

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## BROWN TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION

Held: May 18, 2026

The Brown Township Board of Trustees convened in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:24 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 April 20, 2026 Regular Session. 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 May 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 April 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 4/20/2026-5/18/2026, there were 60 calls for service, 20 reports taken, and 12 arrests/citations in Brown Township.

Notable Incidents:

- One suspicious person at Grace Evangelical Church: individual protesting the church and its handling of his situation. Protest has been peaceful to date. Criminal trespass warning issued when individual was on church property; individual subsequently moved to public property (county-owned land adjacent to Hubbard Road). Protester is not a township resident; believed to be from Madison County. Similar issue occurred in 2012 and has resurfaced.
- Package theft from mailbox: resident has been reimbursed by company; no new evidence to identify suspect(s)

Speed Enforcement: Speed trailer deployment on Walker to Amity roads for approximately one week each direction:

- Westbound traffic: 38,744 cars recorded; 8,322 speeding (fastest speed: 89 mph; one anomaly recorded at 110 mph, possibly law enforcement vehicle)
- Eastbound traffic: 41,419 cars recorded; 8,966 speeding (fastest speed: 92 mph)
- Speed trailer threshold: anything above 56 miles per hour is considered speeding

Shots Fired Calls: Calls received after 10:00 p.m. regarding shots fired. Deputies responded but did not hear shots at time of response and cleared calls. Follow-up knock-and-talk planned with resident to discuss noise resolution compliance.

There was a discussion regarding Brown Township noise resolution and its application.

Key Points:

- Township noise resolution applies to unincorporated areas only
- Quiet hours: 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- During quiet hours: noise must not be audible from 100 feet away
- During daytime hours: noise that becomes a nuisance can be addressed through officer discretion
- Special circumstances (protests, events) discussed; officer discretion emphasized
- Some neighboring townships (Prairie, Pleasant, London) have daytime ordinances due to home rule status
- Prairie Township has zoning for manufacturing, which limits noise restrictions on agricultural/manufacturing properties
- Brown Township has agricultural zoning exemptions similar to other townships
- Enforcement typically begins with warning; escalates to citation if issue persists
- Deputies to be educated on Brown Township noise resolution details for better enforcement

**Norwich Fire Department Report**

Norwich Fire Captain Evans was present for the meeting. During April 2026, Norwich Township answered 633 calls for service with 156 Fire runs and 477 EMS runs.

Of those 633 calls, there were (29) EMS runs and (3) Fire runs in the unincorporated areas of Brown Township. There were also (5) EMS runs and (3) Fire runs in the incorporated area of the Township.

Mutual Aid Provided:

- City of Columbus: 51 times
- West Jefferson: 3 times
- Pleasant Valley: 8 times
- Prairie Township: 1 time
- Upper Arlington: 9 times
- Washington Township: 16 times

Mutual Aid Received:

- City of Columbus: 10 times
- West Jefferson: 1 time
- Upper Arlington: 2 times
- Washington Township: 7 times

Fire Station Humidity and A/C Issues: Ongoing humidity and air conditioning problems in bunk room and restrooms since 2016.

- Current humidity levels: bunk room back at 60%, day room at 56%
- Multiple contractor attempts made without resolution
- Various approaches attempted: attic fans installed two years ago to pull heat; additional insulation added
- Possible solutions discussed include heat exchangers (one contractor proposed but not implemented due to cost and storage room space constraints)
- Concern about mold if humidity reaches 70%
- Makeup air may be contributing factor; potential to shut off outside air and monitor humidity impact

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **MANDO DITCH CONCERNS**

A Morris Road resident noted that the final decision has not been made but the start date is already on the Franklin County Engineers' website. She asked why residents cannot petition to stop the project if others can petition to start it, noting the process does not seem fair.

Alternative Drainage Proposal Presentation: Tom Janz presented an alternative Mando Ditch drainage plan proposing:

- Upsize existing 8-inch tile pipes to 12-15 inches rather than expensive large pipes proposed by county
- Aim to reduce financial burden on residents
- Focus on township jurisdiction and cost-effectiveness
- Same layout design as county proposal but with smaller pipe sizes
- Sealed system to prevent tree root intrusion and water infiltration
- Encourages individual property owners to manage drainage within their yards
- North side of Morris Road: 1,000 feet of 15-inch pipe, then drop to 12-inch to end of watershed
- South side of Morris Road: 10-inch pipe along south side
- Residents to bring their water to the main system at their own expense if they choose to do so
- Cleaning and dipping existing ditch to remove sprouts and maintain grass

County Mando Ditch Project Criticism: Project cost and scope seen as excessive. Financial burdens on landowners highlighted. Concerns about future maintenance, liability, and historical lack of upkeep.

County Involvement and Funding: New law allows ongoing maintenance cost levy. Debate on township financial commitment. Preparation for July commissioner hearing to voice concerns. Plans to pass resolution opposing current project design.

Trustee Martin will contact township attorney Brian Zets to prepare two resolutions: one to oppose the project and one to pay the direct assessment should the commissioners approve the project.

### **TEMPLE EVENT NOISE AND TRAFFIC**

Residents from Davis Road and nearby properties requested improved communication on event dates and traffic management.

Noise Concerns from Event:

- Residents asked temple to turn down noise during a recent event; compliance lasted two hours before noise resumed
- Confusion regarding noise ordinance details among responding deputies
- One deputy cited Columbus city ordinance (65 decibels) rather than township ordinance
- Discussion clarified that township ordinance applies: quiet hours 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.; during day, reasonable noise standard applies

Traffic and Safety Concerns:

- Cars turning around in residents' driveways during events
- Dozens of turnarounds per hour on 55 mph road
- Concerns about accidents, particularly with high school students and new drivers

Next large event: July 18, 2026 (parade down Walker Road planned; Franklin County Sheriff involved with law enforcement coordination).

## **ZONING COMMISSION UPDATE**

Trustee Marsh will confirm that the Concrete Driveway Policy provided by Trustee Martin is included in the draft.

June 24, 2026 meeting scheduled for Zoning Commission to officially recommend draft to trustees.

Notification:

- Postcard and website announcements required
- Social media outreach planned
- Postcards to be delivered by June 1 to meet notification requirements (20-day notice requirement confirmed)

Zoning Resolution Ballot Language:

- Ballot language will be a synopsis, not full resolution language
- Secretary of State approval required for ballot language
- Verdantas to assist in creating ballot paragraph
- Voters will fill in yes/no bubbles
- Once adopted by trustees for ballot, resolution language locked until election
- Zoning Commission can make changes after adoption/election

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

Alton Place: Roberts Road closure on June 1 for 35 days

Anderson Farm: Project tabled for May's Columbus Development Commission meeting

## **ROADS**

Trustee Martin made a motion to allow Jason Bevington to spray weeds along the Morris Road guardrail as needed, not to exceed \$1,500 per season. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **WEBSITE AND EMAIL UPGRADE**

Trustee Martin made a motion to proceed with website and email deployment as proposed by Shumaker Technology Group for an initial cost of \$3,500 and ongoing annual fee of \$1,250. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

### **COLUMBUS MICRO SYSTEMS ELECTRONIC RECYCLE**

Event is scheduled for July 18, 10am-12pm. Heidi Feathers will put together an article for the newsletter.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

Anthony Sasson discussed invasive species management at township nature preserve.

Proposed Approach:

- Volunteers to remove smaller invasive species using loppers and herbicide treatment
- Larger tree and brush removal to be handled by contractor
- Volunteers willing to help with cleanup and ongoing maintenance
- Emphasis on initial large-scale clearing followed by ongoing volunteer maintenance

**NEW BUSINESS**

**LED LIGHTING INSTALLATION**

Trustee Sayre made a motion to proceed with a proposal by Kramer Electrical for LED lighting installation not to exceed \$5,500 (includes bulbs, optional fixtures, and possibility of dimmable lights subject to contractor follow-up). Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE APPROVALS**

Trustee Martin made a motion to approve Scott Dever mowing trail areas around the nature preserve at a rate of \$125 per session. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Cole with Earthcraft Companies, LLC presented a proposal to remove a chain link fence around propane tanks for \$1,063. Trustee Martin made a motion to accept the proposal. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

**REAL ESTATE TAX ADVANCES RESOLUTION**

Fiscal Officer Kent presented Resolution 2-2026 to request real estate tax advances for the second half of 2026. Trustee Martin made a motion to adopt resolution 2-2026. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

**OPPOSITION TO PROPERTY TAX ELIMINATION**

Plans were discussed to place portions of an OTA article opposing property tax elimination on the township website and social media.

**BANK FRAUD PROTECTION UPGRADE**

Fiscal Officer Kent presented a proposal by PNC Bank to upgrade the township checking account to allow for ACH payment capability and ACH and check positive pay for \$117 per month. The interest rate on the sweep account will also be increased to 3.25%. Trustee Martin made a motion to accept the proposal. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

**NEIGHBOR MOWING COMPLAINT**

Glenn Elfrink let Trustee Martin know he hit an invisible fence while mowing the township right-of-way. Trustee Martin will investigate.

**HAMPTON RESERVE FUNDING UPDATE**

Fiscal Officer Kent let the board know that funds owed to the township because of misdirected real estate taxes (paid to Norwich Township in error) will appear on the second half real estate tax settlement.

**MOWING TOWNSHIP DITCHES**

Glenn Elfrink called Trustee Sayre after hitting a resident’s invisible fence while mowing the ditch in the township’s easement. Trustee Martin will investigate.

**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 9:24 p.m.

*Signature on File*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Sayre, Chair

*Signature on File*

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.