

UNION TOWNSHIP – WARREN COUNTY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Regular Meeting – July 21, 2025

CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Union Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson of the Board, Fred Vonderhaar on Monday, 7/21/25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Township Building. Trustees in attendance: Fred Vonderhaar & Rhonda Cockerham. Chris Koch was absent. The prayer was led by Mrs. Cockerham. Mr. Vonderhaar led everyone in The Pledge of Allegiance.

POLICE SUMMARY: Sergeant Adams mentioned the upcoming “National Night Out” to be held on 8/4/25 at Veterans Memorial Park in the City of South Lebanon. He also presented the overview of service calls from the Warren County Sheriff’s Office for January 2025 thru June 2025 (see attached).

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Mr. Sandlin said pipes were replaced on Turtlecreek & Bunnell Roads with blacktop to come. Mr. Sandlin spoke about the preparation of a baby exhumation at Deerfield Cemetery and Mr. Vonderhaar stated he would like to speak to Attorney Bruce McGary at the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office before it commences. Mr. Sandlin said they should have the mow trim equipment within the next few weeks.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Chief Napier presented a thermal imaging camera quote from Vogelpohl Fire Equipment in the amount of \$5,500 each. Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion to allow the purchase of two cameras for the total amount of \$11,000, seconded by Mrs. Cockerham. The motion was carried by all “yeas”.

FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT: The Fiscal Officer presented the bills to pay, fund status, cemetery deeds, etc. through July 21, 2025. All were signed and approved by Mr. Vonderhaar & Mrs. Cockerham.

NEW BUSINESS: Mrs. Cockerham made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Vonderhaar. The motion was carried by all “yeas”.

Mr. Vonderhaar said a property owner next to the Fellowship Cemetery is considering filling in some of his property and would like to include the cemetery. The property owner is supposed to present his plan to the Board, but did not attend this meeting. The Union Township Trustees were all in agreement on 7/7/25 that the right-of-way vegetation mowing in Union Township will be done as per the Ohio Revised Code 5571 (see attached). Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 7/7/25, seconded by Mrs. Cockerham. The motion was carried by all “yeas”.

Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion to go into executive session at 6:34 p.m. for the discussion of cost-of-living adjustments for Union Township employees, seconded by Mrs. Cockerham. Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion to return to the regular meeting at 6:41 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Cockerham. Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion to approve the following wage increases, seconded by Mrs. Cockerham. The motions were carried by all “yeas”.

Fire Chief - \$2/hour increase

Fire/EMT Personnel (Full & Part Time) - \$1/hour increase

Road Department Personnel - \$2/hour increase

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cockerham, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. The motion was carried by all “yeas”. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Overview

CFS Percentage



Call Types / Reports

In Ohio, township rights-of-way are primarily governed by [Ohio Revised Code \(ORC\) Chapter 5571](#). This chapter outlines the responsibilities of the board of township trustees regarding the control, maintenance, and repair of township roads. The board has the authority to manage these roads, including keeping them in good repair, and can choose to maintain them through various methods, such as designating a trustee or hiring a superintendent. They also have the right to trim or remove vegetation within the right-of-way that obstructs road maintenance or public travel.

Here's a breakdown of key aspects:

- **Control and Maintenance:**

The board of township trustees has control over township roads and is responsible for their maintenance and repair, except for those placed on a non-maintained status.

- **Maintenance Methods:**

They can manage maintenance through a designated trustee, dividing the township into road districts, or appointing a highway superintendent.

- **Right-of-Way Vegetation:**

Township trustees can trim or remove trees, shrubs, and other vegetation within the right-of-way as needed for road maintenance and public travel, without compensating abutting landowners for the removal.

- **Intersections:**

Ohio law ([ORC 4511.41](#)) dictates right-of-way rules at intersections, stating that the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right when both approach at approximately the same time.

- **Sidewalks:**

While not directly addressed in Chapter 5571, the maintenance of sidewalks is typically the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, according to the City of Hilliard [according to a City of Hilliard \(.gov\) document](#).

- **Excavations:**

ORC 5571.16 outlines regulations for excavations in township highways and rights-of-way, requiring notice to the township fiscal officer and potentially permits.