

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



BROWN TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION

Held: August 17, 2026

The Brown Township Board of Trustees convened in regular session on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 7:00 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: Trustees Pam Sayre, Pete Marsh, and Joe Martin, and Fiscal Officer Becky Kent.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 Regular Session and the August 3, 2026 Special Meeting. Trustee Martin made the motion; Trustee Marsh seconded. 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 August 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 July bank reconciliation and supporting financial reports. Trustee Marsh made a motion to approve the bank statement and reconciliation. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Haren was present for the meeting. Total calls for service and self-initiated runs in the Township since the July 20 meeting were 55 (down four from the prior period), with 16 total reports taken and 9 citations/arrests. There was one vehicle theft on Cole Road (1500 block); the vehicle was later recovered in the City of Columbus. There were 13 vehicle crashes, nine of them on U.S. Route 70. One call initially dispatched as a sex offense was determined to be a domestic dispute. A Flock license-plate-reader camera near Amity Road and Dellinger Road was vandalized (cut down, with damage to its solar panels); the camera is owned by Prairie Township, though the incident was logged as occurring in Brown Township. On August 7, deputies investigated an impaired-driving crash on Amity Road; the injured driver was taken to the hospital and was later charged with OVI.

In response to questions, Deputy Heron explained the Sheriff's Office's use of and policies around Flock cameras: the Office shares access with several townships (including Prairie and Jefferson) and the City of Columbus, primarily uses them to recover stolen vehicles and locate missing persons, and does not release camera data to outside or federal agencies without review by legal counsel. He also clarified that the Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction countywide but generally does not respond within the City of Columbus unless requested by Columbus Police.

Norwich Fire Department Report

Lieutenant Curtis, filling in for the Chief, reported 712 runs in July (188 fire runs and 524 EMS runs) across all Norwich Fire Department stations. During the severe storm on August 11, Norwich FD responded to 85 calls for service in one day, 62 of them within a four-hour span.

Of those 712 calls, there were (12) EMS runs and (6) Fire runs in the unincorporated areas of Brown Township. There were also (0) EMS runs and (2) Fire runs in the incorporated area of the Township.

A new live-fire training facility ("the Den"), a three-story training structure built from shipping containers, is now open off Alton Darby Road; nearby residents may see smoke from training activity in that area. A new medic unit will be placed in service at Station 81, replacing the Department's oldest medic unit, within about a week.

In response to a question, Lieutenant Curtis noted that mutual aid is the largest single category of both fire and EMS runs for Station 82, with most of that aid going to the far west side of the City of Columbus; Station 82 also occasionally assists Jefferson Township due to ongoing Route 70 construction.

Audience Recognition and Participation

Several Davis Road residents described ongoing flooding and standing water on Davis Road and asked for the Township's help finding a long-term solution. Trustee Sayre reported having spoken with representatives from the Franklin County Engineer's drainage department. They indicated that while some of the drainage issues are on private property, they would be willing to meet with affected residents to discuss options. There was discussion whether Heritage Preserve has affected drainage patterns. Trustees noted the County's sole formal responsibility is keeping water off county roads, that private drainage is generally a private-property matter, and that a ditch petition is one option but can carry substantial long-term assessment costs to property owners in the watershed. A sign-up sheet was circulated for interested Davis Road residents to provide contact information so the County Engineer's office can schedule a meeting with them.

Ernie Davis asked about the status of a business on Scioto Darby Road at the former Hills Farm property; Trustees indicated the property owner is working through Franklin County zoning and permitting for the use. Mr. Davis also raised a recurring complaint about traffic cones placed in the road right-of-way on Langdon Road; Deputy Haren indicated he would follow up with the resident.

Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel Update

Melissa Brinkerhoff, the Township's representative on the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel, reported that the City of Columbus has continued to bring a case (the Bolton Fields Residential Subdivision, on Norton Road) to the panel for a conceptual review under the draft amended Big Darby Accord, even though that amendment remains in draft form, is not adopted by Columbus (or by any jurisdiction other than Prairie Township), and is currently paused pending results of an Ohio Department of Natural Resources study. She expressed concern that hearing cases under the unadopted draft amendment sets a problematic precedent and undermines the incentive to complete the amendment process; the Darby Creek Association has sent a letter to panel members raising similar concerns. Trustee Marsh made a motion that the trustees recommend that Brown Township's representative (Melissa) use the 2006 Big Darby Accord as the basis for evaluating cases before the panel until the BDA Amendment is formally passed. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried. Melissa also asked that Trustees consider recruiting an alternate to serve in her place on the panel when she is unavailable.

Zoning Commission Update

Trustee Sayre announced that the Township's zoning resolution ballot issue has been certified for the November 2026 ballot as Issue 40. Two Patterson Road residents have volunteered to lead a citizens' committee in support of the issue; the Township itself may provide factual information but cannot advocate for or against the ballot issue.

Franklin County Public Health Update

Nathan Ralph of Franklin County Public Health discussed the department's role in stormwater awareness, illicit discharge investigation, and permitting of new and replacement septic systems and water wells. Regarding standing water observed on or near leach fields during the recent wet weather, he advised that pumping septic tanks as needed is the best immediate response, and that ponding surface water on a leach field is a lesser concern than sewage actively surfacing from a failing system.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Update

Annabel Spranger, Urban Conservation Program Coordinator with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, reported that the Ohio EPA's countywide MS4 stormwater general permit comment period closed in August; the District submitted comments, and changes in the renewed permit are expected to be modest — primarily clarified language on which areas qualify as "urban," updated pollutant listings by waterway, and new messaging requirements around road salt storage and application.

Trustee Marsh made a motion to approve Resolution 10-2026, joining soil and water conservation districts and communities across Ohio in recognizing October 1–7, 2026 as Stormwater Awareness Week. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Developments

Alton Place: Construction of buildings on the south side of Roberts Road remains stalled because the developer has not yet extended utilities from the north side; he recently submitted (but has not yet received approval for) the required water chlorination test to the City of Columbus. Once approved, utilities are expected to be extended across Roberts Road sometime in September, at which point Roberts Road will likely be reduced to westbound traffic only with a detour while the work is completed.

A separate, approximately 280-acre parcel west of Alton Darby Road, between Roberts Road and Walker Road, has already been annexed into the City of Columbus but has not been rezoned; any rezoning will proceed through Columbus's own zoning process, and the matter is also expected to come before the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel. The developer is conceptually proposing roughly 1,348 units of apartments, townhomes, and patio homes.

Newsletter

The next Township newsletter deadline is September 15. Planned content includes an article on the Beach Bridge project, the upcoming four-way stop at Amity Road and Roberts Road, a neutral, facts-only summary of the November zoning ballot issue (Issue 40), and a note on stormwater awareness from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Roads

Trustees discussed the planned four-way stop at Amity Road and Roberts Road.

Old Business

Update on Township Website Evaluation

Compiled comments on the redesigned Township website have not yet been sent to the vendor; Trustee Martin will finalize and send them this week.

Nature Preserve / Invasive Species Removal

Cole Gillfillan (Earthcraft Companies) reported that volunteers have cleared and removed smaller Callery pear plants and brush from the Nature Preserve trail areas. Approximately two dozen larger Callery pear trees and stands of large honeysuckle remain and will require professional removal (chipping and hauling) in partnership with Tim of Central Ohio Tree and Stump, followed by herbicide treatment of the cut stumps to limit regrowth. The work is targeted for completion by mid-to-late September, before the trees go dormant, though a warm fall could allow it to extend into October. Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the estimate from Earthcraft Companies of \$13,250 for this work. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Mando Ditch Petition

The Franklin County Commissioners are scheduled to hear the Mando Ditch petition on September 22; the County Engineer's office (John Henderson) will provide 21 days' notice of the new assessments to all affected homeowners in advance of the hearing.

Hilliard Fiber Network Internet — Three Lanterns

The fiber internet and phone service contract approved in July has been executed. Installation is pending confirmation from the utility pole owner authorizing pole access, after which building connections will be coordinated.

New Business

Cole Road Driveway Repair

Trustees reviewed a \$785 estimate by Earthcraft Companies to repair a Township-right-of-way driveway apron on Cole Road that has settled following utility boring work by a fiber/conduit contractor, including scraping back the

apron, adding and compacting 411 limestone, and re-spreading the existing topsoil. Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the expense. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Dever Building Roof Replacement

Trustees reviewed a proposal by Sky Crown Metal Roofing for \$25,625 for a new metal roof on the Dever Building. Trustee Martin made a motion to accept this bid, to be funded two-thirds from the Gas Fund and one-third from the General Fund. Trustee Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Dever Building Downspout / Drainage Tile Reconfiguration

Tom Janz presented a proposal to run the building's four roof downspouts to a dedicated, sealed drain tile system. Trustee Marsh made a motion to approve the bid of \$5,009.54, to be funded using the same two-thirds Gas Fund / one-third General Fund split as the roof project. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried.

Women's Restroom Ceiling Tile

Trustees noted a stained ceiling tile in the women's restroom in the Dever Building, possibly related to a roof leak, and agreed to inspect it during daylight hours.

Septic Aeration System Service Contract

Trustees discussed the Station 82 aeration system service contract, currently held with E.C. Babbert at \$275 per year (invoice expected in October), against an alternative two-year proposal from Evan Yoder at \$250 per year (\$500 for two years, covering three service visits). A decision will be made once the E.C. Babbert invoice is received.

Norwich Fire Station 82 Expansion

Trustees noted a follow-up meeting regarding the Station 82 expansion project with Allison Crumley of M&A Architects was scheduled for the next day.

Propane Contract

Trustees reviewed a renewal proposal from FerrellGas locking in a propane price of \$2.037 per gallon (down from \$2.089 per gallon last year). Trustee Martin made a motion to accept the bid. Trustee Marsh 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 Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed three AYES, no NAYS. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 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.