

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 23, 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 June 23, 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, Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman, Acting Zoning Inspector Jim DiPaola, and Road Superintendent Ray Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer Jon Summers, Jamie McCoy, Hunter Grimes. Fire Chief Abbie Buday was absent. Jen Davis and Dennis West were in the audience.

AUDIENCE

Jen Davis, from NDS, made an appeal to have the interest rates on the loans of the remaining homes in their program changed to 0% interest. She is going around to all the jurisdictions that are in the program with this request. She explained the background of how Portage Housing 1,2 & 3 were formed and started and obtained the loans. The loans accrue interest twice a year on the whole balances with an interest rates at 6%. Starting in 2015, the homes were allowed to start to be sold to tenants. She said with state of the economy as it is, the tenants are having a hard time and she wanted to make sure they would still be able to opt to purchase the homes they are in. The trustees said they would discuss it and get back with her.

Dennis West, the Economic Developer, gave his update of current projects to the trustees. In the northern part of the township, things are waiting on ODOT's determination of what will be permitted around the SR 44 and SR 14 area. Many of the developers are avoiding the area because ODOT won't allow left turn lanes onto SR14. The topic of data centers came up and Kristi questioned Dennis on his opinions of them, whether he would be trying to bring them into the area if the people of the township didn't want them? He said the question was basically pointless because the township didn't have large enough open acreage spaces to interest the developers. He did say they don't use the volume of water everyone is saying, and they bring in other businesses wherever they are established.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2026 was tabled.

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

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to approve payroll warrants for June 26, 2026, in the amount of \$57,864.74 and other warrants in the amount of \$69,599.14 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.

BID OPENINGS

Bids were opened for the Forest Ridge Paving Project with the results as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Barbicas Construction | \$196,618.00 | |
| 2) Geauga Highway | \$178,383.49 | |
| 3) Karvo Companies | \$224,723.90 | |
| 4) Perrin Asphalt Co | \$173,044.00 | (apparent low bidder) |
| 5) Phillips Paving | \$185,264.00 | |

6) Ronyak Paving \$196,724.00

Bids were opened for the Chip & Seal Project with results as follows:

1) Geauga Highway	\$49,254.78	
2) Melway Paving Co	\$46,754.15	
3) Ronyak Paving	\$45,983.43	(apparent low bidder)

Both sets of bids will be sent to the County Engineers for review.

OLD BUSINESS

TRUSTEES

RES #26-092 A motion by Kristi Blazek-Hack, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to authorize a partial lien release for 523 Harris, Kent OH 44240 which is part of the Portage Housing II project so that the property can be sold as requested by NDS. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

The trustees discussed the roof bid from the last meeting.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to reject the bid on the roofing repair submitted at the last meeting since there was only a single bid and it was much more than expected. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Vince said he and Ray attended the latest sewer project meeting.

Kristi said Amy Marsh accepted the position of Zoning Secretary and will be starting July 7th.

Vince had a request from the Red Cross to set the next blood drives dates as September 11th and December 4th. Schedules were checked and nobody had any conflicts with the request. Vince said he would let the Red Cross know.

FISCAL OFFICER

Gail was present and reported the following:

Gail reviewed issues and developments with the server. Last Friday it crashed 4 times and the technician finally determined the causes. He removed one of the memory sticks which stabilized the system, but the mother board and certain slots on it are nearly to the point of failure. A special meeting was held with the decision to move forward with serverless migration to SharePoint. CTMS has begun the work with Gail and Abbie as the points of contact on the township's side. The new system should be in place early July.

Gail said they need to set the date for the Budget Hearing.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to set the date for the Budget Hearing as July 7, 2026 at 6:30 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

The TIF has been delivered to the County Commissioners. There will be a meeting held on July 9, 2026 at 9:00.

The County Treasurer has sent out an email explaining that the tax revenue will be delayed but he cannot provide us with a due date for payment or a funding date for the second tax funding to jurisdictions.

The trustees circled back to the discussion regarding the NDS request for a change of interest rates. They were not in favor of reducing the interest rate to 0%, but thought 2% or 3 % might be acceptable. They were sensitive to the troubles of people being able to afford their mortgages, but felt a duty to make sure the people's money they've been entrusted with was earning a certain return. In order to review a full picture, Gail felt it important to request audited financial statements and inquire about the private investors that were in the project when it first started and what they are being asked to forgive if anything.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Ray was present and reported the following:

The storm on June 15, 2026 caused a tree to snap and was dangling over the road near power lines. Ray had to call in Mike Saboro to cut that one out.

A culvert pipe collapsed on Skeels St, so the crew had to replace 40 feet of 15" pipe there. They also replace culverts on Harding St as well.

The tracks on the mini need replaced. Ray would like to change from metal tracks to rubber ones to help from tearing up the roads.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to authorize Ray to replace the tracks on the Skid steer with rubber tracks from Leppo at the cost not to exceed \$8,000.00. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Our new part-timer has put in a 2 week notice, his last day being June 25, 2026.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to accept the resignation from Logan Klonaris effective June 25, 2026. 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 authorize advertising for a new part-time road worker position on Indeed. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There was one burial and 4 lot sales in the past two weeks.

Ray had the contract for the purchase of the two new columbariums that were approved at the last meeting. Portage Marble will be providing 2 new benches free of charge for placement near the new columbariums.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Jim DiPaola was present and reported the following:

Jim reviewed the permits issued, violation letters sent and case compliances. The homeowner at 6077 Lakewood has removed all extra accessory structures.

The next Zoning Commission meeting will be held on July 1, 2026 and the BZA will be meeting July 8th for two hearings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Abbie Buday was absent and Hank reported the following:

Firefighter Varner's medic school invoice came as a one lump price instead of in phases as expected. Cleveland Clinic has billed us \$6,600.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize paying Cleveland Clinic \$6,600.00 in one payment for Firefighter Varner's medic classes. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Ravenna Moose has sent another generous donation in the amount of \$4,282.17.

A motion by Kristi Blazek-Hack, seconded by Vince Coia to accept the kind donation of \$4,282.17 from the Ravenna Order of the Moose #1234 for the fire department. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Abbie is requesting a PO in the amount of \$1,000.00 for general supplies.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to authorize Abbie to purchase \$1,000.00 in general supplies on the credit card. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

HKG discovered multiple old and off-brand lights that aren't working installed on the chief's vehicle while they were installing the new command console. They've given a quote for fixing the situation.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Kristi Blazek-Hack to approve the repair costs in the amount of \$1,350.00 by HKG on Unit #2400. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

Abbie requests executive session to discuss employment compensation and investigation of charges.

NEW BUSINESS

TRUSTEES

RES #26-093 A motion by Kristi Blazek-Hack, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to appoint Jim DiPaola as Regional Planning alternate if Kristi is unable to attend. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES #26-094 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	324-2026	\$311.41	Brandon Heating	Emerg a/c repair fire dept	General
B	325-2026	\$2,400.00	CTMS	IT services	Fire
C	327-2026	\$1,615.00	ProAir Midwest	Service agreement SCBA	Fire
D	328-2026	\$120.00	ProAir Midwest	Repairs	Fire
E	329-2026	\$8,000.00	Leppo	Skid steer tracks	Road
F	330-2026	\$1,000.00	Chase card	Supplies	Fire
G	331-2026	\$364.00	H&W Door Repair	Fire bay repair from last year	General
H	332-2026	\$2,276.60	Sansio	EMS history reports	Fire
I	333-2026	\$1,350.00	HKG	Lights on 2400	Fire

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.

RES #26-095 A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve the Budgetary changes as follows for Revenue :

Revenue Budget Changes				
Fund #	Fund Name	From	To	Increase (Decrease)
1000	General	\$745,398.00	\$875,398.00	\$130,000.00
2111	Fire	\$1,154,232.00	\$1,184,232.00	\$30,000.00
2281	EMS	\$269,500.00	\$299,500.00	\$30,000.00

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

Gail reviewed budgetary information and discussed the needs for an EMS levy to put on the November ballot. There was considerable discussion. The 2.0 mill EMS levy expires this year. It is only collecting at 1.1 mill effective rate. Additionally, the 6.1 mill levy that was approved two years ago was unexpectedly reduced by the state auditor so we are only collecting on it at 4.5 mill for a new levy. We have lost over \$300,000 each year on that levy and have delayed certain needs of the department until we are able to make up for that difference and have an operating surplus to save toward a new ambulance. The lead time for purchasing an ambulance could be two years so we need to be placing an order at the earliest opportunity once a new levy passes. The lead time for an engine is at least the same time. The costs of a new ambulance and a new engine have increased significantly since 2020 and there is a need for increased revenue to pay for the equipment and firefighters. Under current law, we are unable to place a replacement levy on the ballot so this one must be for an additional levy since it is more than a replacement of the 2.0 EMS levy currently in place and set to expire in 2026.

Gail requested executive session to discuss investigation of charges, information required to be kept private due to HIPAA, employee compensation and employment.

Pursuant to R.C 121.22(g) Executive Session was requested for the purpose of discussing investigation of charges, information required to be kept private due to HIPAA, employee compensation and employment.

A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to suspend the Regular session at 9:50 pm. 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 enter Executive session at 9:50 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, Gail Pittman.

Returned to open session at 10:40 pm.

RES #26-096 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson-Lampley to request the Portage County Prosecutor's Office draft resolutions to place an additional 4.5 mil levy on the ballot for November 2026 for EMS. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

A motion by Kristi Blazek-Hack, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize involuntary leave of absence for Ben Dyer effective June 29, 2026 pursuant to CBA R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

RES #26-097 A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve and accept the Fire Chief overtime policy with a maximum of 12 shifts in 12 months effective immediately. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

RES #26-098 A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve and accept the MOU with the full time union regarding the Fire Chief overtime policy. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

RES #26-099 A motion by Hank Gibson-Lampley, seconded by Vince Coia to approve and accept the Fire Chief employment agreement effective immediately with semiannual reviews. 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 10:44 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mrs. Blazek-Hack, yes; Mr. Gibson-Lampley, yes. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE