

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2026

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee's Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on April 14, 2026. Trustee Hank Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Kristi Blazek-Hack and Hank Gibson-Lampley, Fire Chief Abbie Buday, Road Superintendent Ray Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer Jon Summers. Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman and Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo were absent. In the audience was Lt. Harry Muir from the PC Sheriff's Department.

AUDIENCE

Lt. Muir gave a summary of the calls for the Sheriff's Department in the township for the first three months of the new year. There was a total of 1,137 calls. 70 calls resulted in criminal cases, 5 domestic violence, 13 were thefts. Hank asked him what residents should be watching out for right now. Harry said with weather getting nicer and schools soon to be letting out, there is usually an uptick in cars getting broken into, traffic accidents increase, and lately there have been more scam calls. He said the Sheriff Dept will never call telling you that you owe money for whatever and try to collect over the phone. If you get those calls, hang up, look for the proper phone number and call the office to check it out.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approval of the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 31, 2026 was tabled until the next meeting.

Hank announced the correspondence book was available in the Fiscal Office for public viewing during normal business hours.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to approve payroll warrants for April 17, 2026, in the amount of \$81,243.19 and other warrants in the amount of \$63,817.82 with warrants over \$1,000.00 being read aloud for approval. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS **TRUSTEES**

Vince said he and Ray had a virtual meeting last Tuesday regarding the Chinn sewer project. He updated them about the upcoming spring cleanup and First Aid classes.

Hank said he spoke with Frank Hairston and told him the township will not be putting dumpsters in any of the neighborhoods this year for the spring cleanup.

Kristi mentioned the 250th Celebration again. They were wondering if the Fire Dept. was going to have anyone there? Abbie said she wouldn't personally be able to make that date, but we could probably get some of our Dept over there. Kristi said the celebration will be from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

On April 30, 2026 there is going to be a Heritage Tree Dedication hosted by the Portage County Historical Society from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at 6549 N. Chestnut St.

FISCAL OFFICER

Gail was absent and Jon reported the following:

We are still waiting to hear back from DHS about the .gov domain name.

We received the rollback funds in the amount of \$73,469.81 in addition to the 1st half of the 2025 manufactured home settlement of \$55,333.65. Gail has moved \$675,000 from Chase to Star Ohio.

Payroll was a bit higher this time because of the large payout of \$22,694.47 of accrued benefits to our latest retiree.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Ray was present and reported the following:

The township sign came in. The road crew will be installing it later this week.

New culvert pipes were installed at Glenwood and Highland and Ferndale and Highland. The next one to be installed will be Gladys and Highland.

The brush chipping has begun early this year due to an enormous amount of brush piles being put by the road already.

Ray reminded everyone about the spring cleanup being on April 25, 2026 between 8:00 am and noon.

Ray asked to have an ad run for a part time worker for the summer.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to authorize the advertising of a part time road crew position on Indeed.com. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Gail has put the POs for the Road Crew uniform allowance on the books, so the road crew will be purchasing their clothing and boots and will be turning in the receipts shortly.

Ray requested the purchase of the safety shirts for the year.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to authorize the purchase of 35 safety shirts from Villager Business Solutions at the cost of \$480.00. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

The ODOT salt contract is ready for the trustees to review. Ray said he will be purchasing about 800 tons.

RES #26-054 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to authorize and approve the participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contract awarded in 2026 and be bound to the terms specified within the said contract. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

A complaint has been received and he claims that a pot hole on Dawley Rd has caused damage to his vehicle so extensive that it totaled his vehicle. He wants the township to reimburse him. Ray said it supposedly happened at the beginning of March and the vehicle's frame is all rusted out. Roads at that point were still being snow plowed. Ray said there were no pot holes big enough to cause the damage on an average vehicle. The trustees said to pass the complaint on to the attorney to handle.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There was one burial, two cremations and one niche sale in the past two weeks.

Mike Soboro continues to work on the tree trimming. He is going to have to remove two of the trees completely and grind the stumps.

Yardworks began their mowing season at the cemetery.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Abbie Buday was present and reported the following:

Abbie reviewed the March 2026 monthly activity report.

Firefighter Sterrett submitted her resignation.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to accept the resignation of part time firefighter Gwendolyn Sterrett effective immediately. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Abbie requested to hire Joshua Morris as part time firefighter/medic to fill the part time roster.

RES #26-055 A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to hire Joshua Morris as part time Firefighter/Medic at a rate determined by CBA and contingent upon successful passage of physical, background and drug tests. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

The Captain's test is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2026. The test will be 70% assessment center and 30% written. Assessors will be Chief Matheny, Captain Collins, Chief Kelly, Chief Buday and Chief Petruzzi.

The Fire Behavior Lab will be coming to Ravenna Township April 22 – 24, 2026. It was initially intended for Ravenna City but they cancelled. This is booked a year in advanced, and it is free through the State Fire Marshal/OFA Live Fire Training, so we are lucky to have the opportunity to have it come here. Burns will be each day at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. The burnt material will be scooped into the parking lot and will be disposed of with the community clean up dumpsters.

Lt. Crevar would like to attend the Swift Water Rescue training through Dive Rescue International. It costs \$1,000 and is partially eligible for reimbursement (\$250) through a grant. Then he would like to join the Portage County Water Rescue Team.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve sending Lt. Crevar to the Swift Water Rescue training through Dive Rescue Int'l at a cost of \$1,000.00. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve Lt. Crevar joining the Portage County Water Rescue Team, along with Firefighters Swain and Frank, upon successful completion of his Swift Water Rescue training. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Caden Kimberlin was not making payments towards his education repayment plan and was referred to our attorney. Caden has dropped off a payment over the weekend and doesn't want to go to collections. He is requesting to extend his repayment plan from October 1, 2027 to December 1, 2027.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve extending Caden Kimberlin's education plan two (2) months, from October 1, 2027 to December 1, 2027 with the understanding that any further missed payments will automatically send him to collections. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Firefighter Sterrett attended the Crash Course FIERCE in November at the cost of \$375 with the understanding that if she left within a year of completion of the training, she would be liable of repayment of the training. Now that she has resigned, do the trustees want to collect?

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to grant Gwen Sterrett a 6 month period (until October 18, 2026) to repay the \$375.00 cost of the Crash Course FIERCE that she attended in November 2025. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS **TRUSTEES**

Vince said there was an interesting and very educational article regarding data centers in Cleveland.com. Large data centers can use the same amount of electricity that would power one million homes. The trustees discussed the implications of data centers being built in the township and decided to put a moratorium on them as the township can investigate the situation further.

RES #26-056 A motion by Kristi Blazek-Hack, seconded by Vince Coia to adopt the following resolution :

WHEREAS, Data Centers have become a controversial topic in Ohio and the effects on local political subdivisions remain to be seen. Studies must be done on the impact of the health, safety, utilities, and infrastructure of our community; and

WHEREAS, the studies being conducted to provide more comprehensive information on this matter require sufficient time to be completed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by Ravenna Township Board of Trustees, Portage County, Ohio to place a six (6) month moratorium on the operation/location of any new Data Center in Ravenna Township to allow time to assess Data Center impacts on health, safety, utilities and infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Ravenna Township Board of Trustees to consider adding a dedicated section on Data Centers to the Ravenna Township Zoning Code during the moratorium to fully and completely address the issue.

R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Kristi said she spoke to someone from the Skeels neighborhood who had only good things to say about Ray and how helpful he is. They also mentioned that the streetlights in that neighborhood are very dim and would like to see it better lit.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES #26-057 A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve the PO's and BC's listed below

Item	PO#	Amount	Vendor	Purpose	Fund
A	231-2026	\$132.00	UH Corp Health	Physical and drug testing	General
B	232-2026	\$137.92	Akron Bearing	Parts	Road
C	233-2026	\$1,500.00	UH Corp Health	Physical and drug testing	Fire
D	234-2026	\$600.00	Ray Taylor	Uniform allowance	Road
E	235-2026	\$600.00	Hunter Grimes	Uniform allowance	Road

F	236-2026	\$600.00	Dale Monreal	Uniform allowance	Road
G	237-2026	\$600.00	Doug Maggard	Uniform allowance	Road
H	238-2026	\$500.00	Villager Business Solutions	Safety shirts	Road
I	239-2026	\$160.00	Blue Line Ltd	Uniforms – Ohler	Fire
J	240-2026	\$190.00	Chase Card	Uniforms – Ohler	Fire
K	241-2026	\$100.00	Witmer Public Safety	Uniforms – Ohler	Fire
L	242-2026	\$2,100.00	Chase Card	Training – Swain/Crevar swift water	Fires

R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Financial reports were distributed in excel format to the department heads and Trustees.

Pursuant to R.C 121.22(g) Executive Session was requested for the purpose of discussing employee performance.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to suspend the Regular session at 8:20 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to enter Executive session at 8:20 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Attendance: Vince Coia, Kristi Blazek-Hack, Hank Gibson-Lampley, Jon Summers.

Returned to open session at 9:01 pm.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to accept the resignation of Lori Rotondo as Zoning Inspector effective April 28, 2026 after she has completed her two week notice. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

RES #26-058 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to authorize the dismissal of case #2026CV00284, 6816 Cleveland Rd as the property owner has removed the junk vehicles and shipping container and is in compliance. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE