

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2026

Jim Downard, Vice Chairman called the Rushcreek Township Trustee Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to American Flag

Roll Call of the Board: Rick: Present Jim: Present

Lisa (fiscal): Present Will (fire): Present Richard (roads):

Jim asked that all cell phones be muted except for the Chief's.

VISITORS

Chad Ashbaugh, Charlie Hockman -RPC representative, United Way Representative, Sydney Strite and Mr. Freeland

Sydney noted free tax preparation would begin approximately the 3rd week of January for seniors and other that qualify. Basic qualifications are anyone over 60 years of age under \$67k. The folks assisting are IRS certified volunteers. Information can be found at <https://www.uwayfairfieldco.org/tax-prep/>.

Charlie Hockman expressed his appreciation to the Board for recognizing his contribution to RPC. Additionally, the RPC meeting yielded two items of note: Pickerington North High School re plat work. Violet Township – proposed 142 condominiums on Blacklick Eastern Road, request water from Fairfield Utilities. The building is proposed by EC New Vision on 62 acres.

Mr. Freeland was present to discuss the camper on Jerusalem Road after receiving letters and a visit from Trustee Moyer. He stated was told by multiple agencies that he was not able to build on the property due to its size. He is required to remain at the Jerusalem Road address for a period of at least one year. As an alternative he purchased a camper and placed it on the property. He subsequently was

told he was not able to reside in a camper as a permanent residence. He stated he had spoken to several county agencies and was advised he could not build because the parcel did not meet the acreage or road frontage requirements. The Board advised he could request a conditional use permit for the camper through the Zoning Board of Appeals and he was provided with the form to make the request. The Board was not clear how an existing parcel could be declined a permit and Mr. Freeland had not

been in contact with the Township other than the issue regarding the camper with Trustee Moyer.

Mr. Freeland repeated several conversations he had with County Offices and the price of the camper he purchased was \$100,000.00. Charlie Hockman as a member of the BZA stated the Board would be willing to consider Mr. Freeland request for conditional use when he applies. Mr. Freeland stated the parcel has 110 feet of road frontage. Mr. Freeland indicated to the Board that through his research Rushcreek Township is one of only 8 Zoned Townships in Ohio that prevents campers as a residence. He indicated prior to purchasing the camper he was residing in the basement of the adjoining parcel owned by his parents. A resulting flooded basement forced him to seek alternative housing solutions. The

Board reiterated they cannot give him permission and the Zoning Board of Appeals through his conditional use application would have to make that decision. This is a summary of the conversation.

Appoint Trustee Position

Trustee Jim Downard moved to appoint Chad M. Ashbaugh as Trustee of Rushcreek Township to the vacant seat. Trustee Moyer 2nd the motion.

Chad Ashbaugh accepts the appointment of Trustee until the next available election.

Roll Call: Jim: Aye Rick : Aye

Oath of Office for Chad Ashbaugh administered by Trustee Downard

Organizational Section

Jim Downard, opened the floor for the reorganization of Rushcreek Township Board for 2026.

Nominations for the position of Chairman of Rushcreek Township for 2026.

Trustee Moyer nominated Trustee Ashbaugh for the position of Chairman of Rushcreek Township Board for 2026. Trustee Ashbaugh agreed to accept the appointment. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Downard moved to close the nominations and appoint Trustee Ashbaugh as the Chairman of the Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees for 2026.

Roll Call: Chad : Aye Jim: Aye Rick: Aye

Trustee Ashbaugh opened the floor for nominations for the positions **of Vice Chairman of Rushcreek Township Board** for the 2026. Trustee Moyer nominated Trustee Downard for the position of Vice Chairman of the Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees for 2026. Trustee Downard agreed to accept the appointment. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Ashbaugh moved to close the nomination and appoint Trustee Downard as the Vice Chairman of the Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees for 2026.

Roll Call: Chad : Aye Jim: Aye Rick: Aye

The floor was turned over to Chairman Trustee Ashbaugh to proceed with the business.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the December 31, 2025 special meeting have been distributed for review prior to the meeting, and are being presented for approval.

Motion to accept: Trustee Downard **Second:** Trustee Moyer

Roll Call: Chad: Aye Rick: Aye Jim: Aye

Chad reminded everyone that the minutes are available upon request at the Fiscal Officer's office and the website.

The delegation of duties for 2026 were presented as follows:

There are approximately 39 miles of roads in Rushcreek Township that, in the past, have been divided into thirds. The Trustees agreed to the road assignments as follows:

Trustee Downard	North
Trustee Ashbaugh	South
Trustee Moyer	East/West

Trustee Moyer will be the Trustee overseeing the Fire Department/Zoning for 2026 and will be paid 90% from 2191-220-111 except for 10% from the General Fund for township meetings.

Trustee Ashbaugh will be the Trustee overseeing the Road Department for 2026 and will be paid 90% from 2192-330-111 except for 10% from the General Fund for township meetings.

Trustee Downard will be the Trustee overseeing the Administration for 2026 and paid as follows; 80% from General Fund 1000-110-111; 10% from 2192-330-111; and 10% from 2191-220-111.

The Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer will be the members of the Township Audit Committee. The Fiscal Officer reminds the Trustees that since they chose salary, it is their responsibility to make sure that their time reflects the proper funds to satisfactorily pass the State Audit.

The Health Department District Advisory Council meets quarterly or on a as needed basis. Trustee Downard will serve as the representative with Trustee Ashbaugh serving as the alternate.

The Fairfield County EMA meets on an “as needed” basis. Trustee Moyer will serve as the representative with Trustee Downard serving as the alternate.

Zoning Commission term expires 2030 – Bruce Duck **Resolution 2026-6**
Zoning Board of Appeals term expires 2030 – Clark Roberts **Resolution 2026-5**
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate term expires 2030 – Bill Myers Resolution 2026-7

Presented Resolution **2026-1** Noxious Weed Policy that Rushcreek Township Trustees have adopted as set forth in Section 5579.05. 5579.06 and 5579.07 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Presented Resolution **2026-2** 2023 Holiday Schedule
Presented Resolution **2026-3** GAAP accounting rules and opinion.
Presented Resolution **2026-4** Capital Fund (4901).

FINANCIAL SECTION

Warrants # 44162 through 44173 and EFT 1-2025 through 22-2025 in the amount of \$40,142.83

December 2025 Bank Reconciliation

2025 End of Year Certificate

Motion to accept and pay: Trustee Downard Second: Trustee Moyer

Roll Call: Chad **AYE** Jim **AYE** Rick **AYE**

Fiscal Office

W2 & 1099 distributed/mailed. Please make sure all employees with overtime review their W2 against the overtime summary sheet provided to them in December. Will submit to SSA/IRS next week.

2026 Vacation and personal time data entered based on employee signatures from leave reports in December. Employees should verify on their upcoming paycheck.

Wage increases for 2026 were completed for all active personnel based on 12/31/2025 special meeting minutes. 2% for Fire both full and part time. 5% for Road department personnel, 10% for Zoning Inspector. \$5.00 per meeting increase for Zoning Commission and Board of Appeals members and Regional Planning representative. All employees should review their upcoming check to verify their increase is in place.

Will complete Year End process early next week and close 2025 financials records and submit to the State of Ohio and request new certificate from County Auditor.

Plan to vote on permanent appropriations at the February 4th regular meeting.

Waiting on County to provide updated valuation numbers to complete the VFDF certification.

Fire

Received bill from Aladtec - will need to contact Rep to verify subscription cancelled

Medicount fee review to be completed by the end of January for any changes effective for March 2026

**2025 Overall Runs 637 . 471 were EMS related or 73 % of the run total, 166 were FIRE/MVA related.
2025 Mutual Aid runs were 145 given, received 61. 22 % of total runs.**

2024 Comparison: 2024 Overall Runs 589 . 456 were EMS related resulting in 244 transports or 77% of the run total, 133 were FIRE/MVA related. 2024 Mutual Aid runs were 136 given, received 34. 25 % of total runs

Run total increase of 48. Fire and MVA making up 33 of the 48 increases in runs for the year

Fire and EMS runs 12/16/2025 through 12/31/2025.

23- EMS		13- transports
2- Fire		
3- MVA		
8-Mutual Aid given		0- Mutual Aid received

Mutual Aid Breakdown 12/16/2025 through 12/31/2025

	Given	Received
Berne Township	0	<u>0</u>
Junction	2	
Marion	1	<u>0</u>
Lancaster	0	<u>0</u>
Pleasant	1	<u>0</u>
Richland	1	<u>1</u>
Misc. (Somerset, Hopewell, Straitsville, New Lex	3	<u>0</u>
Air Ambulance	0	<u>0</u>

2025 Mutual Aid Totals

Berne Township	26	8
Junction City/Jackson Twp	44	1
Marion	10	0
Lancaster	4	<u>4</u>
Pleasant	5	14
Richland	24	31
Misc. (Somerset, Hopewell, Straitsville, New Lex	14	<u>3</u>

Zoning

Received well and septic permits for Stalford- 715 Zion Road

2nd Letter to Welsh on SR 37 Accessory Building without permit

Letter to Householder, Conditional Use permit for photography business on Thomas Road

3rd Letter Mitchell, West Point Road regarding building and agriculture use on 1.67 acres

Freeland on Jerusalem Road living in camper. Trustee Moyer has had a in person visit. Received a neighbor complaint regarding now adding a deck.

Trustee Moyer stated he has not received any written complaint but has been contacted about the condition of property at 10020 Lancaster New Lexington Road. He stated the property has multiple cars, trucks and other material .

Road Department

Tree removal from several roads

Picked up discarded toilet from Rutter Hill Road
Equipment Maintenance
Treated Roads as needed

Motion Trustee Ashbaugh to obtain bids for the purchase of a skid steer **Second:** Trustee Downard
Discussion: Trustee Moyer asked if we would be considering Bob Cat equipment. Trustee Ashbaugh responded we would get quotes and compare but we have a Bob Cat mini and should consider.

Roll Call: Chad AYE Jim AYE Rick AYE

Upcoming Stone bid:

The Rushcreek Township Trustees are accepting sealed bids for various sizes & amounts of stone delivered to 213 Marietta St., Bremen, OH. Stone & trucking priced separately. Contract valid through February 27, 2027. Bids must include current BWC certification, unless owner/operator, and proof of insurance. Bid opening will be held February 18, 2026 at 7pm. Inquiries: 740-569-7181 Ext. #11.

Rushcreek Township Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Administration

Health Insurance quotes, Allied has quoted \$1,165.22 per month to maintain the same plan. That is a 6.73% increase based on 7 employees. All employees have been asked to fill out FORMFIRE to get further comparison rates. We have been declined by Aetna-- Decline; UHC much higher rates: MMO way behind not able to get to it for Feb 1. Form Fire will get potential quotes from MMO and Anthem(Blue Cross).

If we stay with Allied MWG(AmFirst) premium saver rates to reduce the deductible will remain at \$50.06. This reduces the deductible by \$2500.00 to \$1000.00.

Our agent is continuing to get quotes based on the Form Fire information entered by employees. All quotes should be available prior to our February 1 renewal. If we sign the Allied paperwork and another more viable option presents, we can certainly switch.

Companion Life Insurance Rates stay the same. Individual employee paid Vision plan premium remains the same. Dental is an increase from \$44.93 to \$53.47. Trustee Moyer will verify with employee that has dental coverage if he wishes to continue at those rates.

Trustee Downard has been in communication with Prosecutor's office regarding the Vyas property on Mt. Zwingli. They advised us to issue a stop work order based on the timeline and information Jim provided.

Zoning Inspector prepared the order prior to the meeting this evening and Trustee Moyer will personally post the order this evening. As a part of this process Trustee Downard spoke with the Fairfield County Health Department to understand how a permit(s) could have been issued for a 2nd home on the same parcel. They indicated they were provided different information and certainly would not have issued the permit knowing it did not meet the guidelines of separate parcel and would have caught this prior to the final inspection. The Board agreed that an increase in communication with our County Partners may help avoid these situations in the future and benefit both the County and Township if we share on monthly spreadsheet that is provided to the County Auditor's office and possibly has a couple of items for the Department of Health.

Further Business

Girl Scout Troop 7847 is looking for a meeting place. Fawn Printz is asking about local availability. Chief indicated we have a 4H group and one other that meet at the Department. We will provide the Troop with the Chief and Asst. Chief contact information for scheduling.

Motion: Trustee Ashbaugh to engage Kelly Architectural Services, Zanesville Ohio to design possible new office facility for the Township. Regular Purchase order to be issued from the General Fund in the amount of \$5000.00. Discussion: A basic design and size will need to be provided. **Second:** Trustee Moyer. **Roll Call:** Chad AYE Jim AYE Rick AYE

Trustee Ashbaugh hearing no further business

Motion to Adjourn: Trustee Ashbaugh

Adjournment time: 8:22 p.m.

Chad Ashbaugh

R Moyer

Jim Deed