

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

September 16, 2026

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at the Williamsburg Township Hall. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss the Williamsburg Township Land Use Plan and consider employment and compensation of public employees, 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, Drew DeMarsh, and Lilley Halloran.

There was no public participation.

Mr. Jordan introduced Lilley Halloran, Reporter, Cincinnati Public Radio, WVXU News, and welcomed her to the meeting. Mr. Jordan indicated he had previously spoken with Ms. Halloran and that she had an interest in Williamsburg Township's Land Use Plan. He indicated that in an effort to continue the transparency on the development of an updated Plan, he directed her to information on the Township website, minutes, and newsletters. Mr. Jordan turned the meeting over to Drew DeMarsh, Clermont County Community + Economic Development for an update on the Township Land Use Plan. Mr. DeMarsh provided some background, discussed in previous meetings, on the Land Use Plan development process and results to date for the benefit of Ms. Halloran. Mr. DeMarsh indicated that given some townships staff capacity or lack of funds to hire a community planner, the County wants to make sure every township has access to planning resources. Mr. DeMarsh discussed next steps including:

- Planning another workshop, potentially January or February 2027
- Providing an update in the next Township newsletter (late October or November)
- Mid-March 2027 discuss latest feedback
- April 2027 post Land Use Plan document for review
- May final review
- June 2027 adopt the Plan

Mr. DeMarsh discussed a \$50,000 grant the County received regarding agriculture to develop a County wide plan for preserving farmland and rural character. He also indicated the University of Cincinnati School of Planning reached out to the County and are working on a study of Clermont County. Mr. DeMarsh mentioned an October 15th meeting with township officials where UC would present their progress and get feedback and then have public engagement in December. The consultant and County have good information to utilize in adopting a County Land Use Plan. Mr. Jordan indicated all dates previously discussed in regard to the Township land Use Plan are tentative. Mr. Jordan discussed next steps on the newsletter including drafting an outline, providing an introduction using the first couple sentences of the Plan document, and requesting resident's continued engagement. Mr. Maklem liked using the intro from the document in the newsletter and indicated we should highlight the future dates and provide a link to the Land Use Plan. He thought because the Land Use Plan would be one of many topics in the newsletter, only an overview should be provided and that there would be plenty of other opportunities for people to get information. Mr. DeMarsh agreed saying we should keep it brief and let the on-line apps speak for themselves. The Trustees discussed potential next meeting dates with Mr. Demarsh for October or November, potentially the November 9th regular meeting. The Trustees discussed the school or firehouse as potential locations for the January or February workshop. Mr. Maklem mentioned the high school would be busy with winter sports at that time. No decisions on date or location for the workshop were made.

Mr. Jordan recognized the Williamsburg Local School District for its recent 5-star rating and recognized Mr. Maklem for his ten years of service on the School Board.

Mr. Jordan discussed challenges with vehicle and semi traffic in the Township. He discussed a recent Township Resolution addressing potential ODOT plans for a bridge at Eastwood Road while closing McKeever Road and Dela Palma Road. This would have a dramatic negative impact on run-times for emergency services and safety for school buses. Mr. Jordan indicated it is critical for the Township to get on the ODOT list for a bridge in the vicinity of McKeever and Dela Palma Roads. It becomes even more critical with the announcement of potentially more new industry. Mr. Jordan said we are trying to get this information out to other communities and it is part of a 20-year land use plan. He also indicated a liaison to Governor Mike DeWine took the message to him regarding the need for a bridge in Williamsburg Township. Mr. Jordan said the Resolution and information is reflected in the Township's August 10, 2026 Minutes.

Mr. DeMarsh provided further insight into the Township's Land Use Plan discussing how townships such as Batavia Township or Williamsburg Township can develop plans but Batavia Village or Williamsburg Village can annex the township land and develop how they see fit regardless of township trustee plans. A difficult situation we need to be cognizant of.

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

September 16, 2026

Mr. Maklem motioned to enter into executive session at 9:36 a.m. under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (1) to consider employment and compensation of public employees. Mr. Bainum second. Roll call: Mr. Bainum – yea, Mr. Maklem – yea, Mr. Jordan - yea. The Trustees came out of Executive Session at approximately 10:56 a.m. having discussed employment and compensation of public employees with no action taken and no decisions made.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan motioned to adjourn at approximately 10:57 a.m. Mr. Bainum second. Mr. Bainum - yea, Mr. Maklem - yea, and Mr. Jordan - yea.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson