

# Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

## May 11, 2026

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, May 11, 2026 to transact business. Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Guy Bainum, Charlie Maklem, and Gary Jordan answered the roll call. Also present were Fiscal Officer Doug Lefferson, Emergency Services Chief Jason McCarthy, Maintenance Supervisor/Zoning Administrator/Cemetery Sexton Brian Tatman, Jessica Baker, Henry Marshall, Jody Wilson, James Weaver, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Bainum motioned to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 regular meeting. Mr. Maklem second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. Mr. Maklem motioned to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2026 special meeting. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Mr. Lefferson presented a financial report, including a comprehensive account of expenditures and receipts, an appropriation status report indicating year-to-date expenditures by account, and a revenue status report comparing budgeted revenue to actual received, and the Trustees accepted it.

Mr. Maklem motioned to approve the attached bills. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Fiscal Officer Lefferson said the regular State of Ohio audit covering years 2024 and 2025 is underway. For this audit, the Township qualified for a more abbreviated agreed upon procedures audit in comparison to the last two audits he has handled for the Township which were more in depth. Mr. Lefferson introduced Resolution No. 2026-11 authorizing designated representatives to act on behalf of the Township in pursuit of the Community Development Block Grant. This is a standard grant applied for and this year the Township is seeking \$100,000 toward the planned purchase of a fire engine. Mr. Jordan motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2026-11 authorizing Emergency Services Chief McCarthy to submit an application to participate in the Community Development Block Grant program and to execute contracts as required. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. Mr. Lefferson discussed outside legal expenses to date for the Township. He indicated that \$10,000 was originally appropriated for 2026 for outside legal counsel. Mr. Lefferson indicated the Township would be approaching the appropriated amount soon. He indicated that business in the Township has been very active and he does not anticipate that slowing and that he has been very satisfied with the services of outside legal counsel. Mr. Lefferson's recommendation was to increase the appropriation for outside legal counsel by \$15,000. The Trustees agreed that the outside legal counsel has provided a valuable service and they have been quite satisfied with the results. Mr. Maklem motioned to approve Resolution No. 2026-12 to amend the permanent appropriations by increasing the appropriated amount in Fund 1000 General, account 1000-110-599 Other Expenses from \$70,000 to \$85,000 an increase of \$15,000 for additional outside legal counsel expenditures. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

### Public Participation

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting for public participation. Jessica Baker discussed her concerns regarding data centers. Ms. Baker provided a packet of information to the Trustees with various sources of information on data centers. She pointed out concerns over the power requested and used by data centers and the extreme water usage by these facilities. Ms. Baker discussed the recent proposed data center in Mt. Orab and how quickly a CRA was established, an ordinance passed, and the deal closed by the Mt. Orab Village Council, expressing concern about the process. Mr. Maklem asked if some of the information Ms. Baker had was available online or obtained through public records request. Ms. Baker indicated a lot of information was available at the Mt. Orab Residents for Responsible Development website. Ms. Baker provided two maps to the Trustees one of proposed data centers in Ohio and one of the groundwater resources in Ohio. Mr. Jordan indicated that on one parcel of approximately 166 acres actively being marketed in the Township there were no plans for a data center. He said the Trustees and Fiscal Officer do not sign nondisclosure documents. Mr. Jordan indicated the Township does not say no data centers but handles through zoning. The Township is working to implement conditional use zoning for data centers. Ms. Baker said conditional use zoning concerns her. Mr. Jordan indicated the Township is working with our attorneys paralleling solar language and believes the Township will be effective in reaching its goals. Mr. Jordan said the Township is also sensitive to water issues because of the aquifer in the area. Mr. Jordan reiterated that he does not believe the 166 acre Taking a Toll on Us property was designed for a data center. Mr. Jordan said while private land owners have rights on their land within zoning, he does not support data centers in our community. Ms. Baker asked about conditional use. Mr. Tatman said conditional use approval goes before the Zoning Board of Appeals in a public hearing and that the ZBA does listen to the public. Mr. Bainum said data centers were a hot topic at the Ohio Township Conference this year and that a lot of the rural townships have no zoning. Mr. Marshall ask if there were any updates on a bridge in the area of Dela Palma Road and McKeever Road. Mr. Jordan indicated Chief McCarthy tracks incidents in the that area. He said he believes over time three letters have been sent to the Governor. Mr. Jordan said a 2009 ODOT District 8 design with a bridge between McKeever and

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Dela Palma was not gaining traction. He indicated he, Williamsburg Village Mayor Weaver, Chief McCarthy, and Mr. Lefferson, met with State Representative Adam Bird to try to convey a sense of urgency. A later meeting was convened with Township representatives, Rep. Bird, Clermont County Commissioner Bonnie Batchler (also Vice President of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Transportation Council), and representatives from ODOT District 8 to discuss a potential bridge. Mr. Jordan said of utmost importance to the Township is safe passage for emergency services and school buses. Mr. Jordan said in the most recent meeting ODOT District 8 indicated they were working with ODOT District 9 (which includes Brown County) to potentially put a bridge/overpass at Eastwood Road and connecting Dela Palma and McKeever to Eastwood. Mr. Jordan said we can't allow that to happen. He indicated we are struggling to get a bridge between Dela Palma and McKeever on the state's agenda. He added that Dela Palma Road is a lifeline to the Village of Williamsburg. Mr. Marshall indicated he had seen the original ODOT map. He also expressed concern that Dela Palma Road was a "race track". Mr. Jordan said the Township places a radar sign on that road often and he is concerned about safety issues. Mr. Jordan said it will take a multifaceted approach to address Dela Palma and McKeever issues. Mr. Maklem indicated that the SR 32 corridor issue is a complex issue and getting sewers to areas is a big issue. He said he has been at the Township 4 months and there are a lot of actors involved who we need to talk to and we need to be aggressive. Ms. Wilson said a local radio station indicated that those collecting signatures for the data center ballot petition were getting paid, or were funded by the Democratic party. She wanted to be on record saying they are not. She said the issue was bigger than what people understand and that false statements were being spread. Ms. Wilson asked how experienced the Townships lawyers were with data centers. Mr. Jordan said we have been working with the firm in the Columbus Ohio/Worthington area. He said we did some homework and right now they are doing a phenomenal job. Mr. Jordan said we respect what you are doing. Ms. Wilson said she was also concerned about noise with data centers. Ms. Wilson indicated Pipers Pantry is this Saturday from 10 to 11:30 and she thanked Chief McCarthy for putting the information on the Firehouse sign. Mr. Jordan said in regard to the 250 event, Township Trustees, Fiscal Officer, Emergency Services Chief, and Maintenance Supervisor made private donations and no Township dollars were spent. Mr. Boll asked if the Bruce Lunsford Way bridge had an effect on Williamsburg. Mr. Jordan believed there was no impact on us. Mr. Boll asked if an update at the SR 133 exit was an option. Mr. Maklem said it was hard for us to speculate and that we need to address the issue in its entirety for safety for our community. He indicated we need to focus on OKI, US Rep. Dave Taylor, State Rep. Adam Bird, and ODOT, making sure they are listening to us. Mr. Maklem said this is an extremely high priority. Mr. Boll asked the name of the outside law firm the Township was using. Mr. Lefferson stated it was Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, Worthington, Ohio. Mayor Weaver complimented the Township on the new parking lot at the Firehouse and the new maintenance building. Mayor Weaver indicated that data centers use as much electricity as all other residents and businesses in Ohio. He indicated the Village has an indefinite moratorium on data centers. Ms. Baker asked about the moratorium being indefinite. Mayor Weaver said yes it was a twelve-month moratorium that can be extended.

### Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. Three zoning certificates have been issued since the last meeting, two pools and one shed. Mr. Tatman indicated a couple more were scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Tatman indicated the Clermont County Planning Commission made their recommendations for zone changes, now it will go to the Township Zoning Commission. He stated he has not received the paperwork yet but one zone change passed and one did not. Once the paperwork is received, he will set the meeting date. Mr. Tatman stated he received an email from Don Frodge who is on the Zoning Commission indicating he was resigning due to personal reasons. Mr. Jordan said we typically asked the alternates first if they would like to fill the position starting with the longest serving alternate that would be Jodi Wiedemann then Rick Healy next. Mr. Jordan also mentioned Brian Bielfelt as a potential candidate. Ms. Baker asked about putting out the open position. Mr. Maklem indicated the position must be filled from the unincorporated part of the Township. He felt strongly that it would be more transparent to put out on the website and Facebook page. After discussion, the Trustees agreed to post the position as a board member/alternate, being that if an alternate took the board role the open position would be for an alternate. Mr. Maklem suggested posting on the website and Facebook what the role is, any qualifications, and time commitments, then have interested individuals submit a letter of intent. The Trustees agreed. Mr. Maklem motioned to accept the resignation of Mr. Frodge from the Zoning Commission. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. Mr. Jordan asked where we were on the data center zoning code. Mr. Tatman indicated he received feedback from the attorney today and will send it to Zoning Commission Members. Ms. Baker asked about public hearings in the new process. Mr. Tatman yes there would be two here locally for any conditional use for a data center.

### Cemetery and Maintenance Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. The salt order has been placed for bid with SWOP4G for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028. All foundations are set and will be poured this week, everything should be set by Memorial Day. Mr. Tatman reported that the cemeteries were looking good and everything has been trimmed. He indicated they will start back over them this week and

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next to finish up the newer part before Memorial Day. Mr. Tatman said they went out and checked all the ditch work with the last heavy rain and everything is flowing like it should. Mr. Tatman reported he received an email from Permit Central indicating the maintenance building was not cleared for occupancy because it never had final inspection. Mr. Tatman said he talked with Tim Wilson our contractor and he called the County and let them know we had all our inspections and had all the documentation. It just was not finalized on the County's end of the system. The only item the County did not have was the backflow preventer. It is all taken care of. Mr. Jordan said he spoke to the resident on Ireton Road that had some concerns and explained that later this fall we would look at it and that he owns the culvert. Mr. Jordan also informed him that the Township was looking at a grant for other road work there, would place a hidden drive sign, and Ireton Road was on the list for future paving. Mr. Jordan also reminded Mr. Tatman to place a one lane bridge sign on Musgrove Road. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Tatman to follow up on the nuisance postings. Mr. Maklem indicated when the suggested mower is contacted for the nuisance property we will need a W-9 and proof of liability insurance. If that group cannot do it, we can expand the search. Mr. Boll asked about paving at Purina. Mr. Bainum said yes it will be finished today.

### **Emergency Services Report**

Chief McCarthy provided a report. The Department participated in touch a truck at the opening day of the Farmers Market. The Chief indicated the 2006 Sutphen returned and had another issue with the pump. 911 Fleet found a faulty sensor and replaced it. The Chief reported the truck has been running great since. The SCBA and 02 bottles need their 5-year hydro test. Chief indicated the Department has 45 SCBA bottles and 15 02 bottles that need tested. The total cost is \$3,450. Mr. Jordan motioned to spend \$3,450 for the SCBA and 02 bottles 5-year hydro test. Mr. Maklem second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. Chief McCarthy requested the purchase of 4 TecNiq K30 RED led surface mount lights at \$79.99 each for a total of \$319.96 from Mullen Safety. These lights will be added to the cap of the pick-up truck that needs more lighting for safety and visibility. The Township has a credit of \$230 with Mullen Safety that can be applied. Mr. Maklem motioned to purchase 4 TecNiq K30 RED led surface mount lights at \$79.99 each for a total of \$319.96 from Mullen Safety. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. Chief McCarthy recommended the rehire of Joan Foster to part-time status. Mr. Bainum motioned to rehire Joan Foster as a part-time paramedic. Mr. Jordan second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. The Chief informed the Trustees that the Firehouse parking lot repaving was complete with striping.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Bainum reported on the County transportation meeting last Friday. He indicated that for the Half Acre Roundabout work, the County is waiting on a response from ODOT. Mr. Bainum said in regard to the Bethel Concord bridge replacement, bidding is going out and the County also needs to obtain two more property owner signatures. The County is trying to complete this by the end of the year. Mr. Maklem provided a Savion solar project update. The status was the same as prior meeting, no change. Savion is still looking for a buyer of the energy or the project. Mr. Maklem said the Land Use Plan material is on the website. He said in regard to the new tech equipment at the Firehouse and the Maintenance Building, LK Tech was out last week and installed. Mr. Maklem said the Township Facebook page is still in process and should be up in the next couple of days.

### **New Business**

Mr. Jordan said the Pack 84 Cub Scouts requested to use the Firehouse parking lot for a car wash fundraiser either July 18th or 25<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6. The Trustees preferred the July 18<sup>th</sup> date and were in favor of this. The Trustees recognized Fiscal Officer Lefferson in regard to National Meeting Minutes Day, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Maklem motioned to go into Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(8) to consider negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development and the information is directly related to ORC 5709.73 and involves public infrastructure improvements for the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project; the Board has determined the executive session is necessary to protect the interests in regard to the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. The Board went into Executive Session at approximately 8:39 p.m. The Trustees came out of Executive Session at approximately 10:05 pm having discussed negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development and information directly related to ORC 5709.73 and involving public infrastructure improvements for the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project with no action taken and no decisions made.

There being no further business, Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 10:06 p.m. Mr. Jordan second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

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Fiscal Officer

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Chairperson