

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday October 1st, 2025

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

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

Rowe made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3rd & 17th, 2025 Trustees' Regular Meetings and the June 11th & July 24th, 2025 Trustees' Special Meetings. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251001-01**

Eighty-two bills/warrants totaling \$72,762.16 were submitted for payment. Johnson made a motion to approve the warrants and receive the treasury reports. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251001-02**

Vermilion Township Fire Chief Frank Triana reported 43 runs for September & reports have been submitted to the state. Runs include: EMS-35, Open burn-1, Odor of burning-1, Residential alarm-2, Motor vehicle crash-1, Motor vehicle crash with mutual aid to the City of Vermilion-1, CO alarm-1. Satellite Electric replaced the back building photo-eye restoring parking lot lighting. Firefighter Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday, October 12th from 8am-12pm on station. There will be a silent parade For National NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Week and to honor Fallen Firefighters. Firetrucks will leave from the Erie County Fairgrounds on Columbus Avenue, Sandusky at 5:30pm and proceed to the Erie County Courthouse, downtown Sandusky. Program to start at 5:45pm. Logins for the ALERT Notification software will now be multi-factor. The Vermilion Township Firefighters will host a townhall on Monday, October 27th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Residents are encouraged to stop by to learn about the station, equipment and services offered. Firefighters will be out in the fire station front parking lot to participate in Halloween trick-or-treating on Friday, October 31st, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young reported in-house crack-sealing is complete on Thompson, Stanley, Sperry, Hickory, Sassafras East, South Poorman Roads, plus Colonial Court. Railroad crossing markings have been repainted on the roads. Township Cleanup Day filled four 40-yard dumpsters and one 80-yard scrap dumpster; plus 287 tires were collected. Parked cars on Chardonay and Wine Streets are not being moved when snowfall exceeds 2", even though several signs are posted. Making it difficult for the road crew to plow snow. Young suggested some type of resolution to ticket and tow. Trees along Barnes Road by Volunteer Bay need work that the crew does not have the equipment for. The small trucks have been undercoated and two large trucks will now be undercoated. Tree trimming has started and will continue through the winter.

Vermilion Township Administrator & Zoning Inspector Joe Baxter reported contacting the Redwood Development about noise and dust complaints. The North Riden Road Asphalt Overlay project has expanded to include \$3,900.00 for milling and \$7,800.00 to cover and extra section. One application has been received for the part-time temporary snow plow position. In the last two weeks Baxter has written

four zoning permits, done three inspections and written two zoning reports for third-party lending agencies. Nine properties are registered with Erie County Auditor's Office for Hotel Excise Lodging Tax. Baxter found more than twenty properties that were not properly registered and forwarded that information to the county. The zoning permit for the Brandt property has been rescinded due to non-compliance and the City of Vermilion building Department should be issuing a stop-work order. Rowe asked Baxter to elaborate on a transient lodging issue. Baxter stated there have been numerous complaints about Airbnb and VRBO type rentals. Property owners are not keeping up with maintenance and random tenants are walking through neighboring properties.

Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson reported currently working with a state auditor on the bi-annual state audit. Because of the positive results of the last full audit, a "mini-audit" called an Agreed-Upon-Procedure was qualified for. Johnson asked for approval of supplemental appropriations within the Gas Tax Fund, with \$4,000.00 from line item 2021-330-559 *other* to line item 2021-330-211 *OPERS*. Johnson also asked for approval of the two-year renewal of the VSP Vision Care *Current Plan* at \$19.47 per month for Township employees. Baughman made a motion to approve the supplemental appropriations as presented. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251001-03** Rowe made a motion to renew the vision care benefits for Township employees as stated. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251001-04** Rowe thanked S. Johnson for her presentation of the Township 2026 Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures to the Erie County Budget Commission; approval was immediately granted.

Baughman opened the floor to the audience.

Malcolm Williams of Darrow Road talked about political sign placement, asked the status of the Orchard Beach sewer plant and was happy to see the three trustees at the Erie County Commissioner's Homestead Exemption Meeting. Baxter replied he has been in contact with the Erie County Engineer's Office and the Erie County Health Department about the sewer plant.

Chris Ksenich of Darrow Road asked if Township elected officials needed to own property in the Township. Baughman replied that is under the jurisdiction of the Erie County Board of Elections. The only qualifier is one must be a resident and registered voter in the Township.

Tom Krukemeyer of Grand Harbor asked if the old Lake Shore Electric line that used to run through part of the Orchard Beach/Cuddeback Cemetery is throwing off the survey lines. Krukemeyer also wanted to be sure all the trustee candidates have the campaign disclaimer on their signs. Baughman responded that is a possibility for the cemetery, along with a possible recording error at the county auditor's office. All this is being investigated now. Baughman also replied the Erie County Board of Elections is the contact for disclaimer issues.

Arlene Olsen of Darrow Road thanked the trustees and administrator for their hard work. She thanked Baxter for his help in an ongoing issue that he ensured everything was completed correctly and to code.

Diana Ladrach of State Road corrected an item in the "Mayor's Notes" from the Vermilion PhotoJournal. It was stated Redwood would house 66 families, when in fact Redwood will be 137 apartments. Ladrach stated fire and EMS calls have increased, to consider supporting the Township Fire Levy on this November's ballot. At the Candidates Night event some candidates were not in favor of the fire levy.

Rowe responded that months ago Triana detailed to the Trustees the age/condition of the equipment, manpower, expenses, etc. and what the budget would be in the future. Residents expressed concern to the Trustees. Trustees put the Fire Levy on the ballot to put it in the hands of the voters to decide. Rowe continued that the Trustees attended a meeting with all the Townships in Erie County. This meeting discussed the struggle the other townships were having to contract out fire and EMS services. Fisher Titus Medical Center out of Norwalk wants to make an Ambulance District for the whole county. This would drastically reduce response times, especially to Vermilion Township as it is the farthest distance. The group looked to the Vermilion Township Trustees for guidance as the Vermilion Township Fire Department seamlessly handles both fire and EMS in house with a rapid response time. Triana said there have been about 500 calls this year and the crew are all part-time & volunteer. Triana gave some examples on how it is beneficial to have first responders that can handle both fire and EMS call at the same time. Rowe continued that according to the 2020 census the average age of Vermilion Township residents is 54, that is twenty percent higher than the rest of Erie County.

Dan Ladrach of State Road thanked Township employees for checking on him while he was ill. Trees need to be trimmed at the junctions on Route 60 and Darrow Road plus Route 60 and Mason Road; it's hard to see when trying to navigate onto Route 60. There is still too much flooding in the Township.

Malcolm William of Darrow Road spoke again on the cemetery, that the Parsons Family buried their members on their land right next to the cemetery. That would explain why there are graves outside of the cemetery lines and that the survey is correct.

Baughman stated an ad for a part-time temporary snow-plow driver would be put on the Township website.

Young commented how Brightspeed Internet company damaged Cemetery Road while boring underneath to install cable. The company should have used the existing overhead poles. Young and Baxter are working with Brightspeed to have them repair the damage. One future remedy could be to have the Erie County Engineer's Office perform inspections when all work is done that are free to the Township and the Township charge a boring fee to the company. Baughman made a motion to have the Erie County Engineer's Office carry out highway opening inspections for all county and township roads within Vermilion Township. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman added the Township will continue to charge and receive a \$100.00 permit fee plus require a \$50,000.00 bond. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251001-05**

Baxter elaborated on the Riden Road North Asphalt Overlay Project. Upon closer inspection by Rowe, Johnson, Young and Baxter there was a part of the road with an incorrect fall. That part needs milled down before an overlay is done so water isn't directed toward a house. The milling is an additional charge of about \$3,900.00. Added in is a section that goes up to the guard rail that needs to be milled then overlayed. That additional charge is about \$7,900.00. Rowe made a motion to amend Resolution 2025-08 Hart Asphalt Riden Road Overlay Project to not exceed \$28,000.00. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251001-06**

The Trustees attended a recent Erie County Commissioners Board meeting. Johnson said they discussed considering legislation to expand the Homestead Exemption and Owner-Occupied Credit for eligible property owners in the county. Johnson continued, also discussed were school and fire levies.

Baughman would like to add some bright news to Township meetings by adding a “Stork Report”. If anyone wants their new baby announced, it will be memorialized in the meeting minutes.

Baughman announced the next meeting would be Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Baughman repeated the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast is on Sunday October 12th, 2025 from 8am to noon.

Baughman reminded the residents that election day is Tuesday, November 4th, 2025.

Baughman adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.