

BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2026

The Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Chair Ryan Nixon, Trustee Vice-Chair Thomas DeCastr, Trustee Tony Destro, Fiscal Officer Bob Roksandich, Fire Chief Anthony Strazzo, Police Chief Tim Sopkovich, and Service Foreman Cory Schultz present.

Trustee Chair Nixon called the meeting to order at 7 PM, noting that the meeting was properly advertised.

PRESENTATION:

None.

MINUTES:

On hold until we receive a response from the prosecutor's office.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Zoning Department:

None.

Police Department:

Chief Tim Sopkovich stated he would like to clarify some things regarding the levy that was discussed in the organizational meeting. This levy was passed in 2016; it expired in 5 years (2021). The levy was put back on as a renewal in 2021 and will expire in 5 years (2026). This levy will be put back on the ballot as a renewal. This is not a new levy; it's the same levy that was voted on by the voters in 2016. As a renewal, we are collecting the same amount as in 2016. Those same funds are still being collected and that is what the Police Department uses to operate. I am thankful for the new Board; they are helpful and have helped us with some of our finances. They have used the general fund to help fund some of our expenses. Since 2016 obviously, costs of everything have increased. With those increases it is making it increasingly more difficult to operate with the budget of 2016 at 2026 rates. Since 2016, every year I have been able to stay under budget and have a carry over. Last year, I was able to make a big purchase to upgrade some of our technology using several years of the carryover funds. I have been very frugal with the funds and making it last as long as I can. Eventually the funds are going to run out. Especially with the cost of everything going up. This spring we are putting a renewal levy on the ballot. This is not a new levy; it is the same amount that we have been collecting since 2016. A lot of people think that since there are more new homes coming into the Township, that we get more money. That isn't true. We have a set amount. It was \$875,000 in 2016. As more homes are built, the less amount each homeowner pays. The amount we get stays the same, it is spread out among more homes and each homeowner's amount they pay goes down. We do as a Township need to sit down with all the departments and figure out how we are going to continue to provide the level of services that we have. Since 2016 all the departments have increased. The Fire Department has added Full-Time FFs on staff. It's what the

community needs from us to protect them. In 2016, I had 9 full-time patrolmen, with the levy I was able to put on 4 more additional police officers. Again, our workload has increased. This year I plan on adding another full-time officer and that will take a chunk out of our carryover funds. That's all I wanted to do. Just set the record straight, that it is not a new levy. It is just a renewal.

Fire Department:

Chief Anthony Strazzo presented the report for December and the review of 2025.

Request Board accepts the following three resignations:

FF Nick Erich resigned due to personal issues effective immediately on January 8, 2026. Trustee Destro moved to accept the resignation of Nick Erich. Nixon seconded. DeCastra – yes. Nixon – yes. Destro – yes. Motion carried.

Fire Inspector Tom Spape effective January 16, 2026. He would like to thank the Township for everything. Trustee Destro moved to accept Fire Inspector Tom Spape's resignation. DeCastra seconded. Nixon – yes. DeCastra – yes. Destro – yes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Anthony Strazzo effective January 23, 2026, at 3PM. Chief Strazzo read his resignation letter, which is attached. In addition to his resignation letter Chief Strazzo thanked the trustees that hired him and took a chance on a young Chief and thanked the residents for trusting us. Trustee Destro moved to accept Fire Chief Strazzo's resignation. Nixon seconded. DeCastra – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion Carried.

Trustee Nixon stated that he has enjoyed working with Chief Strazzo and he has seen the good he does in the community. Every time we did an event at the Fire Station, we see the interaction you have with your members and the community. On behalf of this Board and the community, thank you for your service and for your commitment to the community and the residents to make sure that they are safe.

Trustee Destro stated he met with someone at his shop that is an instructor at Tri-C and this person stated that the BHFD is really a special department in the way that it is run with the setup of Full timers in a small community like this. He said that it is not normal. It was great to hear from him and thank you for doing such a great job.

Request approval for FF Eberl to attend Fire Officer II training through Cuyahoga Community College at a cost of \$600. Trustee Destro moved to approve the training request for FF Eberl. Nixon seconded the motion. DeCastra – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion Carried.

Request an executive session to discuss employee discipline.

Service Department:

Service Foreman Cory Schultz presented the monthly report for December.

Request resolution for road mileage certification through Medina County. Trustee Nixon presented **Resolution 13-2026 Annual Brunswick Hills Township Road Mileage Certification for the Ohio Department of Transportation and for the Medina County Engineer**. DeCastra seconded. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. DeCastra – yes. Resolution adopted.

Presented the Ohio811 Invoice and stated that he is investigating the reason for the increase for 2026. We will put that on hold until we get answers.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Ryan Nixon:

Trustee Nixon stated that we have some students present in the audience today. They are here for the OTA Scholarship. I will read the Scholarship Form: As stated in the OTA Scholarship Information & Requirements, applicants must attend at least one official meeting of their local township officials. This form must be filled out by the student and then signed by at least two of the officials in attendance at the meeting. We have three students in attendance, if you guys can stand up and state your name and what you are going to school for. Jacob Yankee, Kent State for a Chemistry Degree. Luke Weinbauer Ohio State or Miami for Business. Grace Wieland, Ohio University for Business. The students came up and the Trustees signed their scholarship forms.

Trustee Nixon stated he would like to bring up the Bill from the City of Brunswick for dispatch services. The invoice this year is \$83,861.38 and next year it will be \$86,377.22. We asked the Fiscal Officer to investigate if the general fund could pay the dispatch bill to help our fire department and police department to free up some money in their budgets. Luckily the Township is very fiscally responsible and we can do that. Trustee Nixon moved that the dispatch bill be paid from the general fund for 2026. Destro seconded the motion. DeCastra – yes. Destro - yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Thomas DeCastra:

Trustee DeCastra offered and moved for adoption of **Resolution 14-2026** To Establish the Appointment of a Zoning Commission Member as an Alternate Member of Brunswick Hills Township. David Smerek is hereby appointed as an alternate member of the Brunswick Hills Township Zoning Commission, for a term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. Trustee Destro seconded the motion. Nixon- yes. DeCastra – yes. Destro – yes. Resolution adopted.

Trustee DeCastra offered and moved for adoption of **Resolution 15-2026** To Establish the Appointment of a Zoning Commission Member of Brunswick Hills Township. Jon McFarland and Chris Kalina are hereby appointed as full members of the Brunswick Hills Township Zoning Commission. Jon McFarland will be appointed for a term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030, and Chris Kalina will be appointed for a term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. Trustee Nixon seconded the motion. Nixon- yes. DeCastra – yes. Destro – yes. Resolution adopted.

Trustee DeCastra offered and moved for adoption of **Resolution 16-2026** To Establish the Appointment of a Board of Zoning Appeals Member of Brunswick Hills Township. Ann Baron and Jason Radesic are hereby appointed as full members of the Brunswick Hills Township Board of Zoning Appeals. Ann Baron will be appointed for a term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030, and Jason Radesic will be appointed for a term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. Trustee Nixon seconded the motion. Nixon- yes. DeCastra – yes. Destro – yes. Resolution adopted.

That leaves one spot as an alternate on the Zoning Commission and two spots for full members on the

Board of Zoning appeals. Today the website was updated with the open positions. If anyone is interested in any of them, please contact me at tdecastra@brunswickhillstwp.org.

On the cable/utilities aspect, if anyone has any issues with the current roll out of Frontier Fiber there is the process that has been posted many times but you can always reach out to us with any questions.

Trustee DeCastras offered and moved for adoption of **Resolution 17-2026** To Establish Appointments of Brunswick Hills Township Trustees Department Liaisons for a term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Trustee Nixon seconded the motion. Destro – yes. DeCastras – yes. Nixon – yes. Resolution adopted.

Trustee DeCastras offered and moved for adoption of **Resolution 18-2026** To Authorize Certain Officer and Employees To Incur Obligations of Three-Thousand Dollars on Behalf of Brunswick Hills Township. Trustee Nixon seconded the motion. DeCastras – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Resolution adopted.

Trustee DeCastras explained for the crowd that for the year of 2026 there will be Working Session starting at 6 PM before every Regular Trustee Meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. It will give the Trustees and department heads a chance to discuss topics and find out information. There will not be any decisions made only discussions. Trustee Nixon agreed the quick 45 minute discussion before today's meeting was very helpful. Especially with two new Board members and a lot of information to cover. There will be times that those work sessions will be cancelled but for now they are there for anyone that wants to come in and utilize the time.

Tony Destro:

None.

FISCAL OFFICER:

Nixon moved to approve Warrant Payment Listing dated 1-13-2026 in the amount of \$91,211.56. Noting the larger expenses Medical Mutual at \$57,000 and Cargill at \$21,000. Destro seconded. DeCastras – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Chair Nixon presented information about the Comprehensive Land Use Plan meeting. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan has been going on for the better part of a year and a half. The plan is complete. We now have to go through a couple public meetings before we can finalize and implement the plan as well as send to our neighbors to let them know what we are doing.

Trustee DeCastras presented the expected timeline for the remaining items involved with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We will get the final version of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and then the Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at the end of January. It will be open to the public. They will pass a motion to do something with the Plan either approve, approve with modifications or deny the plan. The Zoning Commission will send a letter to the Trustees and then the Trustees will set a public hearing before the end of February. The Trustees will then make a decision for what they want to do with the Plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nixon moved to approve the expenditure of \$48.75 for the audio technical shock mount plate for the microphone in the meeting room. Destro seconded. DeCastr – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS & CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Trustees: Jan 27th @ 7PM Work Session at 6PM
BZA: Jan 14th Org & Reg Mtg
Zoning Commission: Feb 5th

PUBLIC INPUT:

Billy Hudson 314 Pearl Road. I just wanted to state that Cory has 65 road miles. You stated 35, he has over 65. I just wanted to make sure Cory gets what’s coming to him. (Laughing)

Mike Gillespie 4980 Grafton Road. I just have a question. The land that was purchased, that was purchased with some of the Hills money and some grant money, correct? Trustee Nixon stated that is correct. If the Hills never builds on it and turns around and sells it, do they have to pay that grant back? Trustee Nixon stated no. That was the American Rescue Plan. It was ours to do with as we see fit. It was a use it or lose it situation. We had until October 2024 to put it to use and that land purchase was one of the items that was on the list from the previous Board (before I even joined).

Linda Hudson 314 Pearl Road. Mrs. Hudson reminded the Board that approval has been granted for two roundabouts at Substation Road and Marks Road. ODOT has been distributing related information; however, Trustee Nixon confirmed that no official documentation has yet been received by the Township. Discussion followed regarding the NOACA traffic study related to the I-71 interchange. Questions were raised as to whether the current study “box” is limited in scope and whether it should be expanded to include adjacent areas from several neighboring townships. It was noted that this topic has been discussed at prior meetings and warrants further review. Concerns were expressed that the approved roundabouts indicate recognition of existing traffic issues, particularly in light of significant residential development—over 4,000 homes—in nearby townships bordering the study area. Ongoing complaints were noted regarding truck traffic using Foskett Road as a bypass to avoid congestion on Routes 82 and 303, which are within the study area. Additional discussion addressed Strongsville’s planned expansion of its industrial park and the designation of Marks Road as an industrial corridor in the Township’s Comprehensive Plan. Questions were raised about how these factors impact traffic data accuracy and future funding considerations, and whether sufficient data exists to support reasonable planning assumptions.

Linda Hudson concluded by thanking Anthony Strazzo for his 12 years of service and dedication to the Township.

Kimberely Bublik 501 Topaz Lane. Thank you to School Board member Mary Weinbauer. She was just elected to another term. If you don’t know her, get to know her. She does an amazing job representing our community and for our students. Thank you to Cory and his crew. We’ve had a couple of bouts with the weather and they have done an amazing job. Thank you to the service department.

Trustee Nixon stated on behalf of the Board thank you to School Board Member Mary Weinbauer. We appreciate everything you do.

OFF CAMERA:

Nixon motioned to go off camera at 7:56 PM for the signing of Warrants & Purchase Orders, there will be an executive session to discuss employee compensation and discipline, and any other business brought before the Board. DeCastras seconded. Destro – yes. DeCastras – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Nixon motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:05 PM for the purpose of discussing employee compensation and employee discipline. Fire Chief Strazzo was invited into Executive Session. Trustee DeCastras Seconded. DeCastras – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Nixon motioned to come out of Executive Session at 8:45 PM. DeCastras seconded. Destro – yes. Destro – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

No official action taken at this time. However, there will be an email sent.

Nixon moved to approve the contractually obligated pay rates for the Fire Department, Police Department and the Road Crew. DeCastras seconded the motion. Destro - yes. DeCastras - yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Nixon motioned to raise the pay rate \$10/meeting for the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Taking the pay rate from \$45/meeting to \$55/meeting. DeCastras seconded. Destro – yes. DeCastras – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Nixon moved to adjourn. DeCastras seconded. Destro – yes. DeCastras – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:07 PM.



Ryan Nixon, Trustee Chair



Thomas DeCastras, Trustee Vice-Chair



Tony Destro, Trustee

Bob Roksandich, Fiscal Officer