

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

March 16, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: Chairman Andrew Bick – present
Co-Chairman Vicky Loeffler-Bernheisel – present
Kim Ronau – present

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The clerk provided copies of the minutes from the March 2, 2026, current Cash Summary Report, Revenue Report, and Pending Warrants Report.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kim Ronau made a motion to approve the March 2, 2026 minutes as presented. Vicky Loeffler seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE BILLS:

The attached listings of warrants (14479– 144) were presented for approval:

Vicky Loeffler made a motion to approve payment of the attached listing of invoices and the corresponding pending warrants. Kim Ronau seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Prior Incident – Use of Lyons Fire Department Water**
 - A resident inquired about an incident from last year in which a township employee used water from the Lyons Fire Department to fill a township tanker. The resident asked whether disciplinary action had been taken. Trustee Bick confirmed that disciplinary action was taken and handled in executive session, with agreement from all three trustees at that time

- **Incident Reporting for Employee-Caused Damage**
 - Discussion was held on the need to complete incident reports when employees damage property or equipment. Trustees will explore developing formal incident reporting procedures.
- **Cybersecurity Compliance – Falcon Foresight**
 - Representative Brandon Elliott, Falcon Foresight (cybersecurity firm based in Toledo), addressed the Board. He discussed Ohio House Bill 96, Section 964, relating to cybersecurity compliance for townships, villages, and counties.
 - Mr. Elliott will attend a future meeting to provide a more detailed presentation on Falcon Foresight’s services to support cyber compliance.
 - Training offered by Falcon Foresight is credentialed and approved in Ohio, which may allow training costs to be effectively net-zero to the township if delivered through the state-approved program.

FIRE:

- **Run Statistics:**
 - Chief Pete provided graphs showing only one run difference between this year and last year.
 - Year-to-date runs: Exactly equal to the same period last year.
- **Lithium-Ion Battery Storage Farms / Fires:**
 - Chief distributed literature on lithium-ion battery storage farms and related fire hazards from the Fire Department’s perspective.
 - Concerns:
 - These fires are extremely difficult or impossible to extinguish with current capabilities.
 - Any water used becomes contaminated and contaminates soil.
 - Farms would need to provide/fire-protection and containment systems before approval

Trustees expressed that any such project would require a rigorous demonstration of containment and mitigation capacity before consideration.

ZONING:

- **Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) – March 3 Hearing**
 - Request to place solar panels on the front of a house at 10688 Miller Road.
 - Zoning Certificate 26-01 for solar panels had originally been denied by the Zoning Commission.
 - BZA held a hearing with the owners; after discussion, the BZA approved the request to place solar panels on the front of the house.
 - Following the hearing, three members of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) resigned. Recruitment advertisements for new members have been posted on the Township’s website and social media channels.

- **Zoning Permits Issued**
 - New House: Permit for a new house on Sylvania-Metamora Road (exact address pending).
 - Pole Barn: Permit for a new pole barn.
 - Fence: Permit for a fence.

FISCAL OFFICER:

Timesheets were reviewed by the Trustees.

- **Deputy Activity Report (Lucas County Sheriff)**
 - For a recent two-week period, deputies logged 24 hours in the township.
 - Activity summary:
 - 2 citations issued.
 - 5 warnings for speeding (under 10 mph over).
 - 7 total traffic stops.
 - 1 motorist assist.
 - Additional activities included patrolling all roads in the township, checking on local businesses with a focus on Gibbs Rd.
- **Property Tax Elimination Proposal (State of Ohio)**
 - Fiscal Officer attended a county meeting regarding a state initiative to eliminate property taxes in Ohio.

Key points:

- A poll suggests the measure could pass with around 67% voter support.
- Townships derive about two-thirds of their funding from property tax; elimination would be devastating.
- **Proposals to offset lost revenue:**
 - Raising sales tax (potentially up to a cap of around 14%).
 - Raising state income tax from ~2.5% to possibly 12–14%.
- **Key Concerns Regarding Township Services:**
 - Safety Services: Fire, EMS which rely heavily on local levies, could face funding depletion and operational shut down.
 - Infrastructure: Road and bridge maintenance, along with cemetery upkeep, would likely be neglected due to lack of funds.
 - Operating Budget: General funds for daily township operations and personnel would vanish.
 - Proponents have reportedly collected more than enough signatures to place it on the ballot. Signatures are currently being validated, and signatures can be carried forward to future elections if needed.
 - Earliest expected effective date, if passed: January 1, 2027

- It is expected that rural townships may vote against the measure, but 65% of Ohio's population lives in cities and villages and may vote in favor, as they rely less directly on property tax for local services.
- **Education / Outreach Discussion:**
 - Trustees discussed being proactive: Hold town hall meetings, use of newsletter, website and social media with clear bullet points about local impacts.
 - Emphasis on clear communication on impacts to the townships fire, roads, and other services.

2025 Fire Department Operating Expense – \$150,000 Clarification

- A prior question from a resident concerned a \$158,000 figure in Fire Department machinery and equipment expenses.
- Clarification: The large amount was due to a grant received to replace expired fire gear, approximately \$120,000 was grant-funded gear; the expenditure showed under machinery/equipment on appropriation report.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Ronau reported:

- She attending the following minutes.
 - **Lake Erie Regional Meeting**
 - Discussion focused on:
 - Data centers.
 - Brownfield redevelopment.
 - Regional infrastructure in the Toledo area.
 - **Legislative Breakfast (Farm Bureau) Meeting**
 - Topics included: Cleaning the ditches and how to preserve farm ground.

Residents may contact the Lucas County Engineer's Office via its website, where there is a form for property owners who have made improvements to ditches on their land. The County will review those improvements and may negotiate applying a portion of the costs incurred to offset the property owner's tax bill.

Trustee Bick reported:

Attended the annual Lucas County Engineers Road meeting.

- A large pothole at the roundabout exit (westbound) will be dug out, widened, and repaved; a similar issue eastbound will also be corrected.

- Concerns about a downed light pole were raised again; county staff reported that Toledo Edison has been very slow to respond (sometimes up to six months).
- Chip-sealing is planned on sections of Lathrop (county-maintained portion) and Sylvania Avenue; exact segments will be identified at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Purse Bingo Fundraiser

- The recent Purse Bingo fundraiser held at the fire station was very successful, with all tickets sold out. Volunteers from Richfield and Amboy Township assisted with the event. Alcohol was served and no issues were reported. Overall, the event went very well, and suggestions were noted for improving future events.

Concerns were raised that the sheriff's activity reports suggested the Township may have paid for security at the event. For future events, it was recommended that, for liability reasons, the Richfield Township Fire Association be responsible for the cost of security. It was also noted that an insurance rider with a multi-million-dollar coverage limit was obtained for the event.

Insurance Review – Hylant

The Fiscal Officer distributed the current insurance schedule from Hylant via email. The Trustees and Fire Chief were asked to review the document for accuracy. Hylant Insurance will be invited to attend a meeting in May to review the policy.

OLD BUSINESS:

William Consolo presented the 2025 Sheriff Activity Report, compiled from the 2025 deputy report sheets (see attachment). The total staffing cost for 2025 was \$30,900.00, with an additional \$7,725.00 for the vehicle.

There was discussion about discontinuing the Lucas County deputy patrols in the township and reallocating those funds to support nighttime staffing for the fire department. No action was taken, and the discussion was tabled.

Time Clocks:

The Fiscal Officer per request of the Trustees reported on research into potential time clock and timekeeping systems. Pricing ranged from approximately \$1,500 per year for a mobile-device-only system to \$8,400 per year for a full system.

It was noted that the UAN accounting system does not include an integrated timesheet module. The Trustees expressed concern about the cost in relation to the township's budget, and no action was taken at this time.

Community Open House – Comprehensive Plan / Steering Committee

The Board discussed the upcoming community open house:

- Date: Thursday, the 19th
- Time: 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- Location: Fire station
- Facilitator: Crossroads (planning consultants)
- **All community members are invited; it is an open house/informational event.**

Kim Ronau made a motion to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Vicky Loeffler seconded the motion, Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

Kim Ronau made a motion to resume the regular meeting at 9:00 p.m. Vicky Loeffler seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

Kim Ronau made a motion to increase the salary of zoning inspector to \$25.00 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per month with a \$200.00 stipend. Vicky Loeffler seconded the motion. Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

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. Roads and Maintenance
9. Rubbish Contractor information for garbage pickup
10. Community Links.

There being no further business Kim Ronau made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m., which was seconded by Vicky Loeffler-Bernheisel: Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

Richfield Township Fiscal Officer

Payment Listing

3/3/2026 to 3/31/2026

Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
132-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Tanner S Glass	\$203.17	O
133-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Katelyn Greiner	\$208.32	O
134-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Kimberly S Greiner	\$191.09	O
135-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Adam L Grine	\$402.50	O
136-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Trevor L Linnenkugel	\$199.26	O
137-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Christian D Maley	\$579.98	O
138-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Lucas Parmelee	\$1,254.33	O
139-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Herbert K Scarborough	\$1,329.52	O
140-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Ryan E Sedlock	\$1,541.81	O
141-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Wendy Waisner	\$405.90	O
142-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Daniel William Walters	\$1,068.64	O
143-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	EP	Hannah E Wilson	\$178.15	O
145-2026	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	CH	Telesystem	\$433.62	O
146-2026	03/13/2026	03/13/2026	EW	OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES DEFERRED CC	\$50.00	O
147-2026	03/13/2026	03/13/2026	EW	SCHOOL DISTRICT INCOME TAX PROGRAI	\$99.98	O
148-2026	03/13/2026	03/13/2026	EW	TREASURER OF STATE OF OHIO	\$436.56	O
149-2026	03/13/2026	03/13/2026	EW	IRS	\$2,773.35	O
150-2026	03/13/2026	03/14/2026	EW	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTE	\$2,255.82	O
151-2026	03/13/2026	03/14/2026	EW	Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund	\$4,018.86	O
14479	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Buck Brothers, LLC	\$143.97	O
14480	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Pneu-Matic Engineering, Inc.	\$536.50	O
14481	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Bound Tree Medical, LLC	\$486.48	O
14482	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Triotech	\$227.25	O
14483	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	TOLEDO EDISON	\$37.61	O
14484	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Battery Wholesale	\$185.24	O
14485	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	LYONS LP GAS CO., INC.	\$919.46	O
14486	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Findlay Fleet Repair & Welding LLC	\$638.15	O
14487	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$220.71	O
14488	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Kim Ronau	\$242.15	O
14489	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Capital One	\$4,351.24	V
14489	03/10/2026	03/10/2026	AW	Capital One	-\$4,351.24	V
14490	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Andrew Bick	\$221.85	O
14491	03/09/2026	03/09/2026	AW	Lucas County Sheriff's Office	\$360.00	O
14492	03/10/2026	03/10/2026	AW	Vicky Loeffler-Bernheisel	\$275.50	O
14493	03/10/2026	03/10/2026	AW	Capital One	\$4,509.85	O
14494	03/13/2026	03/13/2026	AW	Daniel Walters	\$645.04	O
14495	03/15/2026	03/15/2026	AW	FIRE-SAFETY SERVICES, INC.	\$129.00	O
14496	03/16/2026	03/16/2026	AW	Juan Martinez	\$1,200.00	O
14497	03/16/2026	03/16/2026	AW	TOLEDO EDISON	\$74.61	O
14498	03/16/2026	03/16/2026	AW	Scott Rhodus	\$240.00	O
14499	03/16/2026	03/16/2026	AW	Kim Ronau	\$8.00	O
Total Payments:					\$28,932.23	
Total Conversion Vouchers:					\$0.00	
Total Less Conversion Vouchers:					\$28,932.23	

Payment Listing

3/3/2026 to 3/31/2026

Type: AM - Accounting Manual Warrant, AW - Accounting Warrant, IM - Investment Manual Warrant, IW - Investment Warrant, PM - Payroll Manual Warrant, PR - Payroll Warrant, RW - Reduction of Receipt Warrant, SW - Skipped Warrant, WH - Withholding Warrant, WM - Withholding Manual, WS - Special Warrant, CH - Electronic Payment Advice, IL - Investment Loss, EP - Payroll EFT Voucher, CV - Payroll Conversion Voucher, SV - Payroll Special Voucher, EW - Withholding Voucher, POS ADJ - Positive Adjustment, NEG ADJ - Negative Adjustment, POS REAL - Positive Reallocation, NEG REAL - Negative Reallocation

Status: O - Outstanding, C - Cleared, V - Voided, B - Batch

* Asterisked amounts are not included in report totals. These transactions occurred outside the reported date range but are listed for reference.

2025 SHERIFF ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE	HOURS	ARREST	CITATION	WARNING	GIBBS	OZZIES	CHURCH	RADAR	TRAFFIC STOP	PROPERTY CHECK	VEHICLE CHECK	CITIZEN ASSIST
Q1	128	1	4	21	69	20	3	26	24	4	5	7
Q2	143	2	14	21	63	25	4	13	34	8	3	14
Q3	112	0	5	9	32	23	8	8	16	6	5	4
Q4	132	0	4	14	41	24	10	3	18	7	6	4
TOTALS 2025	515	3	27	65	205	92	25	50	92	25	19	29

TOTAL MANPOWER COST 2025 \$30,900

TOTAL VEHICLE COST 2025 \$7,725

MANPOWER HOURS/PAY FOR THE YEAR 2025 WHERE ALLOCATED AT 768 HRS x \$60/HR = \$46,080 TOTAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE YEAR.

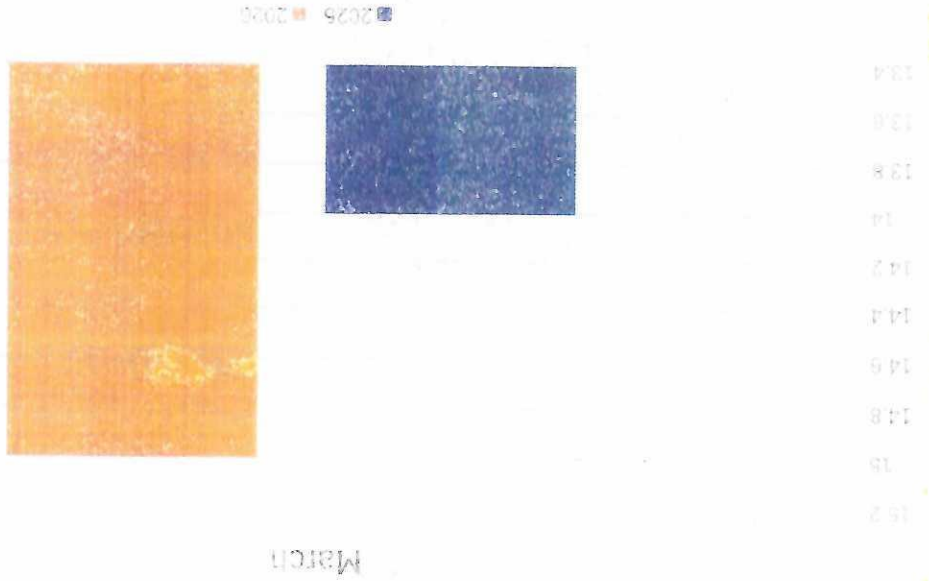
THE \$46,080 ALLOCATED MONEY IS DRAWN FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND CAN BE REDIRECTED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NIGHT SHIFT

VEHICLE HOURS/COST WOULD ALSO BE AT 768 HRS FOR 2025 AT A COST OF \$15/HR. 768HRS x \$15/HR = \$11,520 FOR 2025

THE \$11,520 ALLOCATED MONEY IS DRAWN FROM THE ROADS FUND AND **CAN NOT** BE REDIRECTED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT NIGHT SHIFT
IT MUST STAY IN THE ROAD FUND



YTD
2025 63
2026 63



Mar
2025 14
2026 15



As I have discussed on Battery Farms I wanted to provide you with my concerns with facilities like this...

Thermal runaway in lithium-ion battery farms induce self-sustaining chain reactions, leading to **intense jet flames, explosive gas buildup, and the release of toxic, corrosive chemicals like hydrogen fluoride**. These events cause rapid, uncontrollable cascading failures between cells, posing extreme fire-fighting challenges, environmental hazards, and risks of severe injury to personnel due to toxic fumes and explosions. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Key Dangers of Thermal Runaway in Battery Farms

- **Uncontrollable Fire and Explosion:** Thermal runaway occurs when a cell's internal temperature rises uncontrollably (over 800°F in some cases), resulting in intense flames and violent explosions of trapped gases.
- **Cascading Cell Failure:** A single cell failing can release enough heat to ignite neighboring cells, leading to a chain reaction that can propagate through an entire storage unit within seconds.
- **Toxic Gas Release:** These fires emit dangerous, invisible, and odorless fumes, including hydrogen fluoride, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds, which can cause severe respiratory damage to nearby responders and communities.
- **Difficult Fire Suppression:** These fires are difficult to extinguish, requiring enormous amounts of water for cooling and sometimes continuing to reignite even after being extinguished.
- **Environmental and Property Damage:** Beyond immediate fires, toxic gases and debris can cause severe environmental contamination, requiring specialized cleaning and disposal.
- **Suddenness of Event:** Thermal runaway often happens without warning, as initial stages can be concealed from monitoring systems until it is too late. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

These hazards, including electric and mechanical abuse, highlight the importance of robust cooling techniques, early warning systems, and safe emergency procedures for managing battery farm risks. [6, 10, 11]

[1] <https://www.transcaer.com/connect/blog/emissions-and-hazards-lithium-ion-battery-thermal-runaway>

[2] <https://eprijournal.com/a-focus-on-battery-energy-storage-safety/>

[3] <https://eticaag.com/toxic-gas-in-lithium-battery-fires-risks-and-solutions/>

[4] <https://envodrive.com/blogs/articles/thermal-runaway-in-lithium-ion-batteries-causes-risks-and-prevention>

[5] <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DOsKwlskyG/>

[6] <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/a-z/lithium-ion-batteries/risks-and-response-strategies/>

[7] <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12152129/>


[8] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GoJ-7J9uXE>

[9] <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364032122003793>

[10] <https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/3/6/223>

[11] <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44172-025-00442-1>

Respectfully,



Fire Chief H. Pete Scarborough