

The Board of Lake Township Trustees met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. at 12360 Market Avenue North, Hartville, Ohio. The meeting was open to the public with the following members present:

John Arnold, President  
Sue Grabowski, Vice President  
Jeremy Yoder, Member

Also Present:

Matt Erb  
Jeff Miller  
Derek Shaffer  
Sam Miller  
Jeff Finefrock  
Jeremy Guenther

John Arnold called the regular meeting to order.

Fritz Drake, Scioto Energy: Mr. Drake addressed the Board regarding the Lake Township Electric Aggregation. They have been the energy broker for the township for the last 2 ½ years., this will be the third agreement to be finalized. Electric prices are very high due to supply and demand. Ohio is the fifth largest state in terms of Data Centers; there are 220 right now with 77 more to go online by the year 2030.

The current agreement expires at the June 2026 meter reads. Current agreement rates are \$0.0909 for Ohio Edison and \$0.0854 for AEP. The supplier market for aggregation is very small; there were only four and Dynegy was the only supplier to respond. They offered a combined rate of \$0.0985/12 months, \$0.0988/24 months, \$0.1009/36 months and \$0.0984/25 months. The price to compare for planning year 2026-2027 is \$0.1015 from Ohio Edison and \$0.1076 from AEP at this time but he thinks that will go up. He would not recommend the 36-month contract as prices may come down or the 12-month because they could go up.

Residents always have the option to opt in or out at any time without penalty if they find a better deal.

26-077 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Lake Township Board of Trustees to enter into a 25-month contractual agreement with Dynegy to furnish electric aggregation services provided the final refreshed pricing rate as of February 24, 2026, does not exceed the following:

Ohio Edison and AEP combined territories - \$0.1015 cents/kWh. Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold     yes  
Sue Grabowski   yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

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26-078 A resolution was made by John Arnold approving the minutes for the January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold     yes  
Sue Grabowski   yes  
Jeremy Yoder     abstain

26-079 A resolution was made by John Arnold approving the minutes for the February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting as submitted. Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold     yes  
Sue Grabowski   yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

26-080 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing payment and processing of payroll for February 27, 2026. Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold     yes  
Sue Grabowski   yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

26-081 A resolution was made by John Arnold approving the Financial (Fund/Appropriation/ Revenue Status and Cash Summary by Fund) Reports as February 23, 2026, reports will be attached to the minutes and made a part thereof. Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold     yes  
Sue Grabowski   yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

26-082 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing all EXPENDITURES as of February 23, 2026 in the amount of \$93,255.08 reports will be attached to the minutes and made a part thereof Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold     yes  
Sue Grabowski   yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Stark County Township Association – notice of March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting which includes the annual meeting of the Stark County Engineer’s Office with the trustees and road superintendents
2. Sandra Robertson c/o Catherine Richards Chapter NSDAR – update on the John Richards marker dedication
3. Michael Semon – seeking information on the length of the walking trail at the Lake Township Community Park
4. Matthew Wink c/o State Senator Jane Timken – 2026 Capital Budget Guidance Letter
5. Stark Parks – invitation to the March 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting to share the draft of *Stark Parks’ 10-Year Comprehensive Plan*

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6. Ohio Department of Administrative Services – new and amended State of Ohio Contracts
7. Stark County Health Department – notice of March 5<sup>th</sup> Combined General Health District Advisory Council Annual Meeting
8. NEFCO – meeting packet for the February 18<sup>th</sup> *Regular Meeting of the General Policy Board*
9. Community, University, Education (CUE) – salt delivery survey
10. Stark County Regional Planning Commission – March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting notice; Notice of Request for Proposals HOME Application
11. Vertical Bridge – Notice of Address Change
12. New Franklin – notice of new contact information
13. Jeff Finefrock c/o Hammer and Nails – overview of their programs/services
14. Matthew Uitto – inquiry about Greentown Community Park building rental
15. Mack Trucks, Inc. – recall notices for certain 2019-2025 Mack vehicles
16. Toni Good – inquiring if the township needs any volunteers

In reference to the following correspondences

No. 5 – Trustees Arnold and Yoder are planning to attend.

No. 7 - Trustee Grabowski will check to see if she can attend.

Jeff Finefrock, 11639 Hoover Ave: Mr. Finefrock addressed the Board regarding correspondence No. 13. He is a board member of Hammer & Nails which is a 501(c) (3) and serves all Stark County, including Lake Township. Their mission is to help with the cleanup of distressed properties. They do not handle electric, plumbing or code issues, but will help with things like adding railings and wheelchair ramps. We have a population that is 24% financially disadvantaged and our senior population is growing. They have donators for the raw materials and charge nothing for labor. They will ask for an intake to assess what the opportunity is and the recipient would have to agree and sign a waiver if it is within their capabilities. He wanted to make the township aware of the service.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Police Department**

- None

### **Road Department**

- None

### **Zoning Department**

- None

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**Fire Departments/Fire Prevention Office**

- None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

26-083 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting the January 13, 2026, Quote from Northern Ohio Truck Center, Inc. and authorizing an expenditure, for the road department, in the amount of \$154,820.00 for the purchase of a 2026 MACK Granite Cab & Chassis, with extended warranty, as detailed in said Quote. Said purchase is through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract No. 032824-MAK. Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold      yes  
Sue Grabowski    yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

**NEW BUSINESS:**

26-084 Trustee Arnold motioned the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Christopher Butler has been working for the Uniontown Police Department/Lake Township Trustees as a reserve officer, and

WHEREAS, the Lake Township Board of Trustees desire to change his employment status with the township from reserve officer to full-time police officer/patrolman with the Uniontown Police Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Lake Township, Stark County, Ohio, as of February 28, 2026, Christopher Butler's employment status will change from reserve officer to full-time police officer/patrolman with the Uniontown Police Department with an hourly rate change to \$24.99 which is in accordance with the Probationary Patrolman rate under the current Fraternal Order of Police Contract, and

FURTHERMORE, Mr. Butler's medical insurance will begin on March 1, 2026. All other provisions of the Lake Township Employee Handbook and/or the Fraternal Order of Police Contract shall apply to Mr. Butler as though he were a newly hired full-time Lake Township/Uniontown Police Department employee. This shall include a 1-year probation period beginning February 28, 2026.

Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold      yes  
Sue Grabowski    yes  
Jeremy Yoder     yes

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26-085 A resolution was made by John Arnold pursuant to **Article 25/COMPENSATION** of the current collective bargaining agreement between the Uniontown Police District/Lake Township Trustees and the Fraternal Order of Police and upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police, the Trustees authorize Officer Cole Stafford's hourly pay rate to be increased to \$34.20, **effective April 1, 2026**. Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

26-086 Trustee Arnold motioned the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Lake Township Board of Trustees has adopted a Donated Sick Leave Policy permitting eligible employees to request donated sick leave in accordance with established guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Weidman has submitted a written request for one hundred twenty (120) hours, equivalent to fifteen (15) days, of donated sick leave pursuant to said Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the request and finds it to be in accordance with the provisions of the Lake Township Donated Sick Leave Policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lake Township Board of Trustees that the written request of Nathan Weidman for one hundred twenty (120) hours (fifteen (15) days) of donated sick leave is hereby accepted, subject to the terms and conditions of the Lake Township Donated Sick Leave Policy.

Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

26-087 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Board and Fiscal Officer to execute the following:

- O-26-01: Custom Utilicom – 3535 E. Angor Circle (replace coax)

Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

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26-088 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Board to execute the following Cemetery Deed:

- Uniontown Greenlawn – Section O, Lot 17, Graves 1 & 2

Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

26-089 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting the February 20, 2026, Quote No. 543239-1 from 415 Group and authorizing an expenditure, for the Police Department, in the amount of \$649.00 for the purchase of RAM replacement for the WatchGuard PC system as detailed in said quote. Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

26-090 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting the February 12, 2026, estimate from Wagler's Seamless Spouting, LLC and authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$1,495.00 for materials and labor to install and upgrade gutters at the Police Department. Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

- The Board discussed the requests for 5K runs. There are expenses for police and, road department personnel and there is also liability to consider. After speaking with legal counsel and the township administrator, they are going to develop a policy to address these requests instead of looking at them on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, both requests are tabled until a future meeting.

26-091 Trustee Arnold motioned the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2025, the Stark County Court of Common Pleas, Stark County, Ohio, by Judgment Entry, determined that a nuisance exists at 3750 Carl Street NW, Uniontown, Ohio 44685, due to, but not limited to, the owner's (Eleanor Douglas) maintenance of excessive vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the premises was ORDERED to abate, control, and remove the vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris from the property; and

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WHEREAS, should the owner fail to abate the nuisance as set forth in the October 15, 2025 Judgment Entry, and such vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris are not abated, controlled, or removed within seven (7) days, or no later than March 2, 2026, this Board hereby accepts the February 20, 2026 Estimate No. 1408 from Bio-Scene Recovery, Inc. for cleanup services and will proceed with the abatement and/or control of the vegetation, debris, refuse, and garbage.

Final payment to Bio-Scene Recovery, Inc. shall be authorized by separate Resolution of the Board. Any expenses incurred by the Board shall be placed upon the tax duplicate and shall constitute a lien upon the property from the date of entry.

Seconded by Sue Grabowski. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

- Trustee Yoder drove by the property in the morning and again in the afternoon, some progress has been made. There is still a lot to be done and if it is not completed by March 2<sup>nd</sup> we will take care of it.

**MEETING REPORTS/MISCELLANEOUS**

- Trustees Arnold attended a Land Bank meeting. There was nothing specific to Lake Township, but they are doing some interesting work in the county.

**FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT**

26-092 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Board and Fiscal Officer to sign all Purchase Orders, Vouchers, and Reconciliations. Seconded by Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

**PUBLIC SPEAKS**

*Richard Beck, 13697 Nutmeg Cir., Uniontown;* Mr. Beck addressed the Board regarding renewable energy. He asked the Board to consider renewable energy in the township in the future. The Board said they will look at them on a case-by-case basis.

- There will be no public speaks through the Facebook Live streaming; however, the Trustees still welcome your “public speaks” comments to be emailed to [info@laketwpstarkco.com](mailto:info@laketwpstarkco.com)

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26-093 A resolution was made by John Arnold adjourning the meeting at 5:34 p.m. Seconded by  
Jeremy Yoder. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Sue Grabowski	yes
Jeremy Yoder	yes

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Matt Erb, Fiscal Officer

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John Arnold, President

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Sue Grabowski, Vice President

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Jeremy Yoder, Member

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