

Bethel Township Re-Organization Minutes

January 6, 2026

3333 Lake Rd. Medway, OH. 45341

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

**Prayer:** Led by Trustee Ashbaugh

**Attendance:** Trustee Ashbaugh, Trustee Coppess & Trustee Berner, Fire Chief Snyder, Fiscal Officer Doug Meyer, Asst. Fiscal Officer Heath Jones, Road Supervisor Bryan Stastny, and Administrator Rhonda Ledford

**TRUSTEE BUSINESS:**

Fiscal Officer Douglas Meyer requests nominations for the 2026 chairperson.

Trustee Berner makes a motion to appoint Alec Ashbaugh as Bethel Township's 2026 Chairperson. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Nominated Trustee Ashbaugh affirms he will accept the position.

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to appoint Steve Coppess as Bethel Township's 2026 vice-chairperson. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Nominated Trustee Coppess affirms he will accept the position.

Trustee Ashbaugh moves to leave the regular session and enter executive session at 6:03 PM to discuss compensation of personnel. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh moves to leave the executive session and re-enter the regular session at 6:34 PM. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

As a result of the executive session, the trustees and fiscal officer agreed to postpone the raises until further review of the budget. After the budget is approved, the raises will be retroactive.

Trustee Ashbaugh moves to set Bethel Township Trustee meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Bethel Township Administration Offices. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess moves to keep WesBanco as Bethel Township's depository bank. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to keep the electronic signatures on the WesBanco. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to pay the Bethel Township Trustees by the salary method, as per ORC 505.24 & 505.09, for the 2026 calendar year. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to adopt the temporary appropriations for 2026 as permitted through section 5705.38 of the ORC in the amount not to exceed \$5,931,582.22. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to request advance payments of tax dollars as collected by the Clark County Auditor to be distributed to Bethel Township. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to set the township spending limit at \$2500.00 without prior approval of the trustees. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes **\*\* NOTE: This is for the administration to reserve rooms/tickets for the conference only. All other expenditures are set at \$500.00\*\***

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to set Bethel Township's rate per mile compensation following the IRS standard mileage rate of 72.5 for official travel for township business for eligible employees inside and outside of the township and elected officials traveling outside of the township. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to appoint Rhonda Ledford as full-time Bethel Township Administrator for 2026 at a rate of \$27.00 PH. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to appoint Heath Jones as a part-time fiscal officer assistant for 2026 at the rate of \$16.00 PH. Second by trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

**ROAD:**

Trustee Berner makes a motion to appoint Bryan Stastny as Bethel Township Road Supervisor for 2026 at a rate of \$25.00 PH. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to pay full-time employees of Bethel Township Road Department maintenance workers for 2026 at the rate of \$22.25 PH. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to pay part-time Bethel Township Road Department maintenance workers for 2026 at the rate of \$18.75 PH. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Cintas contract will expire in 2026 for uniforms, at which time it will be canceled.

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to set Bethel Township Road Department full-time employees sick leave by ORC section 124.19 and vacation leave by ORC section 1.14 in which the following holidays shall be paid: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. All employees agree they may move one holiday to the day after Thanksgiving. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

**FIRE:**

Trustee Berner makes a motion to appoint James Snyder as Bethel Township Fire Chief for 2026, at an annual rate of \$25,000.00. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to appoint Mike Gardone as Bethel Township Fire Marshall for the year 2026 at an hourly rate of \$18.25 PH. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to appoint Keith Hawkins as Assistant Fire Marshall for Bethel Township Fire Department for 2026 at an hourly pay rate of \$22.75 PH. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes.

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to appoint Chris Ludwick & Brian Ludwick as Assistant Chiefs to the Bethel Township Fire Department for 2026, at an annual rate of \$17,000.00 per year. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to pay all Bethel Township Fire Department Captains for 2026 at the annual rate of \$5,200.00 per year. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Berner makes a motion to pay all Bethel Township Fire Department lieutenants for 2026, at a rate of \$3,600.00 per year. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to appoint the following to the Bethel Township Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_

(1. James Snyder 2. Keith Hawkins 3. Alec Ashbaugh 4. Doug Meyer 5. Rhonda Ledford.)

The committee will hold a vote to determine who will serve as the Chairperson.

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to pay all part-time employees of the Bethel Township Fire Department double time for hours worked on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day, effective January 1, 2026. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes.

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to set the spending limit for Fire Chief James Snyder at \$5000.00 without prior approval of the trustees. Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to pay members of the Bethel Township Fire Department at the following rates, including two-hour of pay per regular training session and total hours worked for special training, as determined by the fire chief: Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes.

The BTFD raises for 2026 are a 3% increase.

Trainee: (\$11.25) \$11.60

FF Level 1 (\$13.75) \$14.20

FF Level 2 (\$15.50) \$16.00

EMT Basic (\$16.00) \$16.50

EMT-Advanced (\$17.75) \$18.30

EMT Basic FF-1 (\$17.25) \$17.80

EMT Basic FF-2 (\$18.25) \$18.80

EMT-Advanced FF-1 (\$18.75) \$19.35

EMT-Advanced FF-2 (\$20.00) \$20.60

Paramedic (\$19.00) \$19.60

Paramedic FF-1 (\$20.50) \$21.15

Paramedic FF-2 (\$22.75) \$23.45

Stipend rates remain the same as last year, and training pay is set at 2 hours per event or approved by the fire chief for pay

## **CEMETERY**

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to retain Donnelsville Cemetery fees for 2026, as follows:  
Second by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes

Open and close grave Weekdays \$750.00 B/4 2 pm. \$900.00 after 2 pm.

Weekends \$1,175.00 all day \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday \$1,500.00 all day

Cremation or infant burial Weekdays \$600.00 B/4 2 pm \$850.00 after 2 pm

Weekends \$700.00 B/4 2 pm \$850.00 after 2 pm

Holidays \$900.00 all day

And to retain the cost of burial sites for township residents as follows:

1 grave \$550.00)

2 graves or more (\$500.00) each

The cost of burial sites for non-residents: \$800.00 per grave.

Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ motions to charge \$1.00 per square inch for pouring cemetery foundations and \$100.00 for military markers. Second by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_. R/C:

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to set limits of \$500.00 for indigent burials of cremains, in addition to the lot, marker, and opening and closing of the grave. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes.

**PARKS:**

Trustee Coppess makes a motion to set the rental rate for the Bethel Township Community Center at \$350.00 for a one-day rental with the deposit to be \$500.00 with Monday through Thursday being offered to businesses for \$300.00 per day, with \$500.00 deposit. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to set the rental rate for the Donnelesville Community Center at \$250.00 for a one-day rental, with the deposit to be \$250.00, with Monday through Thursday being offered to businesses for \$150.00 per day, with a \$300.00 deposit. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to allow all Bethel Township employees and retirees to rent the BTCC & Donnelsville Cabin for ½ price, 4 times a year. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes

**INSURANCE:**

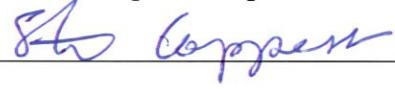
Trustees Ashbaugh makes a motion to provide and pay 100% for up to \$20,000.00 in a Companion life insurance policy to full-time employees and elected officials of Bethel Township. Second by Trustee Berner. R/C: All ayes Per Companion Insurance, we cannot offer more than \$20,000.00 per policy due to all townships must offer the same.

**ADJOURN:**

Trustee Ashbaugh makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. Second by Trustee Coppess. R/C: All ayes.



Alec R. Ashbaugh, Chairperson



Steven Coppess, Vice-Chairperson



Jason Berner, Member



Douglass Meyer, Fiscal Officer

Minutes taken and transcribed by Administrator Rhonda Ledford