

Minutes of Burton Township Trustees  
Held at the Burton Township Administration Building

Regular Meeting  
April 21st, 2025

Ken Burnett, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Ken Burnett and Dan Whiting were in attendance, together with Fiscal Officer, Katie O'Neill.

Attendees Included: Road Foreman - Jason Sutter, Zoning Inspector - Rick Gruber, Don Rice - Metzenbaum Superintendent, Tim McCaskey, Ken Zwolinski, Joe Walkos, Halley Moore, Pete McDonald.

Public Comment: Mr. Rice delivered a presentation on the Metzenbaum Center, highlighting the comprehensive services it provides to individuals in Geauga County with developmental disabilities. His presentation emphasized the Center's commitment to fostering a caring, inclusive community where individuals are fully integrated, supported, and empowered to achieve their goals. These services span the entire lifespan, beginning at birth and continuing through school years, adulthood, and into end-of-life care.

Residents of Colony Lane attended the meeting to inform the Trustees about a proposed zoning change within the Village of Burton. The proposal would rezone an existing residential parcel (currently zoned R-1) for M-2 Industrial use, allowing Ronyak Paving to access the site via Colony Lane. Joe Walkos, a Burton Township resident living on Colony Lane, explained that residents are actively appealing to the Village of Burton and are now seeking the support of the Burton Township Trustees. Mr. Walkos, along with fellow residents Halley Moore and Pete McDonald, expressed serious concerns about the potential impact of the zoning change. They believe it would not only decrease property values but also pose environmental risks to the surrounding area, particularly affecting the watershed.

Mr. Miller entered at 7:43 p.m.

Trustees discussed the timing of the culvert replacement at the south end of Colony Lane. The Trustees will consult with legal counsel to determine whether a letter of support can be drafted on behalf of the residents. They also plan to explore the possibility of implementing load limits on Township roads. Additionally, Mr. Burnett encouraged residents to research Ronyak Paving's long-term plans and seek clarity on the company's intended presence and operations over the next ten years.

Ken Zwolinski reported that NOAH completed its scheduled work on the State Routes over the past weekend. He noted that this fall, the organization plans to shift its focus to Township roads, following its efforts earlier in Spring 2024, which were concentrated on County roads. Mr. Zwolinski also informed the Trustees that during the NOAH luncheon on Saturday, representatives from Claridon Township made some negative remarks regarding Burton Township.

Minutes: The minutes from April 7th were approved as amended with a motion from Mr. Whiting. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

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Department Reports:

Fire Department - March Department Reports were emailed to the Trustees.

Roads - The Road Department reported that tree clearing on Osmond has been completed. Green Vision, formerly known as Hauser, was brought in to pick up the brush from the site. The remaining salt was emptied from the 2013 International truck, which was then prepared for brush clean-up duties. However, the truck's transmission failed and was subsequently repaired by Ascendance. The 2004 International was prepared for spring work.

In terms of ground maintenance, the department completed mowing of the park and cleared the walking trails, overflow areas, and general park grounds. Mr. Sutter noted that the Fire Department will be inspecting the fire extinguishers as part of the department's routine annual service.

Upcoming projects include continued ditch clean-up on Osmond, deberming, and ditch clean-outs scheduled for Shedd and Burton Heights. Drive pipe installations on Osmond.

Mr. Burnett noted that several trees at Memorial Cemetery need removal. Residents are permitted one load of firewood per year and are able to access the gas well drive. The Trustees discussed designating one day each month for residents to pick up firewood, during which Mr. Sutter would be available to assist and supervise the process.

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve Resolution #2025-4 to Participate in the Geauga County Engineer Resource Rental Program. Mr. Whiting seconded this motion.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve Resolution #2025-5 to Accept the Memorandum of Understanding Between Claridon Township for the Improvements of Forest Road, TR 0114. Mr. Whiting seconded this motion.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

The Bigelow Road Status was tabled for the next meeting.

Building & Grounds - The water and sewer application for the New Maintenance Garage has been completed and will be submitted to the Village of Burton along with the required payment. A letter will accompany the submission, reminding the Village of its existing easement on Township property. The interior floor has been poured, and the sewer and water hookups are scheduled to take place this week. The cement apron is also set to

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be poured within the same timeframe. Utility mains are currently being excavated, and work will soon begin on the interior connections. Additionally, steel beams for the mezzanine level are being installed.

Fiscal Officer - The Trustees reviewed the contact information for the GCTA Annual Membership and Subscription, noting that there are no changes for 2025.

Mr. Whiting made a motion to approve the 2025 cemetery mowing rates submitted by Proscap. The weekly rate increased by \$15, bringing the total to \$580 per week. Mr. Miller seconded this motion. Trustees would like mowing to begin immediately.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

The Trustees reviewed the levy information and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting

Old Business - None.

New Business: The Trustees reviewed quotes from Perfect Powerwash and Extreme Power Wash. Following the review, Mr. Whiting made a motion to approve the quote from Perfect Powerwash in the amount of \$1,585.24 for power washing the fences at Pleasant Hills and Williams Cemeteries. Mr. Miller seconded this motion.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

The Trustees reviewed quotes submitted by Radio Active Electronics. Following the review, Mr. Whiting made a motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$2,709.85 for the fire alarm takeover and the addition of a fire alarm system for the new maintenance garage, along with a total monthly service fee of \$83.00. Mr. Miller seconded this motion.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

Mr. Sutter reported a mechanical issue with the backhoe. The Trustees directed him to contact Steve, the mechanic, for assistance.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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Burton Township will host the October GCTA Meeting. The Trustees will explore the possibility of holding the event at School Yard Studios.


Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Burnett will be absent.

Warrants Issued: #12750 - 12759

Adjourn: With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Whiting.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Abstain
Burnett	X		
Whiting	X		
Miller	X		
Motion carried.			

  
Chairman

  
Fiscal Officer