
Dan Whiting, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members Dan Whiting, Jarred Miller were in attendance, together with Fiscal Officer, Katie O'Neill. Mr. Burnett entered at 7:03 p.m. after roll call.

Attendees included: Cemetery Sexton & Zoning Secretary – Elana Koh, Zoning Inspector – Rick Gruber, Road Superintendent – Jason Sutter, Ed Slusarski, Residents – Ken Zwolinski, Mike & Pat Hoskin, Village of Burton Resident – Kevin Freeman.

Minutes: The minutes from February 16th, 2026 were tabled.

Public Comment: Mr. Freeman attended the meeting to gather information regarding the Peckam Road Project, noting that he has been receiving many questions from Village residents about it. Mr. Sutter reported that he has received calls from two Village residents with concerns about the project. Mr. Burnett confirmed that neither the road nor ROW is located within the Village, making this project unique as there are a number of Village residents on the road. He explained that the project process will begin with engineers developing the design plans, adding that these will be shared with the Village one received. After the design plan the project will proceed to the bidding phase.

Mr. & Mrs. Hoskin, residents of Pond Road for 27 years, attended the meeting to discuss conditions on the road. They expressed appreciation for the road crew, describing them as phenomenal, but raised concerns about standing water in the ditches, lack of gravel, and resulting mud and dust. They asked what improvements could be made, including the possibility of chip and seal, and noted particular concern about the amount of water. Mr. Burnett asked whether the road could be re-ditched, but it was explained that there is currently no place for the water to drain. It was noted that additional gravel could be applied, but it would be most beneficial in a few weeks when conditions are drier, and it would be less likely to be pushed off by plowing. The current plan is to 1) place gravel on the road as soon as possible and 2) address a nearby beaver dam that may be contributing to the water issue. The residents also asked about fiber posts located in their yard, and the trustees explained the utility easement on each property and offered suggestions on how they might obtain further information. Mr. Whiting suggested that the City of Akron and the Park Conservancy could assist with addressing the beaver issue, noting that both entities have a stake in the area. He added that they may also be able to help with cleanup on the south side to improve drainage.

Mr. Zwolinski suggested contacting Soil and Water regarding the beaver issue as a possible nuisance concern. He also stated that the section of Hubbard Road from Jug Rd to Rt. 700 is “dead.” He asked the trustees whether they plan to improve the section from Jug Road to Rt. 168, adding that he would be upset with the Road Administrator if the answer is no, as he believes that section of the road still has some life left.

Department Reports:

Fire Department – There was no one in attendance. Trustees agreed to move this item to the Fiscal Officer Report.

Cemetery – Ms. Koh reported on cemetery activity for January and February. There were no foundation requests during this period. At Slitor Cemetery, there were two open and close services: one in January for Mr. R. Fabian and another on February 24th for Ms. M. Farmwald. No deeds, sales, transfers, or permissions were recorded. Mr. Koh is continuing to research pricing options to address the two broken headstones at Slitor Cemetery. Semeramno Monuments has offered to provide a 12' x 6" x 4" domestic USA granite stone, including name and years only, for \$460 each. Ms. Koh also continues working on updating the deeds to rename sections of Slitor Cemetery, with Newest A being changed to Section C and Newest B to Section D.

Zoning – Mr. Gruber reported issuing five zoning permits in February. These included one permit for a primary residence renovation/addition, one for the construction of a primary residence (3,284 square feet) along with a 1,200-square-foot agricultural barn, one exempt agricultural barn measuring 5,890 square feet, one roof-mounted solar panel installation, and one accessory building measuring 40 by 50 feet.

Mr. Gruber reported that he will follow up on a change to Mr. J. Byler's property on Hubbard. He also sent letters to Mr. S. Presti and Ms. D. Richards regarding a March 31st cleanup deadline and the removal of a sign from each of their respective properties. Mr. Gruber addressed the water extraction activity on the Village of Middlefield/BFG property, citing ORC 519 or 303, which states that mining is not a permitted use within township zoning. Based on his interpretation, the activity would require a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). He plans to contact the APA for guidance on how to handle this specific situation. Additionally, Mr. Gruber noted an area of concern at the bottom of the Route 87 hill involving pipes and firewood that he will follow up on.

Ms. Koh reported that the Zoning Commission canceled its February meeting due to illness. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 9th at 7:00 p.m. The Board of Zoning Appeals will consider Application #1713-26 on March 10th at 7:00 p.m. There is still an opening on the BZA, and no applications have been submitted to fill the position. The trustees reviewed possible attendance for a joint meeting on March 30th or April 27th and added April 22nd as a third date option. Attendance results will be reported at the next meeting.

Park Committee - No one was in attendance.

Roads - The Road Department reported that crews have been actively plowing and maintaining dirt roads, including placing gravel, back-dragging with a backhoe, and tailgating soft, mushy areas. Holes on Bigelow and N. Osmont Roads were patched using #411 material. Equipment maintenance has also been completed, with the zero-turn mower serviced, repairs made to the hotbox, and the backhoe receiving its 500-hour service, bringing its total to 2,500 hours. Additionally, the pickup truck's oil was changed, and Liberty Fabricating delivered the guardrails.

The Peckam Road Project was reviewed in detail. Preliminary plans include eliminating the guardrail by installing a pipe near Route 87, adding a catch basin on the east side, and extending the pipe on the west side. A catch basin will also be added to the cross pipe. There is an existing steel pipe under the road that is in good condition, and the trustees agreed it should be incorporated into the project. Mr. Sutter recommended that the basin work be sent out to bid as an add-on to the project. It was also noted that some village properties may require driveway pipes and a swale. Mr. Sutter requested that the trustees walk the project site for a full explanation and indicated that he plans to speak with affected residents.

Mr. Miller made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for the Township because disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the Township pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G)(6). Mr. Burnett seconded this motion.

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

The motion was carried and the Board along with the Fiscal Officer and Mr. Slusarski entered into executive session at 8:24 p.m.

At 9:35 p.m. the Board exited out of executive session and returned to the public portion of the meeting.

Building & Grounds – Trustees reviewed the estimate submitted by Pete Fekete, dba All Pipes Plumbing, for the work needed to rework the gas line with new regulators to the generator, to accommodate for the additional load for the new generator. Trustees requested an itemized breakdown of the estimates. Mr. Burnett requested a copy of the support and breakdown of the water and sewer tap-in fee.

Fiscal Officer –Ms. O’Neill met with ADP and was able to gain access to the large copier and the conference room TV. This solution is considered a short-term fix, and a more permanent option will be evaluated once the cybersecurity policy has been completed.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the 2026 Employee Healthcare Renewal Proposal as presented. Mr. Burnett seconded this motion.

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

Although the trustees approved the item, they expressed frustration with the 12% increase, noting that it appeared to be driven by factors beyond the company’s control.

Ms. O’Neill reported that the 2026 NOPEC Grant in the amount of \$4,350 has been awarded and the funds available for disbursement are \$4,350. The 2026 Go Green Grant Application has been approved. Ms. O’Neill will begin looking into Reserves for the 2027 Budget. Trustees agreed to have Mr. Miller sign the Letter of Support for the Fire Department in relation to COS Grants.

Old Business – The APA confirmed that at this time there is no general prohibition that additional levies can only go on in a general election.

New Business: The Countywide 9-1-1 Report of Revenue Expended (O.R.C. 128.06) was distributed to the Trustees.

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

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


Regular Meeting
March 2nd, 2026


Next Meeting: Monday, March 16th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Warrants: #13144 - #13171 were issued. #13154 & 13155 were voided.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m. by a motion from Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Burnett.

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


Chairman


Fiscal Officer