

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday, December 17th, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenneth Baughman at 6:30pm.

The roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Kenn Baughman & Mr. Don Rowe were present. Mr. Kurt Johnson was absent.

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young submitted an updated list of needed Road Work signs for safety of the road crew. Rowe made a motion to amend motion 20251119-03 to order signs from Bain Enterprises for \$4,453.00. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-01**

Young submitted for approval to purchase a Lincoln Electric dual arc/mig welder and cart. Lowes and Home Depot have the welder for the same price. Rowe made a motion for Young to spend up to \$1,400.00 for the Lincoln Electric welder and cart. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-02**

Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson stated the 2026 Temporary Appropriations needed to be approved and sent to the Erie County Auditor by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, so business can continue on January 1st, 2026. Johnson listed the following appropriations:

	<i>Fund:</i>	
1000	General	\$491,266.00
2011	Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$130,000.00
2021	Gas Tax	\$205,175.00
2031	Road & Bridge	\$630,735.00
2111	Fire & EMS	\$495,800.00
2231	Permissive MVL Tax	\$30,000.00
4901	Misc. Capital Projects	\$123,372.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,106,348.10</b>

Rowe made a motion to approve the 2026 Temporary Appropriations as stated. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-03**

Johnson asked for approval of supplemental appropriations of \$1,500.00 for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System for 2025; \$1,800.00 for Social Security and \$4,300.00 for Fire Department salaries. Rowe made a motion to approve the supplemental appropriations as stated. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-04**

Baughman opened the floor to the audience.

John Wisnieski of Darrow Road asked why another fire levy was being proposed when the original did not pass at the last election and if other avenues of funding have been discussed. Baughman stated the county auditor is being asked how much funding would be generated if a new levy was an additional two

mils. Baughman continued; all avenues of funding are always being looked at. The Township typically does not qualify for many grants, when it does the amount is not much. It is hard to fund a whole department on grants.

Ken Burkins of West Lake Road would like the audience participation section to be earlier in the meeting. He also says an excavator is too expensive, it should be borrowed or rented. Baughman stated equipment is shared all the time; however, borrowing or renting is hard because everyone wants to use the same equipment at the same time. Rowe said time and money are greatly reduced when you have the right piece of equipment to do the job. Rowe gave an example of a project the road crew just completed where having the right piece of equipment, the project took hours instead of days.

Tom Kreukmeyer of Grand Harbor asked if there were more estimates to service the trees at Orchard Beach/Cuddeback Cemetery and would like the money for the excavator to go toward the fire department. The trustees and fire chief all stated that was not permissible.

Dan Ladrach of State Road said many are demanding things, but do not have all the information on both sides.

Baughman commented in regards to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission, with new case law, there is a necessity for an *affirmative majority* of board members. Both boards have five members. If only three (out of five) members are present, two vote yes and one vote no, that is not a majority of the board. What we don't have in our zoning code is a sentence that says you must have three affirmative votes from these boards. After discussing this with the board chairs, they are going to consider it.

Baughman stated a recommendation from the last audit was to standardize annual employee evaluations. A three-page TF201-E form introduced. Rowe made a motion to adopt the TF201-E for form employee evaluations. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion.

**20251217-05**

Baughman made a motion to appoint Zoning Commission alternate Erie Jayjohn to complete the unexpired term of member Renee Ibos, expiring 7/31/2029. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-06**

Rowe made a motion to approve the 2026 rate for Delta Dental insurance for full-time employees and officials. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-07**

In accordance with ORC §505.05 Program Recognizing Outstanding Employee Performance, the Road Department employees should receive paid holidays for Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026; weather permitting. Rowe made a motion to approve the two days of holiday pay for Steve Young and Ryan Kohl as stated. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-08**

The December 3rd, 2025 Trustees' Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as written. **20251217-09**

Vermilion Township Fire Department Squad 812 was at Hill Truck for services. Repair total was greater than approved estimate. Rowe made a motion to approve the additional expense of \$2,636.47. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251217-10**

Rowe Thanked Johnson for his service as a trustee quoting: "The talents that Trustee Johnson brought to the board of trustees: being a business owner for 30 plus years and working with a government greatly helped the board of trustees. But one of his talents that I thought impressed me the most was his love for the township and its residents. That love for the township and the residents was at the center of every decision that Kurt Johnson made. When decisions were made, that was the first thing that he talked about. How is this going to affect the township and its residents? And he will be missed by the trustee board with his talent. And I would like to publicly say to Kurt Johnson, I appreciate your effort and your service to the township." Baughman also thanked Johnson by saying "Kurt did not know he was going to be trustee when we voted him to fill the appointment. It was as much a shock to him as it was to everybody else in the audience. And in those seven months, he has served with honor and he has served faithfully. And I am not going to lie, I'm going to miss him, and I hope the next guy can at least fill his shoes. It was my pleasure working with Kurt Johnson as trustee. He was the balance to our often arguments."

Baughman announced the Board of Trustees' 2026 Organizational Meeting would be Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 at 5:00pm.

Baughman shared the next regular meeting would be Wednesday January 7th, 2026 at 6:30pm

Baughman announced due to the scheduling of the Ohio Township Winter Conference, the first meeting in February would be Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

Baughman adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm.

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Trustee Kenneth M. Baughman – Chairman

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Trustee Don R. Rowe

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Trustee Keith Sexton

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Fiscal Officer Stephanie M. Johnson

Smj 12/19/2025