

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## BROWN TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION

Held: April 20, 2026

The Brown Township Board of Trustees convened in regular session on Monday, April 20, 2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room at 2491 Walker Rd Hilliard, Ohio 43026. Trustee Chair Sayre called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Pam Sayre, Present  
Pete Marsh, Present  
Joe Martin, Present  
Becky Kent, Present

### Approval of Minutes

Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 Regular Session and April 3, 2026 Special Meeting. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

### Fiscal Actions

Bills were presented for payment. Trustee Marsh made a motion to approve the payment of bills. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

The Trustees previously reviewed the April 2026 payroll report. Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the payroll report. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

The Trustees previously reviewed the bank reconciliation and the supporting financial reports for the month of March 2026. Trustee Marsh made a motion to approve the bank reconciliation. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

### Sheriff's Report

Brown Township's Community Liaison, Deputy Haren, was present for the meeting. For 3/16/2026-4/20/2026, there were 78 calls for service, 16 reports taken, and 13 arrests/citations in Brown Township.

#### Notable Incidents:

- One mailbox package theft under investigation; no video footage available
- Zero stolen vehicles reported
- 10 traffic crashes (6 on I-70 freeway)
- 1 domestic dispute report

#### Community Assistance:

- Resolved semi-truck parking complaint on Amity Road through coordination between resident and company
- Assisted in returning a lost wallet to owner through Deputy Wood's investigative efforts

#### Participated in Operation Unity in Prairie Township and Franklin Township:

- 161 traffic stops conducted over 10-hour period
- 89 citations issued
- 1 arrest for felony warrant
- Methamphetamine seizure (couple grams)
- Ongoing enforcement planned for spring, summer, and fall throughout county

### **Norwich Fire Department Report**

Norwich Fire Chief Baird was present for the meeting. During March 2026, Norwich Township answered 673 calls for service with 204 Fire runs and 469 EMS runs.

Of those 673 calls, there were (14) EMS runs and (9) Fire runs in the unincorporated areas of Brown Township. There were also (4) EMS runs and (1) Fire run in the incorporated area of the Township.

#### Operational Challenges:

- ODOT I-70 closure (Rome Hill to I-70 West) creates significant response delays
- Fire Department now must route via I-270 to I-70, causing extended response times

#### Mutual Aid Concerns:

- Type 2 annexation by City of Columbus is impacting resource availability
- Columbus Fire Department lacks resources to reciprocate mutual aid
- In March, Station 82 responded to 55 calls in Columbus; Columbus Fire only assisted in Brown Township 5 times
- Norwich Fire policy: prioritize transport of township residents; limit each station to one vehicle for mutual aid at a time

#### Property Tax Reform Impact:

- Fire Department budget is 88% dependent on property tax revenue
- If property tax reform eliminates property taxes, fire service would become unsustainable within 6 weeks
- Current cash carryover would be insufficient for extended operations

### **MORRIS ROAD MAVERICKS 4H CLUB – ROADSIDE CLEANUP PROPOSAL**

David Minton, advisor for the Morris Road Mavericks 4H Club, presented a proposal for township roadside cleanup.

#### Project Details:

- Proposed cleanup of township roads, both roadsides and ditches
- Club previously conducted unofficial cleanup of Morris Road
- Approximately 15 club members available; would operate in two groups
- Estimated capacity: 4 miles per group per day
- Parents would serve as chaperones with vehicles displaying caution/hazard lights

#### Timeline:

- Cleanup planned between April and end of club year (July)
- Requires minimum 10 days' advance notice for township newsletter and social media promotion
- Postcard notification option for May/June timeline

#### Next Steps:

- David Minton to provide proposed schedule and road cleanup plans via email for township review
- Township to coordinate cleanup dates with at least 10 days' notice
- Trustees approved \$50 per mile compensation pending legal review
- Earthcraft offered to donate dumpster for debris collection

### **BIG DARBY ACCORD ADVISORY PANEL REPORT**

Melissa Brinkerhoff reported on the Big Darby Accord amendment.

#### Accord Amendment Timeline:

- City of Columbus presented amendments at City Council hearing on April 7, 2026
- Over a dozen residents spoke in opposition
- Columbus City Council first reading scheduled for April 27, 2026

- Amendment process accelerated: 500+ days elapsed; approximately 1.5 years to date (compared to 5 years for original accord)
- Columbus funding amendment process independently

Community Concerns:

- Widespread concern regarding amendment speed and content
- Request to pause amendments pending ODNR study results
- ODNR and Ohio Environmental Council meeting with Columbus City Council this week

**ZONING COMMISSION UPDATE**

Trustee Marsh announced a Zoning Commission public open house scheduled for April 28, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Station 82.

Open House Details:

- Most zoning board members and consultants will be present
- Opportunity for public feedback on zoning resolution draft
- Public comments will guide final zoning board recommendations

Next Steps:

- Zoning resolution draft to be published online for community access prior to open house
- If minimal feedback received: next meeting will include official zoning code recommendation to Brown Township
- If substantial feedback received: additional meeting scheduled to incorporate public input before final recommendation
- First official zoning board meeting as formal entity to be scheduled

**DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE**

Three Brown Township adjacent cases were recently heard by Hilliard Planning and Zoning.

Clover Run Development:

- 79 acres, 79 residential units
- Located off Elliot Road
- Will tie into existing Tarleton Meadows development
- Forwarded to Hilliard City Council

Brown Elementary School:

- Site plan approved

Circle K Proposed Gas Station:

- Project tabled again due to developer issues

**TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter planned for June 15, 2026, with anticipated content:

- Zoning Commission
- Franklin County Fair information
- Big Darby Accord amendment
- Nature Preserve park update

**OLD BUSINESS**

Website Redesign Proposal:

- Trustee Martin to request formal proposal for website evaluation and redesign
- Proposal to include Microsoft Exchange email services and cloud file storage

**Dever Building Maintenance:**

Trustee Martin made a motion to accept a proposal by Pebble Construction to paint the garage doors. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Baird offered to have some of the crew replace damaged ceiling tiles.

**Payroll Service Provider:**

The trustees reviewed a quote submitted by HR Butler. The HR Butler quote was significantly higher than ADP; The trustees decided to continue with ADP payroll service.

Fiscal Officer Kent will coordinate payroll direct deposit implementation for road department employees.

**Electronic Recycling Event:**

Columbus Microsystems electronic recycling event scheduled for July 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Event Details:**

- Location: Dever Building back lot (selected for adequate traffic flow space)
- No TV drop-offs allowed to avoid complications
- Residents may arrange TV drop-off directly with Columbus Microsystems at resident's expense
- Columbus Microsystems to provide certificate of insurance
- Itemized donation report to be provided post-event for community publication

**Invasive Species Work at Nature Preserve:**

Cole Gillfillan presented two proposals for invasive species removal which would be very labor intensive. He will contact Metro Parks to explore the potential for partnership opportunities. The subject was tabled until more info is gathered.

**Hampton Reserve Correction:**

Trustee Marsh reported that the properties that were incorrectly assigned to Norwich Township have been reassigned to Brown Township. The amount that was improperly paid to Norwich Township for the past five years for these properties is \$103,763.67. Trustee Marsh shared this figure with Norwich Township's Administrator Jamie Fisher, who said a check will be sent to Brown Township after supplemental appropriations are passed.


**NEW BUSINESS**

**Administrative Offices Painting:**

The trustees reviewed a proposal by Brayden McPhearson to paint the second floor of Station 82 for \$3,950. Trustee Marsh made a motion to accept the proposal. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Trustee Sayre asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



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Pam Sayre, Chair



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Becky Kent, Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the Trustees/ Fiscal Officer of Brown Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.