

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

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. Don Rowe were present. Mr. Keith Sexton was absent.

The agenda was amended to add under #6 *New Business*, **item h** Orchard Beach-Cuddeback Cemetery and under V *Incidental Business*, a special meeting on Friday, April 22nd at 8:30am to discuss pending litigation with the Erie County Commissioners.

Baughman introduced *Resolution 2026-11 To Enter Into A Two-Year Maintenance Contract With VASU Communications Inc. For Radio Service Communication Equipment Maintenance For The Vermilion Township Fire Department*, and moved for its adoption. WHEREAS; the Vermilion Township Fire Department relies on its communications equipment for prompt response time for emergency situations and where the Maintenance Agreement for the Vermilion Township Fire Department assures that their communications equipment stays reliable and extends its useable life. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees enter into a maintenance agreement contract with VASU Communications Inc., 2432 Ridgeland Drive, Avon, Ohio 44011, for the Vermilion Township Fire Department's communications equipment from April 15th, 2026, to April 14th, 2028, at a cost of \$9,000.00 for the entire two-year period. IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED; this Resolution is declared to be an Emergency Measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of this township. The reason for the emergency is to preserve the continuation of contracted services for telecommunication maintenance services provided to and for the Vermilion Township Fire Department. Rowe seconded the resolution. Baughman noted a two-year contract saves \$500.00. Baughman & Rowe voted to approve the motion. **20260415-01**

Erie County Sheriff Paul Sigsworth thanked the Township for having a Sheriff substation and encouraged residents to call with any concerns. Sigsworth commented he is in favor of the proposed changes to the building to give the Sheriff's office more privacy and security. Two parking spots with direct access to Kneisel Road and next to the south door would also be appreciated.

Baughman made a motion to enter in Executive Session per ORC §121.22(G)(3) to confer with an attorney on matters of pending litigation; to take place after New Business. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe & voted to approve the motion. **20260415-02**

Baughman made a motion to enter into Executive Session per ORC §121.22(G)(1) to discuss appointment of personnel; to take place after New Business. Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to approve the motion. **20260415-03**

An email was received from the Ohio Board of Building Standards requesting a confirmation letter of the termination of former Vermilion Township Building & Zoning Inspector Joe Baxter. Baughman stated a

letter was sent. An email was received from the Erie County Engineer's Office regarding local municipality salt participation updates.

Baughman opened the floor to the audience.

Marth Dickel of Barnes Road said she knows elected officials need to live in the Township, but she is not happy that Baughman and Sexton do not own property in the Township. Dickel asked why Baxter wasn't given another 30 days.

David Johnson, Pastor of the Church of the Nazarene on Kneisel Road asked if the Township could build a walking bridge from the church property to the Redwood Apartments since a Township owned ditch is between the two properties.

Arlene Olsen of Darrow Road said Baxter was helpful to her.

Dan Ladrach of State Road is not happy about the termination of Baxter.

Bev Gula of Hickory Drive asked if anyone was supposed to help Baxter set up the Building Department.

Jim Gula of Hickory Drive said the building department wasn't functional long enough to determine Baxter's performance. He should have been given goals.

Baughman made a motion to disburse payment of the two payment applications to Ed Burdue and Company for the South Cherry Road Project. Rowe seconded the motion. A final payment will still need to be paid and the applications need to be signed by the trustees. Baughman & Rowe voted to approve the motion. **20260415-04**

Baughman made a motion to approve repair expenses for the Fire Department Squad 813 in an amount not to exceed \$4,300.00 and Squad 811 in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 Rowe seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to approve the motion. **20260415-05**

EMS regionalization is still being discussed in the County. Baughman suggested the City of Vermilion, Brownhelm Township, Florence Township & Vermilion Township could group together with Vermilion Township being the hub.

There are graves on property owned by Terry Pena and the Vermilion Country Club, just outside the boundary lines of Orchard Beach-Cuddeback cemetery. It is a pie-shaped sliver of land that is about 35 feet-wide down to zero feet, about 5% of an acre. Lake Shore Electric used to have an easement on the north side of the cemetery property that might have skewed the markers. Rowe made a motion to have Erie County Assistant Prosecutor Jason Hinnners draft a formal letter to offer Pena \$1,000.00 for that sliver of land on the south side of Orchard Beach-Cuddeback Cemetery. Baughman seconded the motion. Baughman & Rowe voted to approve the motion. **20260415-06**

Hinnners discussed communication protocol to avoid any open meetings act violations. Hinnners stated all communication from the trustees should come through administrator Johnson. Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson should go straight to Hinnners for any help with record requests. The Vermilion Township Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals are independent bodies, the chairs of those boards may contact him directly.

Baughman announced the next meeting would be Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Baughman reminded residents the spring cleanup day is Saturday, May 16th, 2026 from 9:00am to 3:00 pm at the Barnes Road locations.

Baughman announced there will be a Vermilion Township board of Trustees' Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at 8:30am. The meeting will open at the Township Hall, the trustees will go into Executive Session, travel to the Erie County Commissioners' Office to discuss matters of pending litigation, then return to the Township Hall to close the meeting.

Baughman recessed the meeting at 7:40 to enter into Executive Session.

The meeting was called back to order by Baughman at 9:10pm.

The roll call resulted as follows: Baughman & Rowe were present. Sexton remained absent.

Baughman adjourned the meeting at 9:11pm.