

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Moulton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. In attendance were Trustees Moulton, Petrea, and Vetter, as well as Fiscal Officer Limes.

The sign-in sheet for employees and visitors is attached with the approved minutes.

Noted on the sign in sheet is a statement indicating the meeting may be recorded or streamed live to the internet by a visitor - not at the authority of the township trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the first and third Wednesdays as the standard meeting days of the month and a standard 6:00 p.m. start time. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mrs. Petrea seconded a motion to move the February 4 meeting due to a conflict with the Ohio Township Association Winter Conference to Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve moving the meeting time of the Wednesday, December 16, 2026 meeting to 9:00 a.m. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve Melissa Petrea as the township representative to the Union Hill Cemetery Board. Motion approved.** Mr. Vetter indicated that the standard meeting times are the 1st Monday at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are typically held at the Middleton Township offices.
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mrs. Petrea seconded a motion to approve Mike Moulton as the township representative to the New Belleville Ridge Joint Cemetery Board. Motion approved.** Mrs. Limes noted the next meeting would be held on Monday, January 26 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve Kip McDowell as the township representative to the TMACOG Stormwater Action Group. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve Melissa Petrea as the township representative to the TMACOG Stormwater Coalition. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mrs. Petrea seconded a motion to approve Mike Moulton as the township representative to TMACOG. Motion approved.**

VISITOR COMMENTS*

- Mr. Moulton opened the visitor comments by reading a letter from Wood County Prosecutor Paul Dobson, which summarized the prosecutor's office review on any pending township moratorium on data centers, by stating their office was currently researching the requirements for same.
- Mr. Moulton also indicated he was in receipt of an email with correspondence from Meta which outlined numerous points of project and community impact of the ongoing project in the township, including water and energy use, air quality and economic development. Mr. Moulton read the letter to the audience with visitor comments being allowed during the reading in totality.
- Mark Patton, Devils Hole Road, questioned how the township plans to move forward.
- Jordan Mitchell* requested the trustees' feelings on the moratorium.
- Alden Hasulf, Bowling Green, shared concerns with regard to the environmental impact of the data center.
- Mrs. Linda Holmes, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and legal council for the township reviewed the potential moratorium and how a moratorium typically can be based on damaged infrastructure.
- Quinn Mariss* spoke on behalf of her concerns with regard to environmental impact.
- Mr. Patton questioned the use of backup generators being used on site.
- Concerns were raised about current the amount of energy available to supply electrical generation needs.
- Mrs. Holmes spoke to Meta's involvement in infrastructure and their support of same in the area noting the following: payment for the water tower at the Northwestern Water and Sewer District site; \$13M donated to the sewer line installation; pond installation designed with the correct watershed location; and adherence to the existing township nuisance laws.
- John Alexander, Perrysburg, asked for confirmation that the ponds were for retention only and not for cooling and Mrs. Holmes confirmed their purpose for retention only.
- Mrs. Holmes continued with information that the location for the data center was selected due to the established state highway systems in place, that were built to sustain the heavy traffic; the availability of water and the sewer systems now in place.
- Mr. Patton questioned the status of the rezoning requests and it was clarified that the most recent rezoning applications were pulled by the applicants and to date have not been resubmitted to the zoning commission.

- Referendum petitions were reviewed with Mrs. Holmes noting that the latest laws require signatures of 35% of the voting population in the last gubernatorial race be gathered to place a referendum issue on the ballot.
- Expansion of the site was brought up with concerns about expansion of power grids and power generation stations.
- Autumn Glenn* read a prepared statement sharing concerns over environmental impacts and health of current and future generations of residents.
- Ms. Hasulf raised additional concerns with regard to consumption of energy.
- Logan Probst* addressed the Board as a spokesperson for her grandmother, a township resident, asking how she should explain this situation to her grandmother when the environment is impacted.
- Mrs. Petrea stated that she is prepared to ask tough questions to provide answers to these questions.
- Bob Grove, Mercer Road, stated that he felt the current situation is a 'done deal,' and questioned how to navigate the next phases.
- Lauren Holcomb* provided data from Lorain County with regard to additions to area landfills, wastewater safety and roads being taken out of service.
- Five Point Road resident Mary Corder requested assurances on how the process works and what residents can do to stay informed. She stated concerns about flooding, the water shed and how more information can be provided.
- Mrs. Holmes reviewed how properties can be reclassified and how zoning practices are handled by Ohio Revised Code.
- Robert Mollenberg, Devils Hole Road, made suggestions with regard notification for rezoning which included increasing the notification boundaries and posting signage at the site of the rezoning request. Mr. Mollenberg also questioned the power generation station and the noise pollution from same.
- A local Bowling Green resident stated he felt that individuals should look at their own data use habits in order to have an impact.

**It is noted that not all persons who spoke during visitor comments have been quoted. In addition, some names provided were noted but the individuals did not record their name/signature on the sign-in sheet as requested by Mrs. Limes and the Board prior to and during the meeting.*

Mr. Moulton stated the Board would recess for approximately 15 minutes.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the January 7, 2026 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mrs. Petrea moved, Mr. Vetter seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes. Mrs. Limes noted that invoices to Cintas and Stanwade will be reviewed and paid.
- Mrs. Limes provided the December 2025 bank reconciliation for trustee review.
- Temporary Appropriations need to be reviewed. It was determined Mr. Vetter and Mrs. Limes would review the end-of-year balances and make a recommendation at the January 21 meeting.
- Mrs. Limes noted a special meeting in February or March would be needed to review permanent appropriations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Fire Chief Andy Carter provided updated run reports for review which included a when-to-work report, information on runs by personnel and units responding.
- Chief Carter is currently involved in software training with ESO for individualized reporting options within that system.
- A retirement party in honor of Assistant Fire Chief Brian Kotula was discussed. A date and time of Tuesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. was suggested. Chief Carter and Mrs. Limes will contact Mr. Kotula to confirm that date for the celebration.
- Fire fighter and EMS third rider Audrey Hendry has submitted her resignation due to accepting a full-time position with the City of Waterville Fire Department.
- Eight (8) applications for employment have been submitted for township volunteer fire fighters.
- The following individuals have passed their EMT Basic training: Kyle O'Connell, Nick Skotynsky, and Zachary Neeld.
- Fleet vehicle 681 will be out of service due to needed repairs and a tire replacement.
- A quote for a new mini pumper is still being reviewed.
- The old brush truck sold on govdeals.com for \$29,000. The aluminum tool boxes and smaller tool boxes also sold at a total price of \$715.
- Five (5) new sets of gear and helmets have been ordered.
- The pass door at the fire station in Dunbridge has been repaired.

- The EMS billing proposal with MediCount has been passed back to the committee from Linda Holmes, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. A review of her notes will be held and more information provided to the Trustees at their February 3 meeting.
- A resolution for fire code enforcement and fire inspection is currently undergoing review and will be sent to Mrs. Holmes for her review. It is anticipated this will be provided back to the Trustees for review at the January 21 meeting.
- Mr. Vetter noted the Board is meeting with a potential candidate for a fire inspector.
- Mrs. Petrea questioned if Williams had contacted the township about the power plant project.

EMS DEPARTMENT

- EMS Department Chief Jerry Saunders reviewed the run volume reports for December and 2025. It is noted the EMS department responded to 439 calls in 2025.
- Chief Saunders stated that the cost of the ballistic helmets will be submitted for reimbursement to the Ohio EMS and Training Grant.
- The new full-time paramedic, Zachary Solarek, will begin shifts on January 14 with Captain John Marcson.

OLD BUSINESS

- Dave Johnston, Ohio Fully Integrated Technologies (OHIOFit), is continuing the work on the camera installation and lock upgrades. It is noted that a camera has been installed in the conference room.
- A review of the latest invoice and project updates on the Emergency Vehicle Storage Building will be held on Thursday morning, January 8. It was noted that power is not yet to the site.
- Discussion revolved around repairs and improvements to Dowling Road noting that the bridge is in need of repair as well. Drawings have been turned over to the township from ODOT.
- Power is still needed to the Dunbridge Road water and sewer lift station.
- Mr. Vetter indicated that Williams, ODOT, the county engineer and township are in discussion with regard to updated round-a-bout locations specific to Mercer Road and St. Rt. 582.
- Mr. Vetter indicated that the Foos family is not retiring from their work at Union Hill Cemetery as originally presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Petrea discussed grant opportunities available through LTAP as well as TMACOG.
- Mr. Moulton stated a new sign grant for road sign improvements is available. Mr. Vetter indicated the township took advantage of a similar grant to upgrade signage a number of years ago.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to move to executive session at 8:44 p.m. for the purpose of review of a legal matter. Role was called: Mr. Moulton – YES; Mrs. Petrea – YES; Mr. Vetter - YES

The Board returned to regular session at 9:37 p.m.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the township does not accept the current offer for settlement with regard to the Copeland Estate lawsuit, declining the plaintiff's demand for settlement with continued efforts to defend the township in this matter. Motion approved.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mrs. Petrea seconded adjournment of the meeting at 9:39 pm. Motion approved.

Michael Moulton, Chairman

Melissa S. Petrea, Trustee

Fred E. Vetter, Vice Chairman

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer