

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday November 19th, 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 and Baughman made a few changes to the posted agenda. Rowe made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-01**

Vermilion Township Fire Chief Frank Triana asked for approval for repair work on Squad 812 at Hill Truck/Norwalk Truck for \$6171.67. Johnson made a motion for the repair. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-02**

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young submitted a report asking for approval to purchase the following road work signs: "Be Prepared to Stop"-2, "One Lane Road Ahead"-2, "Flaggers Ahead"-2, "Yield To Oncoming Traffic"-2, Worker symbol-2, plus stands-8. Estimated at \$4,000.00. Rowe made a motion to purchase the signs as listed. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-03**

Vermilion Township Administrator & Zoning Inspector Joe Baxter reported working on updates for the Zoning Resolution book for consideration. The road crew demo-ed an excavator by cleaning out a ditch in the Township; saving about \$10,000.00 by not contracting out the project. Baxter and the road crew conducted mailbox durability and structural integrity checks. Twenty-nine mailboxes were identified as needing repair or reinforcement and letters went out to inform residents. This will help prevent mailbox damage when plowing snow. The Township is still seeking CDL snowplow drivers. Some trees at Orchard Beach-Cuddeback Cemetery will need assessment as to their condition.

Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson asked for approval of supplemental appropriations with \$5,050.00 for the Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp (OBWC); \$2627.00 for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and \$800.00 for electricity. Rowe made a motion to approve the supplemental appropriations as stated. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-04**

Baughman read an email from Steve William of Brightspeed asking about the road damaged from their workers. Baxter has been in contact with Williams to let him know there has been no follow up from them. The correspondence will be forwarded to Erie County Prosecutor Charles Bennett.

Baughman, Rowe, Johnson & Baxter discussed a complication of milling a section of road for the Risden Road asphalt overlay project with Hart owner Drew Russell. Rowe made motion to pay Hart Asphalt \$16,500.00 for the original Risden Road Overlay project and \$7,800.00 for the additional section of road.

The \$3,900.00 milling is still to be discussed. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-05**

Baughman read a letter from Erie County Engineer Eric Dodrill asking all Erie County Trustees to attend the annual meeting as required by ORC §5543.06 to address construction and maintenance to the roads, bridges and storm drainage in Erie County.

Baughman opened the floor to the audience.

Bill Via of West Lake Road would like the building Department to stay with the City of Vermilion.

Tom Kreukemeyer of Grand Harbor asked why one of his campaign signs was removed.

Bev Gula of Hickory Drive would like to see the Building Department return to the Township and asked about curbside leaf pickup.

Dan Myers of Coen Road asked if anything can be done about selling his trailer at a local mobile home park.

Rowe made a motion to enter into Executive Session per ORC §121.22(G)(3) to confer with an attorney on new matters of pending litigation. Session to occur after New Business. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-06**

Baughman recused himself from the meeting and turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Rowe.

Rowe stated Baughman recused himself from the meeting at 7:26pm and Rowe assumed the chair. Johnson made a motion to enter into Executive Session per ORC §121.22(G)(3) to confer with an attorney on matters of on-going litigation. Rowe seconded the motion. Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-07**

Rowe recessed the meeting at 7:26pm to go into Executive Session.

The regular meeting was called back to order by Vice-Chair Rowe at 7:57pm. The returning roll call resulted as follows: Baughman, Johnson & Rowe were present. Rowe surrendered the meeting back to Baughman.

Baughman said if a revised fire levy is to be ready for the May ballot, it needs to be started. Johnson said the Fire Department needs funds and the residents let us know we just need to change direction a bit. Rowe stated a discussion with Triana is needed to come up with numbers that would be palatable for the residents and the department. Baughman said one mil in tax generates roughly \$224,000.00. Perhaps 2 mil would be a good number instead of the 5 mil that was on the ballot. To give an idea of replacing the aging equipment: a new ambulance is about \$300,000.00 with a fire truck costing close to one million dollars. Baughman also noted the levy dollars are taxed at a fixed rate from 2012 and the rate of inflation has greatly increased since then. Johnson said he would like to have a discussion with Triana to drill down the numbers; some type of truck will probably not happen. Rowe would also like to get input from Triana and the department. Baughman said there's going to come a point where if we don't infuse more money into the fire department from some source, be it the general fund or through an additional levy, that we are not going to be able to maintain the services at the level we currently do. The matter was tabled.

The Erie County Engineer drawings and paperwork have been received for the Stanley Road Drainage Rehabilitation Project. This would remove existing drain tiles and replace with new, to alleviate stormwater and drainage issues. The Engineer's office needs trustee approval to prepare the bid packets. Rowe made a motion to proceed with the Stanley Road Drainage Rehabilitation Project. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-08**

The 2026 Ohio Township Association (OTA) Winter Conference has many education opportunities and is scheduled for February. Baughman and Rowe are already scheduled to attend. Rowe made a motion for the Zoning Inspector, the incoming trustee and a member from each zoning board to attend the Winter Conference. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-09**

The Vermilion Township Board of Zoning Appeals has a member term expiring December 31st, 2025. Rowe made a motion to appoint Nancy Sauer to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term commencing 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2030. Johnson seconded the motion. Rowe stated Sauer has attended all the various meetings and been very active with the Route 60 water issue. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251119-10**

Baughman said he received a request from Erie Regional Planning Commission Transportation Planner Kevin Cannon to schedule a meeting regarding the Route 60 water issue for Tuesday, January 13th, 2026. It will be located at the Vermilion Township Garage, 11607 Stanley Road, to accommodate a greater number of attendees than will fit in the meeting room. Time to be determined. The meeting will cover State Route 60, Trinter Ditch, Sperry Road and Mason Road water flow.

The necessary steps were discussed to reestablish the Township Building department. Rowe made a motion to transfer the building department back to Vermilion Township. Johnson seconded the motion. Rowe and Johnson voted to accept the motion. Baughman abstained. **20251119-11**

Baughman recessed the meeting at 8:38pm to enter into executive session.

The regular meeting was called back to order by Baughman at 9:52pm. The returning roll call resulted as follows: Baughman, Johnson & Rowe were present.

Baughman announced the next meeting would be Wednesday December 3rd, 2025 at 6:30pm

Baughman adjourned the meeting at 9:53.