Paris Township Meeting 10-5-2026

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:24 PM
US

Paris Township Meeting

Date: Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM **Location:** 14220 Freed Street Southeast, Paris, OH 44669

Present: James Kiko (President), Michael Stewart (Trustee), Jamie Glavan (Trustee), Rudy Evanich (Fiscal Officer), Todd Kirkpatrick (Road Superintendent)

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1. Approval Of Minutes

The reading of the minutes were dispensed and approved without discussion.

> Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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2. Guests Speak

NOPEC Rate Increase — Jack and Sheryl Baudendistel

Residents Jack and Sheryl Baudendistel appeared before the Board with concerns about a significant increase in their electric generation rate through NOPEC, which had risen from approximately $0.64 to $0.99 per kilowatt hour. They noted that the distribution component of their bill had also roughly doubled, from approximately $40 to $90, and that their kilowatt hour usage appeared to have spiked without a clear explanation.

President Kiko explained that Paris Township participates in the NOPEC consortium and that residents have the option to move between three rate tiers — including shorter-term variable rates — without leaving the program. He acknowledged that the Township had been locked into a favorable long-term rate for several years, and that the recent expiration of that term resulted in a substantial increase now aligned with market rates. He noted that the longer-term rate is currently locked through June 2029 for those who have not made changes, but that residents are free to switch tiers or opt out entirely, though it may take one to two billing cycles to take effect.

The Board encouraged the Baudendistels to contact NOPEC representative Craig Brown, whose contact information was provided, for personalized guidance on switching rate tiers. President Kiko also directed residents to the Township's website, **paristownship.com**, where NOPEC rate information had recently been posted. The Board indicated that the current rate is expected to remain stable for the foreseeable future and is still considerably lower than the Ohio Edison supply rate of approximately $10.92 per kilowatt hour.

Woodale Entrance Safety — Diana Haws

Resident Diana Haws raised three items before the Board.

Wood Dale / Route 30 Intersection Safety: Ms. Haws expressed serious concern about the narrowness of the Wood Dale Village entrance off Route 30, describing multiple near-miss incidents involving semi-trucks that fail to slow down despite posted speed limits. She requested that the Board consider road improvements and increased speed enforcement in the area. President Kiko indicated the Board would check with the County Engineer regarding the available road right-of-way at that location. The Board also discussed the possibility of requesting that the Stark County Sheriff's Office deploy a speed-monitoring sign along Route 30, similar to one recently used in New Franklin that had a noticeable effect on traffic speeds. It was noted that a formal speed study could be requested through the State as part of the annual process. Trustee Stewart noted that the Township is not home-ruled and therefore cannot use speed cameras for revenue enforcement.

Noise from Former Pallet Yard: Ms. Haws reported that a new business operating out of the former pallet yard located between Woodale Village and Route 30 has been causing significant nighttime noise disturbance — including truck idling, pounding, and grinding — occurring as late as 1:00 AM, approximately four to five nights per week. President Kiko indicated he would look into the Stark County noise ordinance, as the Township does not have its own, and explore what options may be available.

Road Maintenance Appreciation: Ms. Haws thanked the Board for road repairs on Woodale, and noted that Woodale Village management had recently had the private interior roads repaved, resulting in smooth roads throughout the development.

Ohio Plan Insurance Proposal — Ron Maxwell, Whitaker Myers Insurance

Ron Maxwell of Whitaker Myers Insurance presented a proposal for Paris Township to join the Ohio Plan, a public entity risk pooling program that has operated since 1988 and currently serves approximately 900 public entities across Ohio. The presentation covered the full scope of proposed coverages and key features of the plan.

Mr. Maxwell explained that the Ohio Plan offers an **Advantage Credit** system that rewards members based on their loss ratio and risk management scores. New members receive a flat credit of $550 in year one. Beginning in year four, a risk management representative visits the entity, reviews practices, and provides directives; member responses to those directives factor into an annual score worth up to 40 points out of 100, with up to 60 points awarded based on claims history.

Coverage highlights presented included:

- **Property and Special Property (Equipment):** Values sourced from the Township's existing OTARMA policy and increased approximately 3% for inflation. All property, equipment (including Bobcat and Caterpillar), and computer equipment values are adjusted annually for inflation.
- **General Liability:** $3,000,000 per incident / $5,000,000 aggregate, structured as "silo limits" — meaning each coverage category carries its own limits independently.

- **Employee Dishonesty:** Coverage listed individually for Fiscal Officer Evanich ($135,000) and each Trustee ($50,000).
- **Automobile:** All Township vehicles and trailers listed, with a mix of actual cash value and replacement cost coverage.
- **Cyber Liability:** Quoted at $250,000; however, Mr. Maxwell noted that the Township's current OTARMA policy carries $1,000,000 in cyber coverage. He committed to obtaining pricing for $500,000 and $1,000,000 options and would notify Fiscal Officer Evanich of those figures the following day.
- **Prior Acts Coverage:** The Ohio Plan will cover general liability, auto liability, employee benefits, employer liability, public officials, and employee practices liability claims going back 10 years to 2016, even though the Township was not previously a member. This was noted as a significant benefit given that OTARMA operates as a "claims-paying policy" that would not cover open or unknown claims after a member's departure. Fiscal Officer Evanich confirmed there are no currently open claims with OTARMA.

A discrepancy was noted by the Board on pages 34 and 36 of the proposal, where the terrorism and liability/property coverage term appeared to show dates of November 2025 through November 2026, rather than aligning with the Township's October 20 renewal date. Mr. Maxwell acknowledged this appeared to be a misprint and committed to investigating the matter.

The total proposed premium was quoted at **$13,072**, with a first-year Advantage Credit of $550 applied, resulting in a **net premium of $12,522**. The Board noted this was higher than initially anticipated, with some members expecting a figure closer to $8,000. Discussion arose regarding whether the premium may increase further if cyber coverage is raised to match current limits.

Mr. Maxwell noted that if the Township wishes to join the Ohio Plan, three documents — a confirmation of no open claims, an acknowledgment of membership, and a warranty and disclosure statement — would need to be signed and returned to Whitaker Myers by **October 15, 2026**, to ensure coverage is bound prior to the October 20 renewal date.

The Board indicated it would discuss the proposal further and potentially have a representative from OTARMA present at the next meeting on October 19 before making a final decision.

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3. Road Report

Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick reported that the crew had performed dragging and placed approximately 60 tons of asphalt on Stucky Street, addressing a badly washed-out section on the hill near the bank side. Material (recycled asphalt) was also used to replenish stock and fill in two loads on Lullaby Road where washout had occurred on the hillside.

Superintendent Kirkpatrick reported ongoing ditching and brushing work on Woodale / Telpahak Street, and indicated he would like to meet with President Kiko at the end of the week to review a game plan for that area. He noted that widening efforts there will redirect water toward adjacent yards, which may cause concern among some residents, but he described this as a necessary consequence of widening the roadway given the terrain.

Culvert work was noted as complete — culverts on Freed Street, Woodale, and Telpahak Street all been filled with asphalt.

Pothole patching is scheduled to begin the following Tuesday and Wednesday. Superintendent Kirkpatrick acknowledged there are scattered potholes throughout the Township, including on the brick road and on Bowling/Robertsville Road near the Methodist Church. He noted the sporadic nature of the patches will result in some material waste, but that renting a hot box for only a day or two is not cost-effective. Board members and the public were encouraged to report any missed potholes.

Superintendent Kirkpatrick also noted that work on Walker Road needs to be completed before November, after which it will be placed on a maintenance-only schedule until spring.

Trustee Stewart reported that the Stark County Engineers had followed through on their commitment to repair potholes on Stucky Road, completing the work in approximately 3.5 hours after some persistent follow-up. The repair involved placing pavement and grinding/tapering it in, and the results were described as looking very good. He noted the Township crew swept the road in preparation for the County's work.

It was also noted that the Woodale Village private road had been recently repaved by Valco, and that the Township Superintendent had previously reached out to the property owner earlier in the year about potentially coordinating the work but did not receive a response.

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4. Correspondence From Fiscal Officer

Fiscal Officer Evanich reported no formal correspondence. He presented a resolution to approve a subscription to **ClerkMinutes**, a meeting minutes software service, at a cost of **$99 per month ($1,188 per year)**, noting he had already used it to record the evening's meeting.

> Motion to approve the use of ClerkMinutes for meeting minutes at $99 per month was made by Trustee Stewart and seconded by Trustee Glavan. The motion carried unanimously.

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5. Old Business

Oil Lease Addendum

Pam Stoller reported difficulty locating a recorded copy of the oil lease addendum through the Recorder's Office, as the property has changed hands multiple times. President Kiko indicated he may have a copy at home and would attempt to provide one. It was noted that the addendum converted the existing lease from a net lease to a gross lease. Discussion identified the relevant wells as likely being the Snyder wells to the north of the cemetery.

Road Improvement Grant Application

Trustee Stewart reported that he had spent several hours at the Stark County Engineers' office working to assemble the grant application through the Ohio Public Works Commission portal, but encountered a significant obstacle: neither he nor staff at the County Engineer's office could locate Paris Township's subdivision code, which is required to submit documents through the portal. Fiscal Officer Evanich subsequently found the code which had been assigned to the Township during a prior Ohio Public Works Parks Ave. project.

Trustee Stewart and Fiscal Officer Evanich reviewed the assembled application documents, which include a signed resolution, a certified life and cost estimate from the County, project photos, and a farmland preservation statement confirming no active farm parcels are impacted. It was clarified that the Township's $5,000 local match will come from gas tax funds, and that the wording in one document had been updated accordingly. President Kiko's signature is needed on one document, which Fiscal Officer Evanich will scan and upload to the portal.

The application deadline is **October 9**, and Trustee Stewart and Fiscal Officer Evanich agreed to coordinate early in the week to finalize and submit all materials through the portal.

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6. New Business

Recycling Bin Misuse

Trustee Glavan reported that Larry Palmer had observed an auto body business on Woodale Road disposing of non-recyclable materials into one of the Township's recycling bins. Mr. Palmer addressed the individual directly, and the party was reportedly cooperative. The Board noted that recycling pickup continues on Fridays and Saturdays, though the frequency of additional pickups during the week has decreased. The bins are not currently overflowing. The Board acknowledged that misuse including placing items outside bins or depositing non-acceptable materials remains an occasional issue, and committed to monitoring the situation.

7. Adjourn And Pay Bills

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn and pay bills was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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