

SWANTON TOWNSHIP
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF: REGULAR MEETING
HELD: MAY 13, 2025

Chairman Mike Nowicki called the May 13th Regular Meeting of the Swanton Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:30 PM.

Roll Call:

Trustee Mike Nowicki	- Present
Trustee Kyle McPherson	- Present
Trustee Jeff Michael	- Present
Fiscal Officer Peggy Michael	- Present

Visitors Present: 6

Executive Session

Motion by Jeff Michael to go into executive session at 7:35 PM to Conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action; pursuant to ORC § 121.22(G)(3). Seconded by Kyle McPherson. Roll Call: Jeff Michael, yes; Kyle McPherson, yes; Mike Nowicki, yes. Motion Carried. **Resolution 37-2025.**

Returned from Executive Session at 9:00 PM. No action or voting took place while in Executive Session.

Business of the Fiscal Officer

Motion by Kyle McPherson to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 Swanton Township Trustee Regular Meeting. Seconded by Jeff Michael. Roll Call: Kyle McPherson, yes; Jeff Michael, yes; Mike Nowicki, yes. Motion Carried. **Resolution 38-2025.**

Motion by Kyle McPherson to pay the bills and sign the payment report. Seconded by Jeff Michael. Roll Call: Kyle McPherson, yes; Jeff Michael, yes; Mike Nowicki, yes. Motion Carried. **Resolution 39-2025.**

Fiscal Officer Peggy Michael entered the correspondence into the Record.

Zoning Report

1. Trustee Mike Nowicki gave the Zoning Report.

Roads Report

1. Trustee Jeff Michael gave the Roads report.

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Cemetery Report

1. Trustee Kyle McPherson gave the Cemetery report.

Old Business

1. Resolution Objecting to the Annexation Petition Number 2025-1, annexing a portion of Swanton Township to the Village of Swanton (168.52+ acres of land)

Trustee Jeff Michael reported the County Commissioners have not indicated if or when they will consider the petition.

New Business - None

1. Swan Creek Watershed

The Elected Officials met with the Lucas County Engineer to discuss the Swan Creek Watershed and the assessments. They discussed what options are available to help the large property owners.

The Engineer does not know the cost of the project and is basing the assessments on a calculation. The Engineer also is using data from the Lucas County AREIS, that admittedly is not accurate. He also stated it is up to the property owner to appeal and prove the data is incorrect, rather than the Engineer using accurate data.

The Lucas County Engineer stated he couldn't do this project and assessment if the Village of Whitehouse didn't submit a petition requesting the Engineer to clean the ditches and assess all costs of engineering, construction, and maintenance to the residents.

Former Village of Whitehouse Council member Mindy Curry was in attendance and said she voted for it because the Village of Whitehouse wanted their ditches cleaned but couldn't, so they petitioned to have Lucas County residents assessed to have the ditches cleaned on the petition.

The former Village of Whitehouse Council member then emailed the Township saying "I'm confused about the Swan Creek Watershed ditch improvement notice we received..". "I thought it might have something to do with the drains in the front yard...". "I'm just curious why some of the ditches in Swanton Township are not part of the ditch improvement/Swan Creek Watershed?" "Just trying to figure out what's going on with the ditches and Swan Creek Watershed." Former Council member Curry obviously did not know what she voted for and the burden she placed on the residents.

It was discussed that the Village of Whitehouse Council voted to initiate the County-wide petition, causing the largest tax increase for many residents. Once the assessments have been approved by the County, they will remain on indefinitely.

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Swanton Township announced they have retained legal counsel to investigate the legalities of the petition, the way the assessments were calculated, and if there is any recourse since Fulton and Henry Counties decided to not proceed with the project. It was discussed that the Ohio Revised Code Section being used was not created for this type of project.

Most of the water draining into Swanton Township comes directly from Fulton County and our residents are paying large amounts of assessments to fix any drainage issues in Fulton County. That is not fair to the Lucas County residents.

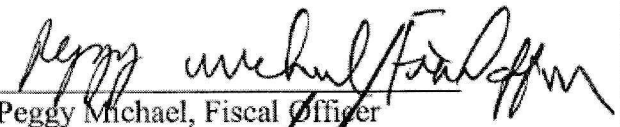
The Lucas County Metroparks have never cleaned their ditches. If these are not cleaned, cleaning any ditch that drains through the Oak Openings is just a waste of money.

Some Swanton Township property owners are paying substantial amounts such as \$3,460, \$2,449, \$2,070, \$1,532, \$1,450, and many more in the \$500 to \$1,300 range per year.

Residents are being charged even though they don't have a ditch.

The Lucas County Commissioners will be holding the Final Hearing on July 15, 2025 at 2:00 PM in the Commissioner's meeting room.

Motion by Jeff Michael to adjourn at 7:47 PM. Seconded by Kyle McPherson. Roll Call: Jeff Michael, yes; Kyle McPherson, yes; Mike Nowicki, yes. Motion Carried. **Resolution 40-2025.**

Signed: 
Peggy Michael, Fiscal Officer

Signed: 
Trustee