

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



## BROWN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

Held: May 19, 2026

Trustee Chair Sayre called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Present were Trustees Pete Marsh, Joe Martin, and Pam Sayre, and Fiscal Officer Becky Kent. Jim Ramsey and Nick Soulas, from the Franklin County Engineer's Office and residents Michelle Stayrook, Anthony Sasson, and Tom Janz were in attendance.

Trustee Martin reviewed the purpose of the meeting, which was to discuss concerns about water-flow into the Big Darby Creek and to evaluate assessment options for the township.

Franklin County Drainage Engineer, Jim Ramsey, gave a presentation on the Mando Ditch Drainage Improvement Petition (attached). This included a project overview and a detailed look at the 4 areas within the project. Should the trustees decide to only pay the calculated assessment for the Morris Road right-of-way, it will be \$509,947.73. If they choose to pay the direct assessment for work within the right-of-way, the township will pay \$967,475.52 which will reduce the assessments for residents in areas 2 and 3.

Nick Soulas explained the appeals process should the county commissioners approve the project. There is a 30-day window after the commissioners' decision to file appeals before bidding can begin.

Trustee Sayre asked how the project would affect the Big Darby Creek, noting concerns about increased volume and velocity of water flowing into it. Jim Ramsey acknowledged they had looked at environmental mitigation measures but decided not to include them in the design because:

- The benefit gained would not justify the cost
- The terrain is too flat to create enough elevation difference to hold meaningful amounts of water
- A pond large enough to make a difference would be huge and impractical
- These features work better for subdivisions and commercial sites with significant topography changes

Township Board Discussion:

- Acknowledged decision does not imply support or opposition to project
- Can vote to pay direct assessment while opposing project approval
- Need to communicate township position clearly to commissioners

Trustee Sayre asked how the board can convey to the commissioners that they aren't supportive of the project. Nick Soulas suggested they pass two resolutions – one to agree to paying the calculated or direct assessment, and another to state that they don't support the project.

Audience Participation:

Michelle asked whether the county will self-perform work or bid it out. She also asked whether a performance guarantee could be included in the contract to ensure water drains as promised, with the contractor responsible for reworking at their cost if it doesn't work rather than taxpayers bearing the costs.

Jim responded that the current plan is to bid the project out, but he indicated he would like to raise the question internally to see if the county could self-perform because he thinks it would be less expensive. He also stated that contractors must provide a performance bond guaranteeing they will build the plan as designed, but they are NOT guaranteeing the design itself.

Michelle then asked if the Morris Road pipe could be eliminated by re-engineering the system to pump water north instead, since the terrain is so flat. She noted that water stands in the back of properties, and questioned why they need two outlets (Area 2 and Area 3) if it's flat terrain.

Jim explained that they did look at this early in the project but it didn't work. They also try to limit taking water in a different direction than it naturally flows.

Michelle also asked whether there will be a 2-minute time limit to testimony at the county commissioners' hearing. Nick Soulas answered that this will be a public hearing not a public meeting, so there should be no formal limit on the testimony.

There being no other business to discuss, Trustee Marsh made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Martin seconded. Motion approved three AYES, no NAYS. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 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.