

## Bethel Township Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

**Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm**

**Welcome & Pledge: Led by Trustee Ashbaugh**

**Attendance:** Trustee Ashbaugh, Trustee Berner & Trustee Coppess

Road supervisor Bryan Stastny, Administrator Rhonda Ledford, Chief Snyder, and

Fiscal Officer Doug Meyer

**Announcements:** Opening Day for Donnelsville Baseball is on May 2, 2026, with the parade scheduled for 10:45 AM. Medlake's Opening Day will be on May 9, 2026, and their parade will start at 9:00 AM. **LET'S PLAY BALL!**

**Citizens' comments related to the agenda:**

*At this time, we kindly request that all comments be held until the citizens' comment time at the end of our meeting.*

Trustee Ashbaugh moves to accept the agenda. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh moves to pay the bills, check numbers 69736 through 69764, and ACH deductions 419-2026 through 491-2026 totaling \$85,080.37. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess moves to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes from the March 24, 2026, meeting and the Special Session on April 7, 2026. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes (Sent to trustees 3-25-26)

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Administration:**

26-04-14-01 Trustee Berner makes a motion to pass a resolution to accept the final appropriations for 2026. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes. **Signatures needed**

**Road:** Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to initiate the interview process for hiring personnel for the Bethel Township Road Department. Interviews will begin on Thursday, April 16, 2026, starting at 4:30 PM. The final hiring decision will take place during a special session on April 21, 2026, pending drug tests. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

### **Police:**

### **Fire:**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Administration:**

Clark County Beautiful is participating in Bloom Blitz, which strives to help communities beautify public spaces through plantings. We can receive \$250.00 to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials as part of the annual Bloom Blitz program. I will need to fill out a form if we want to participate, including the planting location, tree type, schedule, and who will maintain the trees. Do we want to participate? (Station #51 is where we would like to use it)

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion for Bethel Township, Clark County, to participate in Bloom Blitz. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to grant an 8% raise to the Bethel Township Road Department and administrative staff, effective January 1, 2026. Second, by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to declare the following properties a nuisance, and after all proper notices have been sent, these properties shall be abated through Clark County. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

*34 W. Birch. Parcel # 0100500025318022.* This property has been on our nuisance list for years. Trash, inoperable vehicles, campers, etc. Clark County is helping with this.

*460 Queen Parcel # 01005000025103011* No trash collection, and the yard is a mess. Sent Deputy, but would not answer the door.

*21 Fair Ave. Parcel # 0100500019102003.* Been building a new house for over a year. Will not keep debris from the house cleaned up, and the neighbors are upset.

*901 Corvette Parcel # 0100500025332014* People living in a camper, school bus in the yard, vehicles on the street with no tags. Will ask the deputy to look into it, and Clark County's help.

Rumpke would like a clean-up day in August. Do the Trustees have a date in mind?

**Look at the beginning of August for a clean-up date.**

**Police: STATS for March 2026, both deputies.**

Calls: 92   Assists: 12   Reports: 18   Traffic Stops: 22   Citations: 7   Warnings: 15  
Arrests: 11   Twp Follow-Ups: 2   MVA: 5   Stolen Cars: 0

National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 5-8. Last year, we collaborated with the City of New Carlisle and Tecumseh High School. We donated \$1,000.00 to the event. Can we do this again?

Trustee \_\_\_\_ makes a motion to donate \$1,000.00 towards National Night Out on August 4, 2026. Second by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_. R/C: **This was not voted on. Waiting to see if New Carlisle contributes.**

**Fire: Jim**

**March Stats:** Medical 160;   MVA 22;   FIRE CALLS 41   ; TOTAL 223

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to accept the resignation of Carley Wilster from the Bethel Township Fire Department, citing personal reasons. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to accept the resignation of Caleb Steggeman from the Bethel Township Fire Department due to a time conflict. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

**Road:** The new 2026-2027 salt contracts are ready for submission.

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to pass a resolution to participate in the 2026-2027 salt contract through ODOT for (350-2025) 350 tons of salt. We will be committed to 85% of the requested salt, but can purchase 115% if needed, and it's available. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh.

R/C: All ayes. **Signatures needed**

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to accept the resignation of Sherman Massie from the Bethel Township Road Department, effective April 7, 2026. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Further discussion on the location and project will follow. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to enter into executive session under the ORC 121.22 (G) at 7:05 pm to discuss personnel. Second by Trustee Coppess. No action will be taken in Executive Session. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to return from executive session and enter back into regular session at 7:40 pm. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Results of the executive session are as follows: Trustee Coppess makes a motion to launch an investigation into a township employee's actions. Second by Trustee Berner.

**Special & Work Sessions:**

Trustee Ashbaugh moves to set a Special Session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Discussions will be as follows: Hiring of road personnel, CDBG & any nuisance properties.

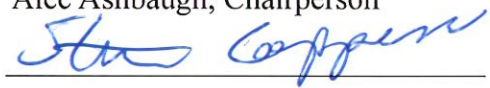
A work session shall follow the Special Session.

**Citizens' Comments:** Paul Hert & son Benson to speak to the trustees.

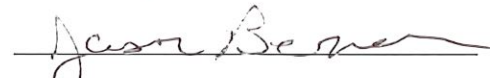
Trustee Coppess moves to adjourn the meeting @ 7:40 pm. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes



Alec Ashbaugh, Chairperson



Steve Coppess, Vice Chairperson



Jason Berner, Member



Douglas Meyer, Fiscal Officer

Roll call and minutes taken and transcribed by Administrator Rhonda Ledford