

**RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP
LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO
BOARD OF RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

July 7, 2025

The regular meeting of the Richfield Township Trustees was called to order by Steve Bettinger at 7:00 p.m. at the Richfield Township Fire Department, 11450 Sylvania Avenue, Berkey, Ohio. All present were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Chairman: Steve Bettinger – present
Co-Chairman: Andrew Bick – present
Andrew Lumbrezer - present

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The clerk provided copies of the minutes from the June 16, 2025, meeting current Cash Summary Report, Revenue Report, June Bank Reconciliation and Pending Warrants Report.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Andrew Lumbrezer made a motion to approve the June 16, 2025, minutes as presented. Andrew Bick seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

Andrew Lumbrezer made a motion to amend the June 5, 2025 minutes, correcting the dates on the time line of events from 2025 to 2024 on the following dates: 5/6/25, 6/8/25, 9/3/25, 10/7/25. Andrew Bick seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE BILLS:

The attached listings of warrants (14149 - 14166) were presented for approval:

Andrew Bick made a motion to approve payment of the attached listing of invoices and the corresponding pending warrants. Andrew Lumbrezer seconded the motion. Roll call: All voted yes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lisa Sobecki (Lucas County Commissioner) presented information on the Lucas County five-year strategic plan, spanning 2025-2030, which aims to guide future decision-making and enhance service delivery to residents. The plan, developed with community input, focuses on transparency and addressing modern challenges. It outlines both operational goals and advocacy areas, including enhancing service delivery, modernizing operations, and strengthening community safety, well-being, and resilience.

Key aspects of the plan include: community engagement, transparency & communication, operational goals, advocacy areas, accountability, and new branding.

Discussion on affordable housing, this is not public housing. Developers can provide tax abatements, incentives to keep the prices down.

FIRE:

Chief Scarborough provided the following reports:

- Crew Involvement as of mid-year 2025, showing incident totals, percentage of incidents for each staff member.
- Incident volume 2024 versus 2025. 2024: 126 incidents, 2025: 138 incidents showing an increase of 12 incidents in 2025.
- Staff participation in training drills in 2025 with a goal of 20% as trainings are provided four to five times per month.
- Crew involvement in June 2025
- Volunteer pay mid-year 2025.

Fire department strives to meet all national standards for fire safety.

Chief Scarborough presented new applications for the fire department: Jeremiah Johnson, Noah Chevalier, Josh Turner, Hannah Wilson. All applicants will be part-time as well as volunteers. Free training currently provided on majority of Fire/EMT training.

Steve Bettinger made a motion to hire Jeremiah Johnson, Noah Chevalier, Josh Turin, Hannah Wilson to the fire department pending drug screening, physical, background check with a one year probationary period. Andrew Lumbrezer seconded the motion. All voted yes. Motion approved.

Chase Linenkugel has resigned from the fire department.

Andrew Lumbrezer made a motion to accept the resignation of Chase Linenkugel from the fire department. Steve Bettinger seconded the motion. All voted yes. Motion approved.

Discussion on status of total hiring budget, all new hires require expenses for various items including gear, physicals. Chief Pete reported current staffing is adequate.

ZONING:

Zoning Inspector absent. Three zoning permits issued since last meeting.

FISCAL OFFICER:

Time sheets, sheriff reports submitted to Trustees for review.

Key Bank provided additional documents to update signature records for the transfer of funds from Key investment account to Star Ohio, signatures obtained.

ADMINISTRATOR:

Officially received, accepted the Ohio Department of Development grant to work on zoning, land use plan revisions. Received \$62,300.00, funds can only be used for that specific project, funds will be placed in a separate account, monitored. Currently in the process of getting proposal ready to go out for bid.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Trustee Bick reported Rd. Maintenance Supervisor Dan Walters sold a couple graves at the new rate for non-residents at the price of \$2500.00 per grave. Working with Batanians to clean up limbs at Wolfinger Cemetery.

Trustee Lumbrezer reported Gibbs Rd will be closed on July 14, 2025 for sixty days.

ROADS:

Trustee Bettinger reported Lucas County Engineers approved final payment to Bergman's (contractor for Miller Rd. project) as specifications are now met.

OLD BUSINESS:

Waiting on estimates for the well repairs. The town hall has no water, no furnace, no air conditioning. Discussion on renovating fire department meeting room as well or add on in the future. Updates in the townhall would include updating electric, plumbing, asbestos removal, making handicapped accessible. Further discussion on obtaining estimates on the cost of renovating town hall versus fire department.

Inherited several road miles from Lucas County, salt bin is no longer large enough to hold the amount of salt needed. To accommodate will need either multiple deliveries, if possible, build a second salt bin, or add on to the existing salt bin.

Discussion on maintenance of the roads and cemetery, the township does not have the equipment needed to dig graves which the township is responsible for. Currently the work is contracted out. Dan Walters (Road Maintenance Supervisor is working on getting estimates on equipment.

Chief Scarborough provided five proposals for potential levies to provide 24 hour Fire/EMS coverage.

Cost to average resident for 24 hour Fire/EMS Coverage

Home Value	Current 6 mills	14 mills (current 6 mills + 8 additional mills)	20 mills
\$100,000	\$210.00	\$490.00	\$700.00
\$150,000	\$315.00	\$715.00	\$1,050.00
\$200,000	\$420.00	\$980.00	\$1400.00
\$250,000	\$525.00	\$1225.00	\$1750.00
\$300,000	\$630.00	\$1470.00	\$2100.00

Cost for Fire Department Coverage 24 hrs.

Fire Budget	Staffing
\$962,100	3 staff 24/7 + 24/7 hr chief
\$986,100	3 staff 24/7 + 24/7 hr chief
\$677,300	2 staff 24/7 w/50 + hr chief
\$626,300	2 staff 24/7 w/30 hr chief
\$960,600	3 staff 24/7 w/50+hr cheif

Fire department equipment is all aging with our youngest vehicle at twenty-five years old (other than a grant we received seven years ago to purchase a new ambulance) therefore we are spending more to repair vehicles. The averag life span of fire department vehicles is twenty years old.

Discussion on meeting "National standards for EMS, Fire staffing", these standards, recommend minimum crew sizes, focusing on timely response and sufficient personnel. Liability issues if standards are not met, currently the township with minimum volunteers cannot meet these standards consistently.

Trustee Lumbrezer, Trustee Bick were not in favor of placing a levy on the ballot for November election.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ohio Department of Development grant was awarded to the Township, targeting underfunded areas needing zoning and land use plan updates. The Township is developing a draft proposal in collaboration with TMACOG, Lucas County to ensure proper planning. Once finalized, a Request For Proposal (RFP) will be issued for open bidding, with TMACOG and other state agencies helping to distribute it to appropriate parties. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney John Borrell will review the draft proposal

Andrew Bick made a motion to proceed with the draft, obtain legal review, and present it to the Board of Trustees at the next scheduled meeting.. Andrew Lumbrezer seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

The Zoning Board will review the proposal at their July 14, 2025 meeting.

The Township plans to seek community input through town hall meetings (scheduled for public convenience) and a mailed survey to all residents.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Residents may call Norma Drennan at 419-829-6029 or 419-283-3424 to rent the town hall.

The following information can be viewed on the Richfield Township website at: www.richfieldtwp.com.

1. Trustee minutes
2. Zoning minutes
3. Zoning including: fees, applications, complaint forms, and the zoning book.
4. Meeting dates and times
5. Contact information for Trustees, Zoning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals.
6. Wolfinger Cemetery information including cemetery fees, rules & regulations.
7. Fire and Rescue
8. Town hall rental rules and fees
9. Roads and Maintenance

- 10. Rubbish Contractor information for garbage pickup
- 11. Community Links.

There being no further business Andrew Bick made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., which was seconded by Andrew Lumbrezer: Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

Richfield Township Fiscal Officer

