

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MUNSON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held

Tuesday, August 12,

20

25

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Jim McCaskey, with Trustees Andy Bushman and Nate McDonald and Fiscal Officer Todd Ray present. Mr. McCaskey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Trustees signed warrants 21034 through 21087 dated 8/12/25, totaling \$339,379.12, and the 8/15/2025 bi-weekly payroll EFT vouchers 297 through 304, totaling \$11,220.31. The Trustees signed cemetery deed 5-409 for Christopher J. and Lourdes R. Borsi for Maple Hill Cemetery Section 1, Lot 6, grave 6.

Minutes

Nate McDonald moved to approve the minutes of the Trustees Regular meeting Tuesday, July 22, 6:30pm, as presented. Andy Bushman seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Munson Fire Chief Mike Vatty reported that Munson Fire held another Junior Citizens Fire Academy the previous week. The Academy had four participants and was considered a great success. Fire Inspector Doug Riedel added that three of the participants expressed interest in taking classes at Auburn Career Center and pursuing a career in the fire and emergency medical services field.

Chief Vatty noted that the Munson Fire Department Inc. governing board was scheduled to meet on Wednesday evening and that the Munson Trustees are always welcome to attend. The Board would be discussing posting and hiring for some staffing positions.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

New Pickup Truck

Road Superintendent Kirk Walker reported that he had settled on one of the two trucks that he had quotes to purchase at state-bid prices, the 2025 Chevy Silverado 3500 crew cab truck, at the quoted Ohio State bid price of \$62,045.00 offered by Classic Chevy GMC of Madison. He explained that he was negotiating the trade-in value of the 2013 GMC Sierra as part of the deal, and it would reduce the final cost.

Nate McDonald moved to approve the purchase of a 2025 Chevy Silverado 3500 pickup truck from Classic Chevy GMC of Madison at the quoted price of \$62,045.00. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Walker reported that the new crew member had started, and the summer seasonal employee had finished and was returning to school. He had been a very valuable addition to the team during his time with Munson Road Department.

The Trustees briefly discussed the possibility of adding another position to the Department, as one other candidate had been available and had presented well in the interviews. Mr. Walker said that he still felt the current team was performing at high efficiency, and that one more might have people tripping over each other. The Trustees agreed not to take on another crew member at this time.

Five-year Schedule for Paving Projects

Road Superintendent Walker presented the Board with an updated five-year projection for upcoming paving projects. He asked the Board to review it and noted that it should be approved and presented to the engineer's office by September 1 so the Engineers can have time to work on preliminary estimates for the roads prioritized in the schedule for 2026.

2025 Paving Projects

Road Superintendent Walker updated the Board on progress on the current year paving projects. The unexpected, additional base repair work approved in emergency meetings is completed on Sherman Road and Pinehurst Drive, and intermediate courses of asphalt are in place.

TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Ice Maker Machines

The Trustees addressed the matter of an ice-making machine for the Fire Station that was generated in the emergency preparedness planning meetings. Jim McCaskey confirmed that the Board had reviewed a quote for a commercial grade ice maker for the Fire Department.

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Nate McDonald moved to approve the purchase and plumbing installation of a commercial ice-maker by A. Able Service Co. at the quoted price of \$6,315.00. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Nate McDonald moved to have the ice-maker expense submitted for reimbursement through the NOPEC energy efficiency grant program. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Trustees will consider a different ice maker for installation in the community room of the Town Hall.

Holiday Lighting

The Trustees considered a proposal from office staff to add more holiday lighting displays for the Town Hall. After some exchange of information, Nate McDonald moved to approve the purchase of additional holiday lighting displays at the discretion of Office Manager Paula Friebertshauser not to exceed \$7,000, with expense to be submitted for reimbursement to the NOPEC energy efficiency grant program. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Land Use Plan Update

Nate McDonald reported that the Land Use Plan Committee had received an excellent response from the community with residents completing surveys at the Land Use Plan booth at the Township Community Day Picnic Saturday, August 2. They hope to get additional surveys completed by outreach/solicitation, with a goal of a 70% response rate from Township residents. The Trustees discussed how to generate more awareness of, interest in, and responses to the survey. The Land Use Plan Committee chair Joe Bastulli was in attendance, and advised that the consultant, Envision Group, could assist with guiding the decisions around generating more survey responses. He encouraged Mr. McDonald not to hesitate to involve Envision in the process, and get their advice on best options.

The Trustees discussed a tentative plan to send a postcard to residents with a QR code, a web link to the survey, and an offer to send paper surveys to anyone who requests one.

Nate McDonald confirmed that he would contact Envision and get their input and recommendations for this effort. He also indicated that he would ask Envision to allocate some time to engaging with retired Geauga Planning Commission Director Dave Dietrich, who has a wealth of knowledge about Munson zoning history and would like to assist the LUP Committee. Jim McCaskey asked if Envision could also provide an information/educational session or town hall meeting to help residents understand rural character and the role of conservation easements and property tax implications as part of the land use plan update process. Fiscal Officer Todd Ray agreed, and pointed out that private property owners who place conservation easements on their property still pay the full property tax rate on their property. Nate McDonald stated that the same tax condition applies to agricultural land that is protected by a farmland preservation easement. He agreed to bring that topic to Envision.

After discussing timeline concerns and extending the period for accepting survey responses, the Trustees considered the costs of the survey-outreach plans.

Nate McDonald moved to approve expenses up to \$5,000 for printing and postage for a survey information postcard mailing to residents. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Township Park Rain Garden Restoration

Caroline Yeager, a West Geauga High School student and Munson resident, was in attendance and addressed the Board. She is a Juliette scout in Girl Scouts Service unit 773, and is working on a project to earn her _____. Caroline made a presentation to the Board detailing a plan to restore the rain garden at Munson Township Park that has fallen into poor condition. She has been working with the Munson Park Board, Geauga Soil and Water staff, and some community experts to develop her plan. She would like to excavate the rain garden, reset the drainage and re-install water filtration materials, then re-plant with native wetland plant species.

Caroline presented a plan to seek financial support for material expenses, and her project would include a maintenance program that would carry on in future years. Her project has received the endorsement of the Munson Park Board and has been approved by Girl Scout administration. After a lengthy question and answer period, Nate McDonald moved to

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approve the Rain Garden Restoration Project as presented by Caroline Yeager. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

No Outlet signage

Jim McCaskey noted that the Trustees had received a request to install a "no Outlet" sign on Burlington Ridge Road. He pointed out that sign requests in subdivisions are often problematic and not welcomed by the residents whose properties get the sign installed in front of, and may present a need to provide consistent signage in all subdivisions. He will review the matter with the Geauga County Engineers office.

FISCAL OFFICER

Fiscal Officer Todd Ray presented the Trustees with a packet of documents the County Auditor's office had sent to townships in advance of the Budget Commission budget hearings on Monday, August 18. He noted a couple of details that were worthy of attention and provided a brief explanation.

Other Business

Jim McCaskey stated that the recent challenges with failing roadway base conditions on the roads that are being resurfaced call attention to the damage done by heavy truck traffic. He suggested that a single-hauler contract for trash service on township roads could help extend the life of roads by reducing the garbage truck traffic on each road from five or six trucks per week to one truck. He acknowledged that some residents feel strongly that they would resent the Township usurping their right to their trash-hauler decision, but in the interest of preserving roads, mitigating damage from heavy trucks, and saving tax dollars for maintaining roads, it should be considered. No action was taken, but the Trustees may take it up at a later date.

Outside Meetings

Jim McCaskey attended the Geauga Planning Commission meeting earlier in the day. Andy Bushman attended the Geauga Safety Council meeting Friday, August 8.

Encumbrances

Nate McDonald moved to approve the encumbrances for Tuesday, August 12 as presented. Andy Bushman seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Blanket	Small tools, minor equipment	\$1,109.48
Blanket	Natural gas, Town Hall	\$1,200.00
Blanket	Repairs and maintenence, parks	\$850.00
JCM Landscaping	Ballfield maintenance, off-season	\$1,470.00
Innovative Companies	Ballfield maintenance, off-season	\$1,225.00
Nathen Yost/ Nate's Landcare	Fowlers Mill Cemetery mowing, trimming	\$4,680.00
Word of Mouth Band	Concert in the Park 8/23/25	\$600.00

Motion to Adjourn

Nate McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm. Andy Bushman seconded; motion carried with a unanimous vote.

[Handwritten signature]

Chairman

[Handwritten signature: Todd R. Ray]

Fiscal Officer