of a 15% increase from Cargil but have not heard anything yet.

Urbach stated he had to leave due to working midnights at approximately 7:00 pm.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- 1) Asked if the Trustees wanted to donate to the “National Child Safety Council” through the Navarre Police Department. Last year we donated \$180.00. Veselenak made the motion to donate \$180.00 to the National Child Safety Council through the Navarre Police Department. Seconded by Lambert. All in Favor: YES
- 2) We received an email stating our assistance with the OPWC is approved and the funds could be released on or about July 1st assuming the budget authority is in place. Veselenak stated no work can begin until July 1st.
- 3) Lambert spoke with Jon Oates at Stark County Auditors. The 2019 funds from Rover came in after our 1st haft tax disbursement. We are to receive \$137,000.00. The approximate fees that will come out of that is 1.2%. Matics would like to ask Oates to release those funds to us as soon as possible. The Trustees agreed.
- 4) Vonda Snyder spoke with Hughes concerning pouring a footer at a plot she had purchased. Matics got a hold of Alan Graber at Ohio Monument and emailed him a work order. Graber stated he will do this but it is going to be awhile. He is to contact Hughes when he is ready.
- 5) Asked when the Trustees wanted to go through the 2009 zoning fees. Veselenak stated they could do that at our next work session. Flinner stated that Arntz-Tournoux had a spreadsheet that she shared with the Commission Board on fees from a few other townships. Lambert asked Flinner if he could email that list to them. Flinner replied, yes.
- 6) We have received three resumes for the Zoning Inspector position to date. Lambert is to submit the open position to Ohio Means Jobs. Veselenak would like to start interviewing at the next meeting. Lambert would like to wait until we get more resumes in. Veselenak agreed.

Lambert stated the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 5:30 pm for the work session and 6:00 pm for the regular session. Veselenak made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lambert. All in Favor: YES The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Ronald L. Lambert- President

T. Renee Veselenak- Vice President

James J. Urbach – Trustee

Jody Matics – Fiscal Officer