

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025

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.

The November 5th, 2025 & November 19th, 2025 Trustees' Regular Meeting Minutes plus the November 21st, 2025 Emergency Meeting Minutes were approved as written. **20251203-01**

Ninety-three bills/warrants totaling \$116,495.41 were submitted for payment. Rowe made a motion to approve the warrants and receive the treasury reports. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251203-02**

Vermilion Township Fire Chief Frank Triana reported 61 runs for November & reports have been submitted to the state. Runs include: EMS-47, Motor vehicle crashes-11 (7 were car vs. deer), smoke detector activation-1, trees/power lines down-2. Both engines, the rescue and the tanker will need steer tires soon. The new iPad is in squad 813 while the old one went to the Chief's vehicle. A new actuator, turbo wiring harness and oxygen sensor were installed in 812. Triana would like to congratulate Firefighter Michael Dodds and Firefighter Dylan Willard who both passed the Paramedic-EMS National Registry Board test. Rowe asked about a traffic accident on Darrow Road. Chief reassured that everyone was alright.

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young reported the trucks have been undercoated; gathering quotes for coating the dura-patch emulsion tank and repairing the agitator and the very old stick welder needs to be replaced with a combo welder. A list of projects and equipment for 2026 was given, plus a list of old, unused equipment that needs to be sold. Cleaning of ditches continues and Young reminds the residents not to put their leaves in the ditches. Snow plowing has already started & Young cautions the residents to give the plow truck plenty of room to work. Rowe mentioned that the road crew was trying out an excavator and asked Young how he felt about it. Young said many more projects can be performed with this piece of equipment. Time and money will be saved by not having to sub-out work or struggling with equipment that is not designed for the job. Other equipment could be sold.

Vermilion Township Administrator & Zoning Inspector Joe Baxter reported continues work on the zoning resolution book, the ArcGIS system and a cyber security policy per OTARMA recommendations. The 90-day waiting period to reestablish the Township Building Department will allow time for a smooth transition. The road damage from Brightspeed installers is no closer to a resolution as every connection only leads to third-parties. In regards to an issue with one driveway on the Risden Road overlay project: there was miscommunication with the homeowner as he was not aware that his driveway now holds water and also the Erie County Engineer as the question was about the proper base, not the overlay. Baughman asked Joe if he had answers to a resident's questions from the previous meeting. Baxter replied he is working on violations for junk cars and he cannot do anything about a home addition as it permitted by the Township Zoning Code.

Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson reported the AmVets Post 22, 1517 State Road, Vermilion; through the Ohio Division of Liquor Control, requested a new liquor permit. The documentation is not approving the permit/license, just asking if the Township requests a hearing on the matter. Rowe made a motion that the Township DOES NOT request a hearing. Johnson seconded the motion. Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. Baughman abstained as he is a lifetime member.

20251203-03

Baughman introduced *Resolution 2025-25 Prohibiting Parking During The Months Of November Through April And Authorizing The Chairman Of The Board Of Trustees To Have The Authority To Declare A Snow Emergency And Parking Ban Under Certain Circumstances For A Period Of Six (6) Months Effective Beginning November 1 St And Ending April 30 Th Of Each Year Hereafter, To Be Known As "The Winter Subdivision Parking Ban"* and moved for its adoption. WHEREAS; the Board of Trustees of Vermilion Township have determined that the public safety and welfare of the township residents will be served by a regulation limiting parking on township roads within any subdivision during the months of November through April of each year, when snow and ice normally occur, so that the township roads can be kept clean of snow and ice, and passable for emergency vehicles and the general public; WHEREAS; heavy snowfall and hazardous icy road conditions often necessitate a declaration of emergency and the prohibition of parking on township roads so that the snow and ice might be cleared from the township roads; WHEREAS; O.R.C. 505.17 authorizes the Board of Vermilion Township Trustees to issue parking regulations and snow emergency authorization; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT; at any time snow accumulates on township roads in excess of two (2) inches or icy and hazardous conditions exist because of freezing rain within any twenty-four-hour period, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Vermilion Township is authorized to declare a snow emergency prohibiting parking on any township subdivision roads during the snow emergency. Such roads include; Cabernet, Chardonnay, Colonial Court, Daylon Court, Hickory Drive, Sassafras Drive, and Wine Street. The issuance of declaration shall declare the duration of the emergency and shall become effective two hours after the Chairman of the Board makes an announcement of the snow and hazardous ice emergency to any local news media outlet or upon the township official website; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees, Erie County, State of Ohio that the Chairman of the Board, in consultation with the Road Department Supervisor may issue such a declaration up to twelve (12) hours in advance of a pending and anticipated major weather event. And, that where the Erie County Sheriff declares a Level Two or higher roads conditions event, that the Chairman shall then automatically issue a declaration to activate the subdivision parking ban as indicated above if not already in effect; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT; a copy of this resolution shall be posted by the Township Fiscal Officer in two conspicuous public places in the township and on the township official website for thirty (30) days before becoming effective; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT; the provisions of this resolution shall not become effective until permanent signs giving notice that parking is limited during the effected months during a snow emergency are posted in accordance with any applicable standards adopted by the State Department of Transportation along the township roads affected by this resolution.

Rowe seconded the resolution. Erie County Sheriff Paul Sigsworth asked for an additional parking ban resolution focusing more on subdivisions with rules that have been enforced since the 1990's. Young stated a few more signs to post are needed. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to adopt the resolution.

20251203-04

Baughman introduced *Resolution 2025-26 Authorizing The Vermilion Township To Enter Into A Contract With Ohio Tree & Excavating For Additional Tree And Landscaping Maintenance Of The Cuddeback-Orchard Beach Cemetery*. Rowe seconded the resolution. The resolution was tabled to get additional estimates.

Baughman introduced *Resolution 2025-27 Authorizing The Vermilion Township To Enter Into A Contract With Safe Harbor Security & Fire, LLC. To Upgrade And Where Necessary Install New Security Camera Systems Within The Administrative Areas Of The Township Hall*. Rowe seconded the resolution. The resolution was tabled to acquire additional estimates.

Baughman introduced *Resolution 2025-28 Declaring A Necessity To Levy A Tax In Excess Of The Ten-Mill Limitation On The Question Of The Replacement Of An Existing Tax Of One And Sixty-Five One Hundredths (1.65) Mill, With A Tax Of Three And Sixty-Five One Hundredths (3.65) Mill, In Excess Of The Ten (10) Mill Limitations Which Would Be A Replacement With An Additional Increase Of Two Mil (2) And Pursuant To The Ohio Revised Code § 5705.19(I) For The Purpose And Provision And Maintenance Of The Fire Protection Services, Personnel, Fire Apparatus, Appliances, Buildings, Sites And For The Purpose Of Providing A Full Time Emergency Medical Service Within The Vermilion Township Fire Department (R.C. §§ 5705.03, 5705.191, 5705.192, And 5705.25)*. Rowe seconded the resolution. Baughman stated this is to put a lesser levy on the ballot, however this is a time-sensitive issue. A Levy of Necessity resolution needs to be passed first, then forwarded to the Erie County Auditor. Next a Levy to Proceed needs to be approved. The resolution was tabled to get more information from Triana.

Johnson thanked Larry Deem for his service on the Vermilion Township Board of Zoning Appeals.

Rowe made a motion to go into Executive Session per ORC §121.22(G)(1) to discuss personnel issues currently under review. Executive session to take place after “New Business”. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251203-05**

Rowe made a motion to go into Executive Session per ORC § 121.22(G)(1) to discuss personnel issues currently under review. Executive session to take place at the Erie County Prosecutor’s Office on December 4th, 2025 with Prosecutor Kevin Baxter in attendance. Baughman noted the meeting will be recessed (instead of adjourned) tonight, then continued in the morning and adjourned. Johnson seconded the motion. Johnson seconded the motion. Baughman, Johnson & Rowe voted to accept the motion. **20251203-06**

In correspondence: Baughman read a letter from Erie Regional Planning Commission Transportation Planner Kevin Cannon asking for locations needing traffic counts. Baughman submitted Haber Road. The Erie County Engineer’s Office sent a letter requesting Ed Burdue & Company store gravel at the Stanley Road Garage site in preparation for the South Cherry Road project. Also received was a letter from the City of Vermilion and Mayor Forthofer containing the building department contract.

Baughman opened the floor to the audience.

Martha Dickel of Barnes Road asked why the PhotoJournal did not interview the only eye-witness to the Baxter-Bennett dispute. Dickel previously lived in Brownhelm Township. When the City of Vermilion took over a portion of Brownhelm Township many promises were made that were never kept. She does not want the City involved with Vermilion Township. Baughman stated the incidents are still under investigation and the whole story has not been told.

Rob Dunn of Cherry Road said he was not happy with Bennett and listed many incidents involving him. He praised Baxter for helping many Township residents and supports the Building Department being brought back.

Tom Kruekmeyer of Grand Harbor said the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is against violence in the workplace.

Bill Via of West Lake Road said the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (OH-DAS) is against threats and violence.

Ken Burkins of West Lake Road said according to the Erie County Employee Handbook employees should have decorum.

Rowe asked in regards to the “new blood” statement, if that first came from Larry Deem. Baughman said something of that nature. Rowe said it applies to everything, change is needed, younger people need to get involved. That is the idea behind the PLOT Committee, to get more people involved and provide education. Baughman added many good things have been done in the Township, but they get overshadowed by “the” troublesome things.

Baughman announced the offices will be closed except by appointment only from December 19th, 2025 through January 4th, 2026.

Previously, several Township officials asked various City officials if there was a contract for the building department and were all told no. However, one does exist, stating both parties needed to adopt a resolution. The Township did not adopt a resolution, only passed a motion for one year. Baughman stated directly that the trustees at that time mishandled the situation.

Baxter noted that Vermilion Township still has a certified building department in *good standing* with the State of Ohio-Department of Commerce-Board of Building Standards (the governing body for Ohio’s building codes).

Baughman announced the next meeting would be Wednesday December 17th, 2025 at 6:30pm

Baughman announced the trustees would attending the required Erie County Engineer’s Office meeting Thursday, December 4th at 9:00am. The next PLOT Committee meeting will be Thursday, December 11th, 2025 at 6:00pm

Baughman **recessed** the meeting at 7:40pm.

The regular meeting was called back to order on Thursday, December 4th, 2025 at 12:00pm. The returning roll call resulted as follows: Baughman, Johnson & Rowe were present.

Baughman adjourned the meeting at 12:01pm