

Minutes of December 9, 2025

Record of Proceedings

The Washington Township Board of Trustees regularly scheduled meeting held at Washington Township Administration Building, 6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin, Ohio, on December 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., with Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chairman, calling the meeting to order, and it opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call – Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chair – Present

Mr. Charles Kranstuber, Vice Chair – Present

Mr. Stu Harris, Trustee – Present

Swearing-In of Firefighter Ethan Loring and Firefighter Joseph Commisso

Mr. Rozanski administered the oath of office to the following:

- **Ethan Loring** as Full-Time Probationary Firefighter, badge pinned by his fiancé Mackenzie Stevens.
- **Joseph Commisso** as Full-Time Probationary Firefighter, badge pinned by his wife Paige.

Chief Donahue congratulated Firefighters Loring and Commisso on their promotion to full-time probationary status. He opened the ceremony by emphasizing the purpose and significance of the oath and the honor represented by the badge. Chief Donahue noted that both firefighters participated in a competitive selection process among qualified internal candidates. Each has served WTFD as a part-time firefighter since June 1, 2023. Both also earned their Paramedic certifications through OhioHealth; FF Commisso in March and FF Loring in November.

Chief Donahue shared a passage from Tom Brennan, a decorated former Captain of New York City Fire Department and former Chief of Waterbury Fire Department in Connecticut. Chief Brennan's message to new recruits underscored the importance of continuous training throughout one's career, from probationary firefighter to Fire Chief.

Addressing the families, Chief Donahue noted that the Trustees and Township Administrator are committed to ensuring every possible resource is made available to support Washington Township firefighters, both physically and mentally. He encouraged family members to reach out if they ever need assistance.

Update on Fire at Ace Hardware, Dublin

Chief Donahue provided an update on the intentionally set fire at the Ace Hardware on West Bridge Street. He explained that Washington Township Fire Department crews were responding to a fire alarm at the nearby Marathon gas station when they noticed smoke coming from the Ace Hardware store. This response escalated into a two-alarm fire.

He expressed appreciation to the mutual aid companies from Norwich Township, Upper Arlington, Columbus, and Marysville, as well as Box 15 for providing on scene rehab and support services. Chief Donahue especially recognized the Washington Township crews for identifying that the Marathon and Ace Hardware incidents were connected, which led to the suspect's apprehension within an hour and a half of the initial alarm. He also commended the Dublin Police Department (DPD), noting that the successful apprehension of the suspect was due in part to the strong working relationship between the agencies.

Mr. Rozanski took the opportunity to thank Dublin Police Department Chief Páez and City Manager Megan O'Callaghan, who were in attendance. Chief Páez expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to extend gratitude on behalf of the DPD. He stated that the Ace Hardware incident demonstrated the preparedness of both departments and highlighted how ongoing collaboration and joint training enable them to serve the community at their best. Mrs. O'Callaghan commended the work of both Dublin Police Department and Washington Township Fire Department and expressed her appreciation to Mr.

Richter and Chief Donahue for attending the Dublin City Council meeting the previous evening. She looks forward to continuing the partnership between the City and Township in 2026.

Responding to concerns expressed by Mr. Kranstuber, Chief Donahue confirmed that Fire Marshal Sam Parsons will contact the owners of Ace Hardware to determine whether there is anything further the Township or the department can do to assist.

Franklin County Deputy Sheriff's Report:

Deputy Burton Haren with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) submitted a written and verbal report to the Trustees for November 18 through December 9, 2025, including an update on the following:

- During this period, there were thirteen (13) Total Calls for Service / Self-Initiated Activity, one (1) Total Report Taken, and zero (0) Total Arrests / Citations:
 - The single report resulted from an identity theft situation involving a wireless phone store near Dayton, Ohio. FCSO detectives are working with the jurisdiction where the incident occurred and have identified a suspect.
- Deputy Haren received a complaint through the FCSO website concerning parked vehicles blocking the alley near the pizza shop in Amlin. Deputy Haren spoke with an employee at the restaurant and will follow up with management.
- As a follow-up to the distracted driving target enforcement area discussed at the November 18 meeting, the FCSO worked with Ohio State Highway Patrol to conduct approximately fifty (50) traffic stops around I-270, resulting in approximately twenty-two (22) citations. Append #001

Dublin Education Foundation – Updates for the Board of Trustees

Treasurer Josh Wilke of the Dublin Education Foundation (DEF) provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the Foundation's recent work and its partnership with Washington Township. He explained that DEF focuses on securing grants to support teachers and school initiatives districtwide. Washington Township's grant funding, originally received through a class-action lawsuit and earmarked for drug abuse awareness and prevention, has played a significant role in advancing mental health and addiction-prevention efforts in the Dublin City School District.

Mr. Wilke noted that DEF representatives attended the Township's June meeting, and since then the Foundation has completed another grant cycle. Approximately \$25,000 in new grants were awarded a few weeks ago, with nearly every school building in the district benefiting.

He highlighted two initiatives in particular:

1. **Deer Run Elementary – Building-Wide Resiliency Initiative:** A comprehensive program focused on building resiliency skills, including family activities to reinforce these lessons at home.
2. **Cross-Curricular Project – Middle School Expansion:** Originally launched at Eversole Middle School and now replicated at Karrer Middle School, with plans for expansion to the remaining middle schools. Last year, an 8th grade project from Eversole focused on the impacts of drunk driving on the community. Across each middle school, 50-60 student projects are expected, with 10-20 centered on mental health topics such as creating positive after-school spaces.

Mr. Wilke shared that DEF looks forward to returning in the spring after the next grant cycle to provide another update.

In response to a question from Mr. Kranstuber, Mr. Wilke announced DEF's next major fundraiser, Elevate Education, is scheduled for February 27 at The Exchange in Bridge Park. He explained that DEF has existed for more than 20 years and has expanded significantly in recent years. Mr. Harris added that the gala typically showcases 10-15 grant-funded projects and includes teachers who present the work made possible through DEF support, such as the grant awarded by Washington Township.

Mr. Rozanski expressed appreciation for the update and reiterated that the Township funding was designated specifically for drug abuse awareness and prevention initiatives.

Mr. Wilke noted that the focus on addiction has broadened to consider related issues such as social media and technology addiction, in addition to drugs and alcohol. He shared a video illustrating the evolution of *The Partnership for a Drug-Free America* into *The Partnership to End Addiction*.

Mr. Bostic commented on the historical value of the DARE program, and Chief Páez clarified that while DARE is no longer in use, Dublin Police Department School Resource Officers now provide drug abuse prevention programming within the schools. Mr. Harris added that several student groups within the schools are also engaged in projects related to addiction awareness and prevention. Append #002

Lithium-Ion Battery Presentation – Washington Township Firefighter Dalan Zartman and Fire Chief John Donahue

Chief Donahue opened the presentation by revisiting the Trustees' October 28 discussion regarding data centers and Dublin's development focus in the West Innovation District. He provided an overview of data center operations, noting that these facilities support not only private businesses but also government and military data storage, ranging from individuals and small clients to major companies such as Google and Amazon. He described the varying scales of data centers, noting that even the Township houses a small two-rack server system in the Administration Offices, with primary data stored at the larger DartPoints facility.

Chief Donahue explained the four tiers of data centers, emphasizing how tier level correlates with reliability, an essential consideration for business continuity. He outlined the different energy systems commonly used to maintain consistent voltage and amperage for sensitive computer equipment, including grid power, diesel generators, lithium-ion battery systems, natural gas generators, and renewable sources such as solar and wind. He noted that natural gas systems represent a newer approach, generating power by breaking down gas molecules rather than using traditional combustion. Chief Donahue also highlighted that the proposed Norwich Township/Hilliard facility plans to use a natural gas generator and emphasized the value of having a recognized subject-matter expert, Firefighter Dalan Zartman, as well others within the WTFD.

Firefighter Zartman thanked the Trustees and provided a "Battery 101" overview focused on lithium-ion technology, its growing prevalence, and the associated challenges for the fire service and the community. He explained that lithium-ion batteries are now a prevalent fuel source powering consumer products, e-bikes, residential and commercial storage systems, uninterruptable power supplies (UPS), and electric vehicles.

He described three common battery formats: cylindrical, prismatic, and pouch, and their four basic components. FF Zartman explained that failures typically stem from thermal, electrical, environmental, or physical abuse, each of which can trigger an arcing event that leads to pressurized gas release and toxic emissions. He emphasized that these challenges are solvable and manageable through proactive planning, extensive training, and the adoption of modern codes and standards. He discussed the importance of performance-based facility design, engineering review, and ensuring the fire department has proper technical and tactical resources. He also noted the need for the community to consider long-term preparedness, including facility bonding and access to subject-matter experts, so they are not left with unresolved issues following an incident.

FF Zartman described strategies for managing battery fuel loads, classifications, and thermal runaway risks. Preventing propagation from one battery to another is critical, and some facilities employ specialized containment or isolation systems. He played a video showing large-scale training involving direct water application to a lithium-ion fire and explained how improper top-vent cooling can create further arcing hazards if systems are not engineered correctly. He also noted that UPS units are often housed outdoors in shipping-container-type enclosures.

FF Zartman then outlined several “target hazards” for fire service planning, including code enforcement, multi-agency coordination, operational readiness, and post-incident management. While there is no “magic elixir” to extinguish lithium-ion fires, he stressed that effective containment systems exist. Chief Donahue reaffirmed the Washington Township Fire Department’s mission to protect life and property through high standards in EMS, fire suppression, prevention, education, and safety. He explained the Fire Department’s role in risk management through the “Five Es:”

1. **Education:** community programs such as fire extinguisher training, CPR, babysitter courses
2. **Engineering:** measures that prevent fires or limit spread
3. **Enforcement:** inspections based on the International Fire Code
4. **Economic Incentives:** encouraging safety improvements such as sprinkler systems
5. **Emergency Response:** responding to incidents when they occur

He reviewed the April fire on Shady Nelms Drive involving a charging electric scooter which sent three individuals to the hospital. WTFD participates in the Northern Area Strike Team (NAS-T), a coalition of eleven departments collaborating on investigative and response strategies for emerging hazards, including lithium-ion incidents. He also noted access to statewide emergency mobilization resources through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Donahue reviewed code and standards updates, including the International Fire Code and Ohio Building Code. WTFD plans to evaluate NFPA 855 and NFPA 800, and may recommend local code modifications in collaboration with the Trustees.

Mr. Kranstuber praised the presentation and particularly FF Zartman’s expertise. He expressed concern that fire-safety issues and broader questions about whether data centers are compatible with residential development had conflated. He cited concerns such as electricity and water usage by data centers along with other environmental concerns and referenced an article characterizing data centers as “the asbestos of our time.” He confirmed that the fire department’s role is to apply and enforce the adopted codes and maintained that the Trustees will continue the discussion on whether and where data centers should be permitted.

Mr. Harris inquired whether Chief Donahue envisioned continued collaboration with Norwich and Jerome Townships in 2026, noting media reports of community pushback against data center development. He asked whether WTFD might recommend NFPA 855 and 800 to mutual aid partners. Chief Donahue clarified that WTFD cannot impose standards on other agencies and that moratorium decisions rest with governmental authorities. He noted that Jerome Township has already enacted a moratorium to better understand data center impacts.

The Trustees discussed the possibility of Washington Township adopting a moratorium. Mr. Kranstuber expressed support for proposing one and encouraging the City of Dublin to do the same. Mr. Harris suggested gathering additional information, consulting legal counsel, and revisiting the matter in January 2026. He also noted that other communities, such as Ashville in Pickaway County, are exploring similar steps. He expressed interest in hearing from other communities navigating similar issues.

Mr. Rozanski raised concerns about lagging national standards, particularly with rapid changes in lithium-ion technology, and asked about battery lifespan. FF Zartman explained that while NFPA codes do trail industry development, new formats offer greater flexibility and safety. Data centers typically maintain high compliance standards and rotate batteries approximately every seven years. Smaller batteries, such as those in consumer products, often lack robust battery management systems, increasing failure risk.

Mr. Richter clarified that most land in the unincorporated territory of Washington Township is zoned residential and would not permit data center development under the current Zoning Resolution. He recommended referring any proposed moratorium to legal counsel for review.

After discussion, Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce the following motion:

Motion to Institute a 90-day Moratorium on Construction or Approval of Data Centers in Washington Township:

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and institute a 90-day moratorium on the construction or approval of data centers within Washington Township. During this 90-day period, the matter will be referred to legal counsel to determine the legality of further control of data centers. The Trustees further urge the City of Dublin to refrain from approving or constructing any additional data centers within the City of Dublin. Seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.001

Opportunity for Residents to Speak:

Resident Todd Hemmert shared perspective from his work with Honda's electric vehicle testing program, describing the extensive procedures used to manage EV accident testing, including the use of a large water tank and industrial equipment to handle vehicles experiencing thermal runaway. He asked FF Zartman how the fire department determines when it is safe for personnel to enter a structure during a lithium-ion incident.

FF Zartman explained that withholding entry is typically driven by concerns about the structural integrity of the building rather than the battery event itself. He noted that data center batteries are significantly more manageable than electric vehicle batteries, with far smaller fuel loads that burn out more quickly and with systems in place, such as dry chemical agents over each rack, to prevent propagation to adjacent units. He added that many surrounding agencies are still becoming familiar with the electrical complexities associated with these systems, underscoring the importance of coordinating with on-site subject-matter experts. FF Zartman contrasted modern, sectionalized data center designs with a large-scale incident in California involving 20-foot battery racks with a shared sprinkler system, which led to prolonged burning and eventual building collapse.

Dublin City Manager Megan O'Callaghan commented that the City also has very limited areas where data centers are permissible under current zoning. She noted that discussions about data centers will continue into early 2026 as the City evaluates further development and regulatory concerns.

Resident Amy Swank expressed appreciation for Chief Donahue's and FF Zartman's presentation, noting that the fire department's preparedness helped ease some of her concerns. She also thanked the Trustees for their actions regarding the moratorium. Ms. Swank encouraged the Township and City to remain aware that backup generation systems will increasingly be used outside of data centers, as large energy users across industries look to supplement the strained power grid. She referenced significant federal investment, approximately \$500 billion through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), to support development of these generation systems and noted that associated waste from certain technologies, similar to nuclear-based systems, must remain with the community. Given Dublin's anticipated industrial growth, she stressed the importance of planning for the energy and infrastructure implications of such development over the next decade.

Mr. Bostic provided an update that he anticipates the Memorial Preserve at St. John Lutheran Church to return as a topic for the Dublin Planning and Zoning Commission in early 2026.

In response to questions from Mr. Kranstuber, Mr. Richter and Mrs. O'Callaghan discussed potential land acquisition along Monterey Drive. Mrs. O'Callaghan noted there has been community support for a proposed development that would enable a land-swap concept that could facilitate cemetery expansion, though previous development proposals for the site have not moved forward.

Resolution to Contingently Hire George P. Sorge II as Full-Time Probationary Training/Safety Manager:

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION TO CONTINGENTLY HIRE GEORGE P. SORGE II AS FULL-TIME PROBATIONARY TRAINING / SAFETY MANAGER

WHEREAS, Washington Township provides fire suppression and prevention and emergency medical services to its constituents, and;

WHEREAS, a need to fill a vacancy, occurring on or about February 2026, in the position of Training / Safety Manager, and;

WHEREAS, during the September 9, 2025 Washington Township Board of Trustees Meeting, the Board approved hiring an additional Training / Safety Manager temporarily to meet the community and operational needs of the department, and;

WHEREAS, to adequately provide services, it is necessary to fill the vacancy in the position, and;

WHEREAS the human resource manager, fire chief, assistant fire chief and township administrator recommends the contingent appointment of George P. Sorge II as long as the Township receives satisfactory background check results as outlined in his contingent offer of employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN, DELAWARE, AND UNION COUNTIES, OHIO THAT:

Section 1: The Board approves the contingent hiring of:

Name: George P. Sorge II

Position: Probationary Training / Safety Manager

Classification: Uniformed Full-Time Exempt

Base Salary: \$119,888.94

Effective date: To Be Determined

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of the Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time permitted by law. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.002
Append #004

Resolution to Accept a \$544,300.00 Grant from the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program, in Support of the Construction of the Shier Rings Road Shared Use Path Project Between Washington Township and the City of Dublin, and Authorizing and Directing the Township Administrator to Execute All Documents Necessary to Accept the Grant:

Discussion:

Mr. Richter provided background on the project, noting that it was included in the funding made available through the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) sales tax increase. He explained that the committee began its work several months before the initiative was placed on the ballot, and that he had already initiated discussions with the City of Dublin regarding the shared use path. Because COTA expressed interest in distributing funds broadly across multiple communities, Mr. Richter took the lead in submitting the grant request.

Mr. Rozanski expressed his appreciation to Mr. Richter for his efforts throughout the grant writing process. Mr. Richter, in turn, commended the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for its foresight in identifying potential projects ahead of the funding becoming available.

Mrs. O'Callaghan noted that although the path is not a long connection, it is another strong example of the collaboration between the City and the Township and will benefit many residents.

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A \$544,300.00 GRANT FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHIER RINGS ROAD SHARED USE PATH PROJECT BETWEEN WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF DUBLIN, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE GRANT

WHEREAS, the COTA Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program offers financial assistance to communities seeking to create safer and more connected communities, and;

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator represents Washington Township on the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Committee along with representatives of the City of Dublin Mobility Department, and;

WHEREAS, the Township and the City of Dublin identified the Shier Rings Road Shared Use Path connector as a priority to provide pedestrian/bike connectivity to several miles of existing paths to the benefit of a large number of residents of both communities and;

WHEREAS, the Township has entered into a construction and cost-sharing agreement with the City of Dublin for the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of the Shier Rings Shared Used Path, and;

WHEREAS, all reimbursable grant proceeds from the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Grant will be applied equally to the allocated costs established between the Township and the City of Dublin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, Franklin, Delaware, and Union Counties, State of Ohio:

Section 1: The Board of Trustees hereby accepts the COTA Transit Supportive Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$544,300.00.

Section 2: The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the Township Administrator, or his designee, to execute any and all documents necessary to accept the COTA Transit Supportive Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$544,300.00.

Section 3: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision making bodies of the Board of Trustees which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.003

Append #005

Resolution to Authorize the Township Administrator to Execute a 2026 Information Technology Agreement with CompuCorp/MaxTech for the Period 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2026, Cost Not to Exceed \$226,000:

Discussion:

Mr. Richter explained that this is the annual contract renewal for Compucorp/MAXtech as the Township's third party Information Technology services provider. He reported that MAXtech continues to be an exceptional partner. The contract is hours based and Mr. Richter works to manage the hours allotted under the agreement to prevent exceeding the contracted amount.

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A 2026 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING, SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION, AND DESKTOP SUPPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COMPUCORP/MAXTECH FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$226,000.00 FOR THE PERIOD 1/1/2026 THROUGH 12/31/2026.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees understands the importance of utilizing technology for the efficient delivery of public services, while also maintaining the confidentiality and security of privileged information; and

WHEREAS, Washington Township implemented a multi-year phased plan to upgrade servers, hardware, software, licensing and firewalls to modernize and update various Township IT related systems; and

WHEREAS, CompuCorp has been providing the Township these services, and the Township has been pleased by the progress made and services provided; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Washington Township now wants to enter into a new I.T. Services Agreement with CompuCorp for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, Franklin, Delaware, and Union Counties, State of Ohio:

Section 1: The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the Township Administrator to execute an Agreement with CompuCorp for information technology managed services (as set forth in the scope of services).

Section 2: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision-making bodies of the Board of Trustees which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted December 9, 2025.

#2025.12.09.004

Append #006

Resolution to Authorize and Direct the Township Administrator to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Syntero, Incorporated for 50% Cost of Public Safety Services Liaison, Cost Not to Exceed \$54,119.00:

Discussion:

Chief Donahue reiterated the importance of the partnership with the City of Dublin. He explained that this is the second year the Township has collaborated with Dublin to utilize Syntero for a Public Safety Services Liaison. In 2025, services were provided to one hundred twenty-nine (129) residents.

Chief Donahue noted that the top three areas of need were suicide-related concerns, mental health issues, and older adults requiring resources. He confirmed that the Township uses Opioid Settlement Funds to cover its portion of the cost.

Motion:

Mr. Rozanski introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SYNTERO, INCORPORATED FOR 50% COST OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES LIAISON, COST NOT TO EXCEED \$54,119.00

WHEREAS, Syntero, Incorporated is an advocate and supports the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities by providing professional, compassionate behavioral health and social services that adapt to the changing needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, Washington Township also supports the services offered by Syntero, Incorporated and all that they do for the community; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Service Liaison would cohesively support the efforts of Dublin Police and Washington Township Fire Department to connect social and behavioral health resources to residents and reduce future emergency response interventions; and

WHEREAS, Syntero, Incorporated is uniquely qualified to provide referral service for mental health counseling, homelessness, dependency and addiction, and family services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, Franklin, Delaware, and Union Counties, State of Ohio:

Section 1: The Board of Trustees of Washington Township hereby authorizes and directs the Township Administrator to enter into a professional services agreement with Syntero, Incorporated for 50% cost of Public Safety Services Liaison for a period of one year, January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, cost not to exceed \$54,119.

Section 2: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision-making bodies of the Board of Trustees which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.005

Append #007

Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Temporary Budget:

Discussion:

Mr. Richter reviewed the proposed 2026 Temporary Budget, noting an approximate 29% increase in General Fund Revenues due primarily to the COTA Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) grant, which must be received and expended through the General Fund. The projections also include a planned transfer to the Capital Projects Fund, which was established in February 2025. After transferring \$1 million in 2025, the Township anticipates transferring an additional \$1.3 million in 2026.

Mr. Richter provided the Capital Projects Improvement Plan with the board packet, a ten-year planning document that currently includes placeholder amounts as the Township works to identify large-scale capital needs. He emphasized that the plan will remain fluid and will be updated over time. He also reported that EMS billing revenue is performing strongly, exceeding \$1.4 million through November, and noted that more data from the new billing company is needed before making major adjustments to that fund.

Mr. Rozanski commented on the volume of information and suggested further discussion at the upcoming Strategic Planning Session. Mr. Richter agreed and expressed a desire to schedule the session in the first quarter, after year-end financials are finalized. Mr. Richter confirmed he would bring forward proposed dates at the next meeting, as requested by Mr. Rozanski.

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, the levels of resources have been identified for the 2026 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, appropriations planning and consultation within the Township has been accomplished; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Fiscal Officer, Administrator and the Fire Chief are now prepared to present the 2026 Temporary Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2026 Temporary Appropriations and the Fiscal Operating, Capital and Debt Service Budgets of Washington Township (Franklin, Delaware and Union Counties, Ohio), for fiscal year 2026 as supported in the accompanying documentation and approved by the Trustees, Fiscal Officer, Administrator and the Fire Chief, to make expenditures within the projected income levels, provided that bills and payrolls shall be submitted to and approved for payment upon resolution of the Board: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Officer be instructed to incorporate the Temporary Budget Resolutions, and all supporting documents into the minutes and appendices of this meeting, and to file these materials with the official records of this Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision-making bodies of the Board which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect and be in force as the earliest time permitted in law.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.006

Append #008

Motion to Authorize the Payment of Property and Casualty Insurance Renewals for 2026. Mr. Ryan Keenan, The Keenan Agency, will be in attendance to discuss and answer questions:

Discussion:

Mr. Keenan confirmed this is a renewal with the same carrier and coverages as the previous year.

Motion:

Mr. Harris moved to introduce and authorize the payment of property and casualty insurance renewals for 2026, seconded by Mr. Krastuber. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. #2025.12.09.007

Append #009

Motion to Authorize the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with SES Performance, LLC for Physical Fitness Services for Fire Department Personnel at a Cost Not to Exceed \$50,960:

Discussion:

Chief Donahue presented the proposed agreement with SES Performance, a local Dublin company. He explained that the department began seeking alternatives due to rising costs from the current provider and in an attempt to involve more personnel in the program. Three vendors responded to the RFP, and two were selected for final consideration. SES Performance was recommended based on cost and service enhancements, including a fifty percent (50%) increase in weekly hours, onsite sessions at administration, and additional opportunities for firefighters who miss their regular sessions. SES will also provide individualized analytics to improve strength and flexibility, as well as fifty (50) hours of nutritional education. The program is intended to complement the mental and physical wellness initiatives already in place for Township employees.

Mr. Krastuber asked whether firefighters support the transition; Chief Donahue confirmed that several participated in the selection committee and that efforts are underway to involve more personnel. In response to questions regarding other clients, Chief noted that Dublin Coffman High School uses SES for athletic performance training.

Mr. Harris raised concerns regarding the absence of explicit liability insurance in the contract. Chief Donahue explained that certain indemnification language cannot be included due to state law. Mr.

Richter added that he and Chief Donahue have consulted with attorney Brian Zets about developing a standard contract template, however, significant variations among vendors have made that difficult and can deter potential partners. Mr. Kranstuber asked whether general liability insurance could be required; Chief confirmed that a rider can be obtained. Mr. Harris also requested a legal memorandum explaining the rationale for the Township's inconsistent use of certain contract provisions.

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with SES Performance LLC for physical fitness services for fire department personnel at a cost not to exceed \$50,960, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye.

#2025.12.09.008

Append #010

Motion to Authorize the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Fusion Marketing Group LLC for Social Media Marketing and Communications Content, Cost Not to Exceed \$25,000:

Discussion:

Mr. Richter presented the annual agreement with Fusion Marketing Group, led by Lindsay Hummer. He noted that following the departure of the communications staff member, the Township engaged Mrs. Hummer, who has provided exceptional support in social media and communications content creation. Other responsibilities formerly handled by the communications position have been distributed among existing staff, and the proposed agreement continues the successful collaboration with Fusion Marketing Group.

Motion:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Fusion Marketing Group LLC for social media marketing and communication content, cost not to exceed \$25,000, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye.

#2025.12.09.009

Append #011

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and approve the minutes from the November 18, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, seconded by Mr. Rozanski. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye.

#2025.12.09.010

Append #012

Year End Motions / Resolutions 2025:

Append #013

Trustee Compensation:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and adopt the resolution accepting maximum compensation allowable by law for the Township Trustees established by the Ohio General Assembly and published in the Ohio Revised Code for individual Township Trustees for and during the year 2026, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion adopted December 9, 2025.

#2025.12.09.011

Fiscal Officer Compensation:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and adopt the resolution accepting maximum compensation allowable by law for the Township Fiscal Officer established by the Ohio General Assembly and published in the Ohio Revised Code for individual Township Fiscal Officer for and during the year 2026, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion adopted December 9, 2025.

#2025.12.09.012

Elected Official Benefits:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and adopt the resolution declaring eligibility of Elected Officials to receive health insurance benefits and to provide any/all benefits offered by Washington Township to

the newly elected officials and Township Trustees and the Fiscal Officer for and during the year 2026 per the Ohio Revised Code, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.013

Appointing/Affirming Members of the Zoning Commission:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and adopt the resolution appointing and affirming members to the Washington Township Board of Zoning Appeals & Zoning Commission as follows, seconded by Mr. Harris:

Board of Zoning Appeals – Five-Year Term

1. Richard Kear, effective January 1, 2026, expiring December 31, 2030.
2. Joseph Warino, effective January 1, 2025, expiring December 31, 2029.
3. Julie Skolnicki, effective January 1, 2024, expiring December 31, 2028.
4. Jason Huffman, effective January 1, 2023, expiring December 31, 2027.
5. Michael Deaton, effective January 1, 2022, expiring December 31, 2026.
6. Chris Wiser, alternate member effective January 1, 2024, expiring December 31, 2026.
7. David Downs, alternate member effective January 1, 2024, expiring December 31, 2028.
8. Ms. Rebecca Princehorn is re-appointed secretary, treasurer, ex officio, of the Zoning Appeals effective January 1, 2026, expiring December 31, 2026.

Zoning Commission – Five-Year Term

1. Stephen Sharpnack, effective January 1, 2026, expiring December 31, 2030.
2. Patrick Wilkerson, effective January 1, 2025, expiring December 31, 2029.
3. R. Bruce McLoughlin, effective January 1, 2024, expiring December 31, 2028.
4. Marsha Spears, effective January 1, 2023, expiring December 31, 2027.
5. Brenda Santanello, effective January 1, 2022, expiring December 31, 2026.
6. Vacant, alternate member effective January 1, 2024, expiring December 31, 2028.

Motion adopted December 9, 2025.

#2025.12.09.014

Committee Compensation:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and adopt a resolution fixing compensation to members of the Washington Township Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Fire Appeals Board to allow compensation for these Boards as follows: Member, \$35 per meeting attended; Chair, \$10 per meeting attended above compensation as committee member - \$45; if there is an appointed Secretary - \$35 per meeting above compensation as committee member, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.015

Establishing Zoning Fees:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and approve the schedule of zoning fees, seconded by Mr. Harris:

Copy of Land Use Plan	30.00
Copy of Zoning Resolution	30.00
Copy of Zoning Map	20.00
Certificate of Zoning Compliance	30.00
Application for variance, appeal or other action of the Board of Zoning Appeals	100.00
Application for rezoning or other action of the Zoning Commission	500.00
Additional fee for a special meeting of either the Board of Zoning Appeals or Zoning Commission	100.00
Home occupation permits	30.00

Motion passed December 9, 2025.

#2025.12.09.016

Authorization to Execute Certain Agreements:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and adopt a resolution authorizing the Chair and Fiscal Officer, Administrator and/or the Fire Chief to enter into and execute certain agreements that have been formally introduced and approved by the Board of Trustees and renewal agreements for maintenance and services, change orders to agreements previously approved by the Board for construction and to stay within the department's budget and provided a report of all such agreements shall be presented to the Board for ratification at the next regularly scheduled meeting, seconded by Mr. Rozanski. Motion adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.017

Hiring of Attorneys to Represent the Township:

Mr. Harris moved to introduce and adopt the resolution employing Township's attorneys for particular matters for the year 2026 as follows, seconded by Mr. Rozanski:

- Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC, Attorneys at Law
- Bricker Graydon, LLP
- Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP
- Isaac Wiles Burkholder & Miller LLC
- Sybert, Rhoad, Lackey & Swisher, LLC, Attorneys
- Scott Warrick, LLC., Attorney at Law

Motion adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.018

Renewal of Township Memberships:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and adopt the resolution renewing membership in the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships, Ohio Township Association, Franklin County Township Association, Delaware County Township Association, and Union County Township Association, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.019

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and adopt the resolution renewing membership in the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO), with Trustee Stu Harris serving as Township liaison, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion adopted December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.020

Election of the Chair and Vice Chair:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and nominate Mr. Chuck Kranstuber as chair of the Washington Township Board of Trustees for 2026, seconded by Mr. Harris. Mr. Kranstuber abstained. Motion passed December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.021

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and nominate Mr. Stu Harris, as the Vice Chair of the Washington Township Board of Trustees for 2026, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber. Mr. Harris abstained. Motion passed December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.022

Establish Meeting Dates and Times for 2026:

Mr. Harris moved to introduce and establish the second Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. and the fourth Tuesday at 6:00 P.M. of each month for convening regular meetings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees, with meetings to be held at the Township Administration Building, 6200 Eiterman Road. Only the meeting on the second Tuesday will be held in the months of June, July, August, November and December, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber. Motion passed December 9, 2025. #2025.12.09.023

Authorize the Use of GovDeals for the Purpose of Auctioning Township Assets no longer needed:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and authorize the use of GovDeals for the purpose of auctioning Township Assets no longer needed, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed December 9, 2025.

#2025.12.09.024

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as follows, seconded by Mr. Harris:

- Bills: November 14, 2025 \$ 133,870.73
- Bills: November 25, 2025 \$ 280,906.52

- Payroll: November 21, 2025 \$ 636,220.13
- Payroll: December 5, 2025 \$ 534,828.21
- Payroll: Monthly December 5, 2025 \$ 9,584.00
- November 2025 Medical Payments \$ 247,564.53
- November 2025 Electronic Payments \$1,456,433.40
- Appropriation Transfers November 2025 \$ 24,070.00
- Fund Transfers October 2025 \$1,000,000.00
- October 2025 Monthly Report

Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye.

#2025.12.09.025

Append #014

Round Table Discussions:

Township Administrator Eric Richter:

- The Madison County Board of Commissioners' denial of an annexation request was overturned by a judge, who ruled that the commissioners must approve the annexation. City Manager O'Callaghan thanked Mr. Richter and Chief Donahue for their support, noting she had not anticipated the ruling would hinge on service-related considerations. Madison County has approximately one month to appeal the decision.
- Mr. Richter shared an update on Dublin's West Innovation District. Mrs. O'Callaghan reported the City has been working with consultants on proposed Zoning Code amendments based on resident feedback. The consultant's work is nearing completion, and a follow-up meeting with Ballantrae residents is being scheduled. The City is focusing on establishing a new zoning district between the railroad tracks and Cosgray Road. Rezoning efforts on the opposite side of the tracks are temporarily on hold.
- Responding to Mr. Richter's summary of the Dublin City Council meeting the previous evening, Mrs. O'Callaghan noted significant action taken by Council to authorize the purchase of three hundred fifty (350) acres, including the Gingerich Farms and Miller Farms properties, which are contiguous to the Carter Farms property Dublin previously acquired. These parcels are adjacent to land recently sold by Schottenstein along State Route 161.
- Mr. Rozanski referenced the article provided by Mr. Richter highlighting an unusually high land sale price along the 161 corridor in Darby Township and asked Mrs. O'Callaghan about rumored potential use of the property. She indicated it may be considered for a data center, noting the township recently approved increased height allowance for that area. Resident Amy Swank observed that the acreage may be insufficient for a data center footprint and suggested the site may ultimately become mixed-use residential, consistent with Madison County's development plan.
- The Franklin County Township Association annual meeting is scheduled for January 15 at Hollywood Casino. Trustees were asked to inform Mr. Richter if they plan to attend so he may complete registration.
- Mr. Richter recognized Human Resource Manager Catherine Grossman for her outstanding planning of the Township's holiday party, which received excellent feedback from staff and firefighters. Appreciation was expressed to the Trustees for their support, and OCLC was noted as a wonderful venue.
- Mr. Richter commended the fire department's strong response to the Ace Hardware fire. He noted newly promoted Captain Jesse Hill served as Acting Battalion Chief and was praised for his

calm, effective incident command. Mr. Richter also thanked Chief Donahue for managing media inquiries on scene.

- Mr. Richter notified the Trustees that he will be out of state from the following day through Monday. He is having a medical procedure mid-month but will be recovering at home afterwards.

Chief John Donahue:

- Chief Donahue presented the November monthly report. The department responded to 567 calls in November, continuing to trend below the previous year's totals.
- Chief Donahue noted a grand jury session is scheduled for Friday for the Ace Hardware fire, with Prevention Bureau staff set to testify, including Deputy Fire Marshal Chad Hamilton and Fire Inspector Scott Cantrell. Chief Donahue reaffirmed pride in department personnel and the strength of partnership with DPD. He noted that Captain Hill teaches the department's Blue Card course and will follow up with involved crews to assess any support needs. Mr. Rozanski asked that thanks for his outstanding work be passed along to Captain Hill on behalf of the Trustees.

Assistant Chief Adam Smith:

- The new medic is now in service at Station 91.
- The new engine for Station 92 is in final outfitting, with delivery expected next week.
- Work began today on the kitchen remodel at Station 93, with the remodel for Station 92 scheduled to begin next week.

Human Resources Manager Catherine Grossman:

- Mrs. Barb Duhl has announced her intent to retire effective March 2, 2026; recruitment for a new Accounts Payable position will begin.
- Part-time to full-time firefighter interviews will be held next week.
- Open enrollment for full-time staff and elected officials closes on December 15.
- Fire Marshal Parsons and Community Safety Liaison Megan Schiff will present to the Union County Safety Council tomorrow.
- Ms. Grossman noted that OCLC staff provided exceptional support during the holiday party, especially considering they do not traditionally host after-hours events.

Fiscal Officer Scott Melody:

- Mr. Melody noted he will work closely with Ms. Grossman on filling the Accounts Payable position, with the goal of having a new hire in place by February to allow for one month of training before Mrs. Duhl's departure.

Trustee Chuck Kranstuber:

- Mr. Kranstuber expressed to City Manager O'Callaghan and Mr. Richter his interest in keeping the Monterey Drive property in consideration as potential green space for the community.

Executive Session – Personnel – To Consider the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Promotion, Demotion or Compensation of a Public Employee or Official, or the Investigation of Charges or Complaints Against a Public Employee, Official, Licensee, or Regulated Individual, Unless the Employee, Official, Licensee, or Regulated Individual Requests a Public Hearing by Division (G)(1) of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved to enter into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public

hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code at approximately 8:53 p.m., seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees that were present voting Aye. #2025.12.09.026

Reconvened:

The meeting reconvened at approximately 9:25 p.m. with the following action:

Discussion:

Mr. Rozanski stated the Board of Trustees completed Mr. Richter's annual performance review in executive session.

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and approve a four and a half percent (4.5%) performance bonus for the year 2025, and increase Mr. Richter's salary by five and a half percent (5.5%), effective with the first pay date in 2026, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. #2025.12.09.027

Adjourn Meeting:

Motion by Mr. Rozanski, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber, to adjourn the meeting of December 9, 2025 at approximately 9:34 p.m. #2025.12.09.028

Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chair

Mr. Scott Melody, Fiscal Officer