Paris Township Meeting 10-19-2026

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2026, 7:00 PM - 7:43 PM

14220 Freed Street Southeast, Paris, OH 44669, US

1. Approval Of Minutes

Present: Trustee James Kiko, Trustee Michael Stewart, Trustee James Glavan, Fiscal Officer Rudy Evanich, and Road Superintendent Todd Kirkpatrick. Absent: None noted.

The Board moved to dispense with the reading of the previous minutes.

> Motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes was made by Trustee Michael Stewart and seconded by Trustee James Glavan. The motion carried by voice vote. Motion Passed.

2. Guests Speak

Mr. Jim Zucarro, insurance representative for the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), presented the Township's renewal proposal. Property is insured at replacement cost under "special" causes of loss, which covers all risks except those specifically excluded. Flood and earthquake coverage can be bought back, but the Township does not carry them. Terrorism is included. Liability limits are $3,000,000, except cyber liability, which is about $1,000,000. Faithful performance of duty coverage of $135,000, based on the Township's budget, takes the place of bonds and covers all five officials.

Mr. Zucarro explained that OTARMA raised rates about 30 percent last year after three years of heavy claims and rising reinsurance costs, and that it suspended its "loyalty credit" rebate for the past two years. The renewal premium is lower than last year's. He said OTARMA is stable, with more than 80 percent of Ohio townships still participating. Trustee Kiko confirmed that the Township's past claims, including the pavilion claim and a few vehicle claims, were handled promptly and without issue. Mr. Zucarro also described the $1,000 MORE grant, which can be used for safety equipment or conference registration. Fiscal Officer Evanich said he uses it for road signs, vests, safety glasses, and cones. Trustee Glavan asked about Sunshine Law training, which is required once per term, and Fiscal Officer Evanich confirmed he completed it last year.

Fiscal Officer Evanich noted that the renewal date was the following day and that he needed the "commitment to continue" form signed promptly. Mr. Zucarro said it would be sent right away and that payment could follow within a week or two. Fiscal Officer Evanich stated that the OTARMA premium was about $1,400 lower than the alternative option he had reviewed.

> Motion to renew coverage with OTARMA for the coming year at a premium of $12,792 was made by Trustee Michael Stewart and seconded by Trustee James Glavan. The motion carried by voice vote. Motion Passed.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The approved annual premium is $12,792, roughly $1,400 (about 10 percent) below last year's premium of approximately $14,000, and the $1,000 MORE grant effectively reduces the net cost to about $11,792. The funding source was not specified, though payment will be issued by the Fiscal Officer. This is a recurring annual expense. The renewal date of October 20 made action necessary at this meeting, and the competing quotes obtained by the Fiscal Officer were used to confirm the value. Residents benefit from continuous property, liability ($3,000,000), cyber (about $1,000,000), and public-official performance ($135,000) coverage at a lower cost. Oversight consists of the Fiscal Officer's review of the commitment form and payment, and the Board will revisit pricing at next year's renewal.

3. Road Report

Road Superintendent Todd Kirkpatrick reported that crews were running three projects, including patching and ditching, and would start a fourth the next day: footers at the cemetery, to be dug Wednesday and poured Thursday. Crews also worked on Walker Road earlier that day. The Board discussed that the road carries a "no winter maintenance" designation from November through March, though crews have dragged it in November when needed. Trustee Kiko noted a complaint received from a resident on Warren Road about road conditions and had forwarded it to the Superintendent.

Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick also presented an opportunity to purchase a two-year-old John Deere tractor mower with a cab and 66 hours of use, coming through Land Pro from Columbia Township. The Township's current New Holland tractor is 22 years old and its hour meter no longer works, though a new mower deck was installed about two years ago. He proposed keeping the existing tractor as a second unit. He said the dealer indicated a split-payment option (half now, half in spring) might be available, but a loan or grant could be difficult for used equipment. Trustee Stewart said he did not see where the Township had the funds. Trustee Kiko agreed to research grants and asked the Superintendent to forward any information from the dealer. Action Item Assigned: Trustee

Kiko to research grant options, and Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick to forward dealer information. No action was taken.

Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick further reported that #9 stone and asphalt mix have become difficult to obtain from the usual supplier because of preordering and demand from data-center backfill work, and that he was identifying alternate suppliers. Trustee Kiko noted that some vendor paperwork might be needed with the Fiscal Officer.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The used mower was priced at $75,000 (quoted as $70,000 to $75,000), compared with $150,000 for a new unit. No funding source has been identified, though a split payment, loan, or grant was suggested. It would be a one-time capital purchase. The timing was driven by the dealer's plan to finish preparing the unit within about a week and offer it to other buyers. The concrete benefit would be more reliable, faster roadside mowing while the aging tractor is retained as backup. Oversight consists of Trustee Kiko's grant research, and no purchase may proceed without further Board action.

4. Correspondence From Fiscal Officer

Fiscal Officer Rudy Evanich reported correspondence from a company seeking to purchase the Township's mineral rights, which the Board declined to pursue. He also reported a notice from the Ohio Department of Commerce regarding liquor license renewals, and the Board stated it had no objection to the renewals. He distributed the Local Government Fund distribution schedule showing a total of $51,034, paid monthly by the state.

The Board then reviewed the tax rates certified for the Township, including the road levy of 2 mills generating about $175,000, and inside millage for the general fund and road and bridge. Fiscal Officer Evanich noted that any new levy approved by voters would be in addition to these rates.

> Motion to accept the tax rates as presented was made by Trustee Michael Stewart and seconded by Trustee James Glavan. The motion carried by voice vote. Motion Passed.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The Township anticipates $51,034 annually from the state Local Government Fund, distributed in monthly installments, and about $175,000 from the existing 2-mill road levy. Both are recurring revenue streams, funded by state distributions and local property taxes. Accepting the rates now was required to complete the annual certification with the county. Residents benefit through continued funding of roads, bridges, and general services without new taxes. Oversight rests with the Fiscal Officer, who tracks the distributions in the general fund records.

5. Old Business

Trustee Michael Stewart reported contacting Captain Cliff Hall about placing the mobile speed unit near Route 30, and Captain Hall will follow up when a unit becomes available. A contact, Rick Stauffer, was also secured for future requests. Trustee Kiko noted that the unit helps raise awareness even if its direct effect is limited.

The Board was informed that the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant application was completed with Fiscal Officer Evanich. A capital improvement budget was prepared, which earns ten additional scoring points. The Board thanked the County Engineer's office (Brian) and Dan Slicker of regional planning for their assistance. No award amount was stated.

A stop sign and post were reported pulled out and left in the bushes at a Freed St. address and Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick was asked to retrieve it. Trustee Glavan reported that the "Stop Ahead" sign on Freed St. before the church needs a new post. Action Item Assigned: Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick to retrieve the stop sign and repair or replace the post.

Trustee James Kiko reported contacting Ohio Edison for the fourth time about a dim street light near Pleasant Valley Drive and Route 172. Ohio Edison will not convert fixtures to LED unless a fixture fails or the Township pays upfront for all conversions.

6. New Business

Trustee Michael Stewart reported that Terry Graham spoke on behalf of the Paris Israel cemetery association, which is seeking a new sexton and whose treasurer wishes to resign. Association representatives will attend a November Board meeting to ask about the Township's mowing contractor, since their current contractor raised rates and added a surcharge, and to discuss the cemetery's future. The Board reiterated that it cannot take over the cemetery because ownership would pass to the diocese. The Board noted a prior mowing quote of about $4,600 per year, which Trustee Glavan thought was low and recalled as the highest bid previously received, for a smaller cemetery.

Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick reported no response from a property owner in Tin City regarding a vehicle on the right-of-way. It was agreed to obtain a county map, mark the boundary, and leave written notice that the matter would be referred to the prosecutor if the owner did not comply.

Fiscal Officer Evanich reported that Carol Toussant continues digitizing the cemetery records, having completed many sections, and that the project may be finished by early summer. The records will not be made available online. Road Superintendent Kirkpatrick noted that third-party headstone-finder websites already list the cemetery. He also

reported a deteriorating tree on the cemetery's edge and asked the Board to confirm that the Township bears no liability for headstones. The Board confirmed headstones are private property and not a Township liability, and discussed posting a sign to that effect.

The Board also discussed a prospective part-time backup attendant for the dump, Brandon Trussell (as transcribed), at a proposed $18 per hour for about 14 to 15 hours per weekend, or roughly 30 hours per month. No formal action was taken.

7. Adjourn And Pay Bills

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

> Motion to adjourn and pay bills was made by Trustee James Glavan and seconded by Trustee Michael Stewart. The motion carried by voice vote. Motion Passed.