

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

July 15, 2026

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at the Williamsburg Township Hall. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to consider employment and compensation of public employees and to review ODOT Project CLE SR 32 12.14 rehabilitating the Half Acre Road Bridge over SR 32, and all other matters that may come before the Board. Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and 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 and Emergency Services Chief Jason McCarthy.

There was no public participation.

Mr. Maklem motioned to enter into executive session at 9:01 a.m. under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (1) to consider employment and compensation of public employees. Mr. Jordan second. Roll call: Mr. Bainum – yea, Mr. Maklem – yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. The Trustees came out of Executive Session at approximately 10:54 a.m. having discussed employment and compensation of public employees with no action taken and no decisions made.

The Trustees discussed a hiring model proposed by Emergency Services Chief Jason McCarthy. Mr. Jordan motioned to approve an Emergency Services hiring model including a full-time hiring process with a supporting pay scale to add up to 3 full-time staff. Mr. Bainum second. Roll call: Mr. Bainum – yea, Mr. Maklem – yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

At 11:00 a.m. Brandon Sopko joined the meeting virtually. Mr. Sopko is the consultant Project Manager with Euthenics for ODOT Project CLE SR 32 12.14 rehabilitating the Half Acre Road Bridge over SR 32. The future project is to replace the deck and raise the superstructure of the bridge (overpass) that carries Half Acre Road over SR 32. ODOT and Clermont County would make the traffic pattern and structural decisions for the overpass and impacted roadways. The Township has the opportunity to have a say in the aesthetics of the rehabilitated bridge. The aesthetic items the Township could provide input on include vandal protection fencing, barrier formliner, and paint colors. Certain aesthetic options are included in the baseline which the State of Ohio will pay for, more custom options would be at the expense of the Township. Mr. Sopko reviewed aesthetic input previously submitted by the Township, which included a baseline barrier of Ashlar Block Formliner pattern on the parapet with sealer, impressed Williamsburg lettering on the parapet in royal blue Federal color standard 25052, Williamsburg lettering would be seen as you are heading east on SR 32, the lettering and maintenance of the color is a Township expense, baseline black PVC coating vandal protection fencing, and royal blue structural steel paint matching lettering colors. Mr. Maklem asked how often the bridge would need to be repainted. Mr. Sopko indicated ODOT's standard was once every 7 years, but that realistically it was more like once a decade. In regard to lettering, he said the Township would decide the font and placement. Mr. Jordan asked the purpose of raising the bridge. Mr. Sopko said it had to do with meeting standard requirements and that they were raising the overpass one and a half feet. He also indicated they were working with Freeman on how to handle their large trucks during construction. Mr. Jordan asked about the timeline. Mr. Sopko said the project was currently scheduled to begin in 2031 with completion July 2032. Mr. Jordan asked if the cost to ODOT could be disclosed. Mr. Sopko indicated the estimate was \$5.5 million. Mr. Maklem asked about the cost to the Township for their portion of the aesthetics. Mr. Sopko indicated he would do some more research and get back with the Township. Mr. Lefferson stated that in earlier discussions, they arrived at a rough estimate of \$35,000 to \$40,000. The Township would have the opportunity for a final decision once bids are obtained. Mr. Lefferson asked about next steps. Mr. Sopko indicated he would need to include the Township's thoughts in the plan sheets. The planning cost for the Township's portion would be paid by the Township. Mr. Sopko said he would get a price proposal to include our information in the plan sheets. Mr. Jordan asked if the width of the bridge would be the same. Mr. Sopko said yes. Mr. Sopko indicated we have some time to work on as the next submission date to ODOT is June 2027. At approximately 11:30 a.m. the virtual call ended and Mr. Sopko was no longer in the meeting. (Ed Boll Jr. had joined the meeting during open session prior to the call with Mr. Sopko.) Mr. Boll indicated bicyclists and pedestrians go over the Half Acre bridge, wondering if a bike trail path took them that way. Mr. Jordan indicated they could use the bridge as long as they followed applicable laws. Mr. Boll asked about a pedestrian crossing portion on the bridge. The Trustees indicated they were not aware of any plans for that. Mr. Boll inquired about running gas lines under the bridge. Mr. Jordan said that would involve ODOT, Clermont County Engineer, and Duke. Mr. Boll said he would contact them.

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 or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project; and the Board has determined that 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, at approximately 11:34 a.m. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. Fiscal Officer Doug Lefferson was invited into Executive Session. The Trustees came out of Executive Session at approximately 12:49 p.m. having discussed negotiations with other political

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subdivisions respecting requests for economic development and information directly related to ORC 5709.73 and public infrastructure improvements or 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. Maklem motioned to adjourn at approximately 12:50 p.m. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, and Mr. Jordan - yea.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson