

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday, May 6th, 2026

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Don Rowe at 6:30pm.

The roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Kenn Baughman, Mr. Don Rowe & Mr. Keith Sexton were present.

The agenda was amended to add a discussion in iWorq and Township Hall rental.

Ninety-five bills/warrants totaling \$239,549.21 were submitted for payment. Rowe made a motion to approve the warrants and receive the treasury reports. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman, Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. **20260506-01**

Vermilion Township Fire Chief Frank Triana reported 53 runs for April & reports have been submitted to the state. Runs include: EMS-40, Motor vehicle crash-4, open burn-2, residential fire alarm-2, commercial fire alarm-1, natural gas leak-1, wires down-3. The Ohio Fire Academy Search and Rescue Trailer was on site. Fire Departments from the Township, the City of Vermilion and Florence Township participated in drills plus SCBA and thermal imaging training. Squads 813 and 811 had repairs. Summit Fire and Security serviced all Township fire extinguishers. Hose and Ladder testing by Waterway, Inc. is scheduled for May. Triana had the privilege of attending the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial weekend in Emmitsburg, MD and escorting a family. Three firefighters attended Crash Course Village in Fairborn, Ohio for extrication drills.

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young reported repairs have been completed on the little dump truck and boom mower. The first round of roadside mowing is complete and the second round will begin after Memorial Day. Filling in berms with stone continues. Young reminded residents that Township Cleanup Day is Saturday, May 16th, 2026 with new hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm. All winter equipment is stored. The new landscape trailer has arrived. Conversion of the old trailer to hold barricades and safety signs will start soon.

Rowe thanked Young, Vermilion Township Road Assistant Ryan Kohl and Vermilion Township Administrator Kurt Johnson for their work with Brightspeed Communications. Brightspeed's third party installers damaged several Township roads. Johnson has been working diligently with Brightspeed to have them make repairs and those repairs have finally begun.

Rowe introduced *Resolution 2026-12 Authorizing The Vermilion Township To Enter Into A Contract With Murphy Tractor & Equipment. To Purchase A New 2026 John Deere 60p Excavator With Various Attachments, A Felling Ft-16 DDI Trailer, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$123,412.80* and moved for its adoption. Baughman seconded the resolution. Young explained how an excavator is much safer than a backhoe and can take more attachments to aid in projects. The backhoe is 26 years old and will cost \$20,000 to \$30,000 for basic repairs. Borrowing equipment from the Erie County Engineer's Office is a challenge as every Township is needing the same apparatus at the same time. Sexton added many other

Townships have their own mini-excavators, which is the most used gear. Baughman, Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. **20260506-02**

Rowe made a motion to enter into Executive Session per ORC §121.22(G)(3) to confer with an attorney on matters of pending litigation. Sexton seconded the motion. Baughman, Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. **20260506-03**

Rowe recessed the meeting at 6:57pm to enter into Executive Session.

The meeting was called back to order by Rowe at 7:26pm. The roll call resulted as follows: Baughman, Rowe & Sexton were present.

Vermilion Township Board of Zoning Appeals member Chuck Hall sent an email resigning from that board. Baughman made a motion to accept the resignation of Chuck Hall from the BZA. Sexton seconded the motion. The trustees thanked Hall for his service. Baughman, Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. **20260506-04**

Vermilion Township Board of Zoning Appeals Chair Ken Bilancini send an email requesting BZA alternate Rosemary Kovacs fill the term vacated by Chuck Hall. Baughman made a motion to appoint Rosemary Kovacs to the BZA unexpired term ending December 31st, 2028, vacated by Chuck Hall. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman, Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. **20260506-05**

In the Friday, April 17th, 2026 Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Baughman requested a public hearing. Rowe stated, on the advice from an email from Erie County Assistant Prosecutor Jason Hinners, the request is denied. Baughman asked Rowe to read the email. Rowe stated the email was attorney-client privilege.

Rowe announced the Erie County EMS Working Group will hold another meeting to discuss EMS efficiency and service within Erie County. The meeting will be Friday, May 8th, 2026 at 9:00am at the Milan township Hall on the Square.

Rowe opened the floor to the audience.

Kelly Griffing of Portside Drive is concerned about the increase in traffic on State Road-Route 60.

Ken Burkins of West Lake Road stated Ohio could have a constitutional amendment to abolish property taxes, but there is no means to replace that funding. Sales tax and income tax could possibly be increased or townships could be swallowed up by counties and cities. Burkins called on the Trustees to state their opposition to the initiative, recommend residents do not sign and vote no if it is on the ballot.

Chris Ksenich of Darrow Road noted a section of Darrow Road between State Rout 60 and Thompson Road has washed away. Young said that was the location of a water main break and he will notify the Erie County Water Department. Ksenich asked why the Township Cleanup was just one day instead of all weekend.

Dan Ladrach of State Road is not happy that Joe Baxter was let go and with the Political Action Committee TEAM.

Baughman made a motion to have Johnson work with Hinnners to resolve the iWorq problem with the City of Vermilion. Sexton seconded the motion. Baughman, Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. **20260506-06**

Baughman noted a resident asked if their homeowners association could use the Township Hall meeting room. Statutorily it can be rented, but it has not been addressed as policy. Rowe said other townships, notably Groton, have discontinued the practice as cleanup was an issue. Sexton asked what the liability exposure would be.

Rowe made a motion to only have one Board of Trustees regular meeting per month to be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, eliminating the second meeting held on the third Wednesday. To be effective May 6th, 2026. Sexton seconded the motion. Rowe & Sexton voted to approve the motion. Baughman abstained. **20260506-07**

Rowe announced the Vermilion Township Spring Cleanup Day is Saturday, May 16th, 2026 from 9am to 3pm.

Rowe announced the next meeting would be Wednesday June 3rd, 2026 at 6:30pm

Rowe adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.