

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

August 10, 2026

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, August 10, 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, Tim Ichinose, Mike Parry, Kelly Sininger, Jody Wilson, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Public Hearing on Zoning Commission Cases ZC# 2026-001 and ZC# 2026-002. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Mr. Maklem motioned to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 regular meeting. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. Mr. Bainum motioned to approve the minutes of the July 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 August 6, 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. Jordan motioned to approve the attached bills. Mr. Maklem second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Mr. Lefferson said as indicated in a previous meeting, the Township submits a Tax Budget to the County Budget Commission and this Commission determines if the Township is collecting property taxes beyond reasonably anticipated needs and can adjust tax rates if needed. Mr. Lefferson stated that the County did not adjust any of the Township's tax rates. He also said that earlier today he received an Amended Certificate of Resources for 2026 and the first Official Certificate of Resources for 2027 from the County.

Fiscal Officer Lefferson reported that he and Mr. Jordan attended the Clermont County Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) Meeting on August 5th. Mr. Lefferson stated that all Enterprise Zones, Tax Increment Financing (TIFs), and Community Reinvestment Areas within the County were approved with the exception of the Milacron Enterprise Zone. At the TIRC Meeting, Williamsburg Local School District Superintendent Matt Early moved to recommend to the County Commissioners to discontinue the tax abatement associated with the Milacron Enterprise Zone as the company has been significantly below job retention and creation numbers tied to the tax abatement for 3 years in a row. Mr. Jordan, Williamsburg Township Trustee, seconded the motion at the TIRC Meeting and the recommendation was approved. The recommendation to discontinue the tax abatement will impact the one remaining tax year of the agreement.

Mr. Lefferson discussed and recommended increasing appropriations by \$150,000 in Fund 1000 General for higher than expected and significant repair expense on emergency services vehicles and other non-routine expenses. Mr. Maklem motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2026-21 to amend the permanent appropriations by increasing the appropriated amount in Fund 1000, General Account 1000-110-599 Other Expenses from \$85,000 to \$235,000 an increase of \$150,000. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Public Participation

Mr. Jordan opened the meeting for public participation. Mike Parry, Superintendent – Grant Career Center and Kelly Sininger, Treasurer – Grant Career Center reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on facts about the Grant Career Center and a November 2026 Ballot Issue. Mr. Parry indicated they have been working several years with the State of Ohio on improvements for buildings. The State will help pay (58%) with the rest of the support needing to come from the local tax base (42%). Key facts: 1.99 mill levy, \$59 million total project investment, funding a renovation and addition to the career center in Bethel, Ohio, cost to homeowner \$5.80 per month per \$100,000 appraised value. Mr. Parry said they were not here to tell you which way to vote but here to tell you the good things the Grant Career Center is doing. Grant Career Center is an independent joint vocational school district serving southern Clermont County and four school districts: Bethel-Tate, Felicity, New Richmond, and Williamsburg. It is governed by a five-member board appointed by the school districts. Jeff Cummins and Sam Cribbet of the Williamsburg Local School District serve on the Grant Career Center Board. The Career Center has been selected as one of the region's top workplaces for 5 years in a row. The presenters discussed Grant Career Center's 2021 Strategic Plan which included aspirational statements, 5 core values, and how facilities and equipment that mimic the workplace were essential. The Career Center offers Middle and High School Education and Adult Education. A chart on adult student performance was discussed; highlights include: increases in enrollment from 167 in 2020-21 to 325 in

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2025-2026, completion rates averaging 90%, and placement rates averaging 84%. A chart on secondary student performance was discussed; highlights include: 99% average graduation rate and 87% average placement rate. The Grant Career Center is the 4th fastest growing joint vocational school district in Ohio since 2020 increasing enrollment from 345 to 598. Treasurer Sininger discussed favorable organizational finances including undergoing annual independent audits and being the recipient of Ohio Auditor of State Award twelve consecutive years. She discussed maximizing grant funding opportunities, indicating they have received \$14.2 million in State and Federal grants in the past 8 years, including an \$8.5 million grant for a new 15,000 square foot metal fabrication area and a remodel to the allied health area. The last time Grant had an issue on the ballot was May 2005. One unique cost saving item is that 4 of their teachers are actually employees of their business partners. The November 2026 levy is for a bond issue for brick-and-mortar building. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission conducted an assessment of the Career Center's main 50-year-old facilities and identified multiple areas requiring attention. As an example, 37 independent air conditioning units serve the facilities. Workforce demands have also changed requiring more collaborative learning spaces. Mr. Parry and Ms. Sininger thanked everyone for the opportunity to discuss Grant Career Center and were available for questions. Mr. Jordan stated he believed the Grant Career Center has been a model of success and that his son got a great education there. Mr. Jordan asked about skilled trades. Mr. Parry said they work with metal fabricators on welding and have over 100 students in this area. They also work with employers on advanced manufacturing and have a wonderful partnership with Milacron. HVAC training on the adult side is also growing. Mr. Parry said the skilled trades are alive and well. Mr. Jordan asked about CAD/CAM and 3-D printing. Mr. Parry indicated they partner with the University of Cincinnati on associates degrees and also in the area of information technology. Mr. Maklem asked about Fire and EMS training. Mr. Parry said they have students move from the Allied Health secondary program to the Adult Education Fire and EMS training. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Parry to reach out to him if there ever was an interest in obtaining an old GE aircraft engine for training. Mr. Jordan indicated 21 years was long time since the last levy. He discussed putting some levy facts in the next Township newsletter if the timing worked. Mr. Jordan indicated with the business growth in this area and likely housetop growth to come that workforce training was important. Mr. Parry agreed that we are in a corridor for manufacturing. Manufacturing is different today and skills are needed to reorient to the workplace.

Mr. Ichinose provided and discussed information on a benefit program he was proposing for Township employees through Globe Life Insurance Company. The offerings he described provided free accidental death coverage of \$3,000 with the ability for the employee to purchase other products such as life insurance, increased accidental death insurance, and cancer insurance policies. Mr. Jordan thanked Mr. Ichinose for the information but indicated the Township was not looking to provide additional insurance benefits at this time and was focused on challenges in healthcare costs.

Ms. Wilson informed everyone of a Pipers Pantry/SOS fundraiser Saturday, August 15th from 5 pm to 10 pm at the Mexican restaurant in Williamsburg. At the event, monetary donations would be accepted for cat food, dog food, and cat litter for pet owners in need. She also reminded everyone of the Pipers Pantry event October 17th at the Williamsburg Firehouse. Ms. Wilson indicated the group has a sponsor for all the supplies needed at this event.

Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. He indicated the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the monument sign variance for Purina last week and that he has already issued the permit for it. Purina had requested a 12.25-foot height and a sign up to 15 feet high was approved. Permits for building signage have already been issued. Mr. Tatman indicated he received a response back from our attorney on data center language and he has forwarded it to the Zoning Commission. Mr. Tatman said he is looking at the week after Labor Day to schedule the workshop with the Zoning Commission to review any changes in regard to data center language. Mr. Tatman indicated he had talked to both Zoning boards about meeting next year on some type of regular schedule and they have all agreed to it. It would either be held as a meeting or workshop. If a hearing or meeting is not needed then it would be a workshop where they would be going over the zoning book a section at a time getting it ready for a rewrite. The Zoning Board of Appeals would be a part of it so they could understand the reasoning behind some changes. Mr. Jordan requested that Mr. Tatman at the next meeting review the zoning software so the Trustees could see what it looks like and how it works.

Cemetery and Maintenance Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. They are starting to work on foundations this week at the cemetery. There are several ditch projects to do and a couple of driveway pipes to replace. The work is on Musgrove and Todds Run Foster Roads and Mr. Tatman indicated he had spoken with the resident regarding a ditch issue on Ireton Road. Mowing has taken place along all roads. Mr. Tatman indicated the Township Hall storage area has had all the boxes relocated to the Maintenance Building. He said they continue to mow the cemeteries and will start trimming again once they finish the foundations. Mr. Maklem asked who does the weeding and does it take all four employed in the maintenance/cemetery to do that. Mr. Tatman said no

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but some are mowing. He indicated they will be out the next couple of weeks using the dura patcher to patch potholes in the roadways. They have started to level graves to get them ready for seeding and fertilizing. He informed the Trustees that Mr. Scott was on vacation this week. Mr. Jordan said we share the dura patcher with a neighboring township. He indicated the County has been successful using a dura patcher to build up a spot on Bootjack Corner Road and that Mr. Tatman should speak with Jeremy Evans Clermont County Engineer who might be helpful on Musgrove Road. Mr. Jordan asked about the full depth repair scheduled for Musgrove Road. Mr. Tatman indicated it should be all marked and was supposed to be done by the County on July 20th but that did not happen. Mr. Tatman said he would go back out and make sure areas for repair were marked. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Tatman to reach out to Clermont County Engineer Evans in regard to grant funding for the culvert pipe eroding area on Ireton Road. Mr. Tatman said any grant would be for work next year. Mr. Lefferson indicated they were referring to the Ohio Public Works Commission Grant with an approaching deadline and that the Township would need to file for it.

Emergency Services Report

Chief McCarthy provided a report. There were 65 Fire and 121 EMS calls for the month of July.

Community Participation:

- CPR class taught for some of the high school coaches. National Night Out was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Vehicle Updates:

- 2016 Ambulance is back from Auto and Truck with repairs made. Over \$5,000.
- 2006 Sutphen Engine should be available for picking up Wednesday 8/12.
- 2007 Sutphen Tower was picked up from Columbus, dropped off in Sharonville for the suspension work that was needed. The truck returned this afternoon and is back in service. It will need to go back in at 1,500 miles to have some bolts retightened.
- New Ambulance will hit the assembly line within the next 10 days. (Spoke to the Horton rep about a potential discount or compensation due to the delays as requested by Mr. Bainum and the rep is waiting to hear back on this). Expecting late September delivery.
- Chief discussed selling the Chevy Blazer, 1990 Sutphen Pumper, and 1974 Jeep. None of these vehicles are essential and have no value to the operations of the department. If ok, we could present resolutions at the next meeting. In regard to the 1990 Sutphen we have a potential donation to consider.

Purchases:

- We needed to order the following equipment that is essential for providing EMS. These will be reimbursed with the EMS grant. Total cost is \$1,516.90.
 - 5 Pulse Oximeter
 - 5 TPOD Support/Stabilization Device Pelvic One Size
 - 5 Oxygen Regulator Brass Ea
 - 4 Oxygen Cylinder Size D

Mr. Bainum motioned to purchase 5 Pulse Oximeters, 5 TPOD Support/Stabilization Device Pelvic One Size, 5 Oxygen Regulator Brass Ea, and 4 Oxygen Cylinder Size D at a cost of \$1,516.90. Mr. Jordan second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Training:

- Chief McCarthy requested approval to send Lt. Quirk to Instructor Class in November. The cost of the class is \$1,000 plus books \$80.21. Total cost is \$1,080.21.

Mr. Maklem recognized this is not full-time staff and asked if there was any retention language we could get him to agree to. Chief McCarthy indicated he would check policy but thought he would agree. Mr. Maklem motioned to approve paying to send Lt. Quirk to Instructor Class in November. The cost of the class is \$1,000 plus books \$80.21. Total cost is \$1,080.21. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

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Grants:

- Chief McCarthy indicated he did not end up submitting the Norfolk and Southern grant this year due to the unforeseen recent expenses to the current fleet. The potential \$15,000 award would have left us with a need for an additional \$60,000.

Miscellaneous:

- At the request of Mr. Bainum, Chief looked to see if there are any alternate outdoor warning systems available. There are different vendors that sell similar sirens to what we already have. There were no other devices that could be placed throughout the township that would not require an individual to have a notification device such as a phone to be notified. It appears that even though our equipment is aged outdoor warning, sirens are still frequently used to send alerts to the target audience. There are warning systems that can send alerts to phones and other electronic devices similar to weather alerts sent by news agencies. This system still requires the individual to have the device in hand to receive the alert, however.
- New garage door installs at the station have started.

Mr. Bainum thanked the Chief for looking into the sirens. Mr. Maklem asked the approximate value of the vehicles being considered for sale. Chief McCarthy said he would research. Mr. Maklem asked Mr. Tatman about the old Blazer sitting outside the Maintenance Building. Mr. Tatman indicated they do not use.

Mr. Jordan asked if the entry doors were fixed at the Maintenance Building. Mr. Tatman indicated the company came out but there was still some question if they were working as they should. Mr. Jordan discussed any warranty on the doors or locks. Mr. Tatman indicated they may be out of warranty.

Old Business

Mr. Jordan introduced **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-20** and provided some background. In an earlier meeting with Ohio Representative Adam Bird, Clermont County Commissioner Bonnie Batchler, and members of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), it was clear ODOT had a focus on placing a bridge at Eastwood Road. Mr. Jordan read the Resolution in its entirety as follows:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING AND IN SUPPORT OF A BRIDGE AND INTERCHANGE AT STATE ROUTE 32 (SR32) IN WILLIAMSBURG TOWNSHIP, CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO IN THE VICINTY OF MCKEEVER ROAD AND DELA PALMA ROAD

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Williamsburg Township Clermont County, Ohio (“Board”), has identified a significant safety concern, requiring a need for a bridge and interchange on SR 32 Clermont County, Williamsburg Township in the vicinity of McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road; and

Whereas, due to Williamsburg Township becoming one of the fastest growing Townships in Clermont County and the State of Ohio; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Governor DeWine, Nestle Purina and MillerKnoll (Design Within Reach), have become business partners in Williamsburg Township, Clermont County creating a substantial number of jobs with benefits resulting in significant vehicle and semi-tractor trailers on SR 32; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Governor DeWine, Swiss pharmaceutical manufacturer, Lonza, has expressed an interest in becoming a business partner in Williamsburg Township, Clermont County creating a significant number of jobs with benefits which will result in additional vehicle and semi-tractor trailers on SR 32; and

Whereas, construction of bridges and interchanges require significant time to be planned and constructed, resulting in more significant growth on the corridor of SR 32, adding to the challenges of vehicle traffic and semi-tractor trailer traffic, as new homes saturate the area; and

Whereas, this job creation will result in attracting and providing greater economic opportunity requiring a proactive approach to collaborate on an aggressive plan for a safe and efficient connected transportation system; and

Whereas, discussions concerning a new bridge and interchange, at the intersection of SR 32 and Eastwood Road, Brown County (ODOT 9) and permanently closing McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road in Williamsburg Township, Clermont County, on SR 32, resulting in skipping over Williamsburg Township in economic development, would have a tremendous immediate negative impact to Williamsburg Township and Village and also negatively impact future economic growth; and

Whereas, this closure at McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road would create immediate safety concern for school buses to safely transport our most valuable future resource, our children, to school; and

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Whereas, this closure at McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road would create an immediate safety concern for Williamsburg Township Emergency Services transporting our residents in the northern part of Williamsburg Township to the hospital, providing emergency services, and providing fire protection to residents and property, by increasing the response time significantly; and

Whereas, closure of McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road would cut off the lifeline to the Village of Williamsburg, causing a substantial negative economic impact and devastating future growth; and

Whereas, an independent traffic study will occur with the vision of driving safety focused planning and engineering, integrated road design, application support, data driven traffic studies, driving a collaborative plan and practical solutions for long term mobility improvement and designs; and

Whereas, closure of McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road and building a bridge and interchange at Eastwood Road would redirect significant traffic on Williamsburg Township roads, which are not meant for the volume of traffic; and

Whereas, this closure at McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road would create an immediate undue hardship on the Bethel-Tate Fire Department; as well as other adjacent emergency services, transporting their residents to the hospital, and providing mutual aid; and

Whereas, this closure at McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road would create an immediate undue hardship on Bethel residents, other townships, and adjacent villages traveling to work and returning home, increasing travel time to employers to the west toward metro Cincinnati where the most significant employers are located; and

Whereas, Bruce Lunsford Way a bridge and interchange was recently built in Brown County, which is located only 1.5 miles from Eastwood Road with existing connecting roads; and

Whereas, if the intersections of Dela Palma and McKeever Roads are closed, traffic would be rerouted to an Eastwood interchange in a neighboring county up to over 3.5 miles away, which is a significant and concerning distance for emergency service and daily resident use.

RESOLUTION

Now Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Williamsburg Township, Clermont County, Ohio, that the following Resolution be, and hereby is, adopted:

Resolved that, the highest calling for public service is the safety of Our community.

Resolved that, no other area on SR 32 offers more SAFETY and economic value, other than SR32 and a bridge and interchange in the vicinity of McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road, in Williamsburg Township.

Resolved that, Williamsburg Township has patiently persevered in waiting for economic growth and development to arrive, while other areas that preceded in growth were served in their needs without requesting to skip/jump over in the development in bridges or super structures.

In a shared vision, let it be Resolved that, Williamsburg Township will be prioritized on the bridge and interchange list and the reality of a bridge and interchange will be implemented immediately for the sake of safety for Emergency Services and so that the Williamsburg Local School District may transport the community's children safely across SR32, as continued unprecedented economic growth travels through our community.

Protecting our values, Let it be Resolved that, Williamsburg Township will safely be a tremendous place to live and an incredible place to raise a Family!

Be it further Resolved, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including, without limitation, Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

Be it further Resolved, that this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its adoption.

Mr. Jordan motioned to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 2026-20, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AND IN SUPPORT OF A BRIDGE AND INTERCHANGE AT STATE ROUTE 32 (SR32) IN WILLIAMSBURG TOWNSHIP, CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO IN THE VICINTY OF MCKEEVER ROAD AND DELA PALMA ROAD. Mr. Maklem second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem – yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Mr. Jordan indicated a lot of thought by the whole team went into the resolution. Not necessarily opposed to opening a bridge at Eastwood but not at the expense of closing off Dela Palma and McKeever Roads at SR 32. It would affect Bethel-Tate Emergency Services as well, people going to work, and be detrimental to emergency run times. We are going to drive through Governor DeWine's office. It is also important we talk to the community. Mr. Boll asked about a local transportation meeting Friday. Mr. Bainum indicated probably not for that meeting and reiterated the Township was working through the Governor's Office. Mr. Bainum said we will talk to Bethel and Tate Township and any closures would impact daily use. Mr. Bainum discussed even greater issues when the bridge in Williamsburg is temporarily closed at times.

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Mr. Maklem provided an update on the local solar project primarily in Jackson Township but which involves a portion of Williamsburg Township. He indicated he had an update call with Drew Pierson of Savion (solar group) and Jackson Township last Wednesday. Mr. Pierson indicated Savion is still working with an investor to buy the project and that they were doing due diligence. Savion is also working on an RFP (Request for Proposal) to buy the power generated. We still do not know who the investor might be. Savion is also working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on approvals relating to wetlands.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan motioned to adjourn at approximately 8:53 p.m. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem – yea, Mr. Jordan - yea.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson