

**Perry Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2025, 6:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Miller. All trustees were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome & Recognition of Invited Guests: None

Excuse absence: Law Director-Jim Mathews.

Communications/Announcements Details are available at Perrytwp.com -

- a) May 24, 2025, 9 am- Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Perry High School, sponsored by Perry Rotary, Flags of Freedom, Perry Township, and Perry Local Schools
- b) May 25, 2025, 9 am-Veterans Flag Placement at Calvary Cemetery. Sponsored by Perry Rotary and Flags of Freedom.
- c) May 26, 2025, 8:30 am- 10:30 am- Hero Run sponsored by Perry Project Group
- d) 2nd Annual Perry Township Movie & Ice cream in the Park- Saturday-June 14th • 5 pm to 8 pm at Hartwick Park- Sponsored by AQUA
- e) Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control liquor permit from Dolgen Midwest LLC dba Dollar General Store located at 3129 Lincoln Way E. Fiscal Officer needs to complete and state whether we are requesting a hearing and must be post-marked by 5/19/2025.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda - Roll Call by Department:

Fire: Application for the supplemental Medicaid payment program.

Administration: None

Public Works: None

Police: None

Zoning: None

Fiscal Officer: None

Trustee DeChiara: None

Trustee Miller: None

Trustee Nelligan: None

Public Speaks on Agenda Items Up for Action: None

Consent Agenda Items: None

Old Business:

- a) Discussion on the next steps with the Comprehensive Plan. Trustee Nelligan made the suggestion of having a work session with Janelle from Stark County Regional Planning on May 27th at 5 p.m. with the other two Trustees.

New Business:

a) **Fire:**

- i) Consider accepting the resignation letter of Ian Zimmermann, a full-time firefighter. Trustee Miller made a motion to accept the resignation letter of Ian Zimmermann, full-time firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- ii) Consider application for the supplemental Medicaid payment program. Discussion was had. Trustee Miller made a motion to enter into supplemental Medicaid payment program and designate Chief Sedlock to execute. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

b) **Police:**

- i) Consider authorizing the purchase of three (3) Rugged laptop computers from Dell for a total cost not to exceed \$6,296.76. Trustee Miller made the motion to authorize the purchase of three {3} Rugged laptops from Dell for a total cost not to exceed \$6,296.76 for the Police Department. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- ii) Consider a authorizing the purchase of five (5) bullet proof vests, five (5) outer carriers and five (5) thorshields from Akron Uniforms for a total cost not to exceed \$5,845.00. Trustee Miller made a motion to authorize the purchase of five (5) bullet proof vests, five outer carriers and five thorshields from Akron Uniforms for a total cost not to exceed \$5,845.00. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- iii) Consider authorizing payment of the annual license, storage, and support for the body cameras from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for a total cost no to exceed \$6,927.38. Trustee Miller made a motion to pay the annual license, storage, and support fee for the body cameras from Axon Enterprise for a total not to exceed \$6,927.38. Seconded Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- iv) Consider accepting a donation from American Legion Riders Post 221 in the amount of \$500.00. Trustee Miller made a motion to accept a donation from the American Legion Riders Post 221 in the amount of \$500.00. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

c) **Public Works:**

- i) Discussion of Perry Township clean-up day. The Public Works Director stated they had 10 full roll off dumpsters they took to the landfill and a busy day.
- ii) Discussion of looking into a grant for a fitness apparatus. Fitness Court reached out to Public Work Director and wanted to get on board for a fitness court in Perry Township and have a partial grant available. The goal looks to be to put it at Meredith Park if the Township would choose to do. The meeting is set up for June 17th at 5p.m. for a special work session to discuss further. The full size to do the court and exercise area would be a full-size tennis court or to just do the fitness area is half a tennis court size, which is fully taken care of by them. All the equipment is stationery.

d) **Zoning:**

- i) Consider adopting ORC 505.87 for the abatement of trash, junk vehicles, and excessive personal property at 4908-15th St, S.W., Canton. The Zoning Inspector stated that some items have been removed, however, some of the specific items that were required to be moved had not been done. Thursday, May 8th at 9 am for the abatement of the items.

The resident, Chris Clark, stated his name and address as 4908 15th Street S.W., Canton. Chris asked what specifically had not been removed, as he had removed 8 vehicles and vegetation. What is remaining is for personal use. Zoning Inspector stated a lot of debris and cars still on the property, one of which is leaking oil, along with an engine block, scrap metal, 10 tires, 8-10 propane tanks, and several trailers.

Trustee Miller made a motion to adopt ORC 505.87 for the abatement of trash, junk vehicles, and excessive personal property at 4908 15th St, S.W., Canton on Thursday, May 8th at 9 am. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- ii) Consider a Solicitor/Transient Vendor Policy and Procedure. Zoning Inspector suggested a \$40 fee for vendors who wish to sign up, whether it is a solicitor or a transient vendor. Solicitors would need a background check, but zoning is happy to handle this function if the Board could solidify the process. Separating the two forms and having a fee for each. Police Chief said he would like to see two resolutions that deal with solicitation/no knock and transient vendors, such as food trucks, along with the cap on the fees as well. The Board will work with the Law Director to do what needs to be done to get it taken care of.

e) **Administration:**

- i) Consider a motion to approve Christina Whittenberger credit card access while the township does not have an administrator. Trustee Nelligan made a motion to approve Christina Whittenberger a credit card for up to \$3500. Seconded by Trustee Miller.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- ii) Consider a motion to approve Christina Whittenberger's authority to approve the administration office invoices. Trustee Nelligan made a motion to approve Christina Whittenberger authority to approve administration office invoices. Seconded by Trustee Miller.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- iii) Discussion of Security of the Administrative office and key fob practice. Chief Taylor recommended bringing in Protech security to install the software on the personnel computer, the Board deems appropriate, and Chief suggested Chris Whittenberger and Jeff Whytsell (Zoning Inspector) as they are here during business hours and we can determine how many fobs are in the system and deactivate those fobs not in use and purchase some additional blanks if we need to reissue any in the future. Trustee Nelligan made a motion to give authority to Christina Whittenberger and Jeff Whytsell for the FOB system and to work with Protech for the software training. Seconded by Trustee DeChiara.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

f) **Law Director:** None

g) **Fiscal Office:**

- i) Consider pending warrants for the week ending 04/02/25 for bills/payroll in the amount of \$555,217.88, for the week ending 04/15/25 for bills/payroll in the amount of \$211,250.30 and week ending 04/22/25 for bills in the amount of \$88,670.44 for a combined total of \$855,138.62. Trustee Miller made a motion to accept the pending warrants for the week ending 04/02/25 for bills/payroll in the amount of \$555,217.88, for week ending 04/15/25 for bills/payroll in the amount of \$211,250.30 and week ending 04/22/25 for bills in the amount of \$88,670.44 for a combined total of \$855,138.62. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

- ii) Consider Bank reconciliation for March 2025. Trustee Miller made a motion to approve the Bank reconciliation for March 2025. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

h) **Trustees**

1. Trustee Nelligan:

- Update from meeting with Nate Stutz - Superintendent of Perry Local Schools. Trustee Nelligan stated that the meeting is the coming Monday about the vacant school properties. Some talk has been done with the school in sharing the Township newsletter.
- June 3rd meeting- will be out of town

2. Trustee DeChiara Jr.:

- Carl Schmidt-Perry Living magazine - Trustee DeChiara said the topic has already been addressed at the previous 5 pm special meeting and is waiting for the proposals.

3. Trustee Miller:

- Signed 2025 Yard Waste HCC Grant Agreement. Fiscal officer Chessler suggested that once the agreement is signed, his office could create a cover letter and forward it to Stark Tusc. Wayne recycling center.

Public Speaks:

Theresa Burger

Theresa stated her name and address, 1416 Genoa Road., SW, Massillon. She thanked the board for fixing a street issue discussed at a prior meeting. She asked the board about recent wage increases and the cost for a recent change in health insurance policies to an HSA for township staff. Trustee Miller explained that in

the first year of the new plan, the township is saving \$110,000 compared to the prior plan's cost even with the township's share of HSA contributions.

She asked about the employee contribution to the cost of premium. Trustee Miller indicated that staff would be paying a higher percentage of the premium costs compared to the prior plan.

She asked about the need for a road department without having a new levy passed. Road Superintendent, John Wellman indicated that even without passing a new levy, the Road department provides services to the township roads. Trustee Miller thanked Theresa for her comments.

Fran Whaley

Fran stated his name and address as 1130 Denmont S.W., Massillon. Fran wanted to see about getting a sign regarding no semis on Denmont, as the semis are getting into his yard. He has a police report if the Board wants to look at it. Zoning Inspector Whytsell stated he had taken a call earlier this week regarding complaints about the trucks on the street.

Linda Cameron

Linda stated her name and address as 443 Canford Ave N.W. Massillon, 44646. She just wanted to give an FYI of what is going on between her and Aqua Ohio, and how they left the road. She believes it was the end of January or the beginning of February when they came out to repair a water main break, but they have not been back since repairing it. Linda spoke with a customer service rep at Aqua Ohio. She began calling in March and asked to speak with a supervisor, but has never gotten a return call after being told one would call her back by the end of the day or within 24 hours. The Public Works Director stated he has a plan to meet someone from Aqua later this week and will bring that topic up.

Simon Warstler

Came for the Perry Project group, looking to improve Fasnacht Farm. The intention is to do a project they have done elsewhere. Simon gave some background to the group. His group would like to come to the back end of Fasnacht off Meadowwood, where it dead ends into the property and strip 5.9 acres of soil, then put in a concrete parking lot so they can have access of hiking trails. They would put it around the perimeter that would go around the entire property. It would not be a paved trail, it would be a gravel trail. They have a private contractor who would come in and they would pay him directly. They would then donate it to the Township. Trustee DeChiara said what they are looking to do with the property and what Simon is proposing would marry nicely together with some more time to figure things out. Trustee DeChiara stated that he would notify Simon when they will meet with Nickajack Farms and he would be welcome to attend.

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve the Perry Project group to develop a parking lot off Meadowwood and put in a walking path, upon a licensing agreement approved by the Law Director. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr.DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

Theresa Kamensky

Theresa stated her name and address as 111 Miles Ave N.W. Canton 44708. She asked the question about what is going on with the Fisher's property. Zoning Inspector Whytsell said the owners of the property are waiting on a JEDD situation to be resolved with the City of Canton. They are trying to tie into city water and are attempting to work through that legal process. The Zoning Inspector has reached out to the owner of the lot today in regard to the maintenance of the property with grass and keeping the lot mowed.

Executive Session(s)

- i) ORC 121.22(G)(1) to discuss dismissal of an employee to include BOT, Law Director, Phil McFarren, and Chief Sedlock.

- ii) ORC 121.22(G)(1) to discuss employment to include BOT, Law Director, Zoning Inspector, Phil McFarren and Chief Taylor.

With nothing further to come before the Board, Trustee Miller made a motion to adjourn into executive session at approximately 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Nelligan, yes. Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes.

Adjournment:

The Board returned from the executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Trustee Miller made a motion to deny the step two grievance for Roger Carpenter. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

Trustee Miller made a motion to deny the step two grievance for Jacki Hickman regarding HSA benefit. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes.

With nothing further to come before the Board of Trustees, Trustee Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Nelligan.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller, yes. Ms. Nelligan, yes. Mr. DeChiara, yes.

Matt Miller, President

Craig Chessler, Fiscal Officer