

PERKINS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR SESSION

September 23, 2025

The Perkins Township Trustees met on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, in the Township Services Facility located at 2610 Columbus Avenue. The Trustees present were James Ommert, James Lang, and Tim Coleman. Chairman Coleman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Mr. Coleman moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MINUTES

Mr. Coleman moved to adopt the minutes of September 9, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor.

FINANCIALS

Mr. Coleman moved to approve the financials for the period ending September 19th, 2025. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-128

Declare Public Works Department as being surplus to the Township's needs and authorize disposal of the same by best available means.

Mr. Coleman moved to declare Public Works Department equipment including four (4) school zone signs/ lights and poles, two (2) parking lot light poles, and a crack seal and trailer as being surplus to the Township's needs and authorize disposal of the same by best available means. Mr. Lang seconded. Public Works Director Link discussed obsolete equipment, etc. and the need to declare those items as being surplus to the Township's needs and to dispose of surplus items by the best means possible. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-129

Authorize an agreement with the Equalis Group related to cooperative purchasing.

Mr. Coleman moved to authorize an agreement with the Equalis Group related to cooperative purchasing. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle noted advantages of having multiple cooperative purchasing agreements and recommended that the Township enter into an agreement with Equalis Group. These cooperative purchasing agreements enable the Township to reduce expenses for services, equipment, etc. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-130

Apply for and accept if so awarded, grant funding under OTARMA's Police & Fire/ EMS Grant Program.

Mr. Coleman moved to apply for and accept if so awarded, grant funding under OTARMA's Police & Fire/ EMS Grant Program. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle explained that this is an annual grant request to OTARMA, and if awarded it will be used to cover Lexipol expenses. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

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Resolution 2025-131:

Authorizing GMP Amendment No. 3 for the Fire Station Project with RFC Contracting LLC.

Mr. Coleman moved to adopt. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle advised that this would authorize the GMP Amendment 3 for site work for the fire station project with RFC Contracting. Chief Murphy noted that the cost estimate for this part of the project is less than the design estimate. This is the next step in the fire station project moving forward. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-132

Confirming the approval of Perkins Township's Cybersecurity Program as required and in compliance with ORC Section 9.64.

Mr. Coleman moved to confirm the approval of Perkins Township's Cybersecurity Program as required and in compliance with ORC Section 9.64. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle reported that House Bill 96, the State's budget bill, included provisions requiring that all political subdivisions adopt a Cybersecurity Program. He noted that the Township has previously adopted one, and this resolution will confirm compliance with Section 9.64 of the ORC by updating that policy. He also mentioned that all political subdivisions, including the Township, as of September 30th are required to notify the State Department of Public Safety and the Auditor of State of any cybersecurity or ransomware events within 7 days and 30 days, respectively. Administrator Boyle further mentioned that all policies are only as effective if the employee diligently follows the same. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-133

Adopting a Policy Regarding Ransomware Payments for Perkins Township as required by ORC Section 9.64.

Mr. Coleman moved to adopt a Policy Regarding Ransomware Payments for Perkins Township as required by ORC Section 9.64. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle noted that Section 9.64 of the ORC also requires the adoption of a policy regarding ransomware payments. This resolution will comply with the new requirements of the ORC that the Board would need to adopt a resolution prior to any payment being made explaining why it is in the public interest to make that payment. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-134

Establishing Cybersecurity Training Requirements for Perkins Township as required by ORC Section 9.64.

Mr. Coleman moved to establish Cybersecurity Training Requirements for Perkins Township as required by ORC Section 9.64. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle and Assistant Administrator Ohlemacher explained that this resolution provides for cybersecurity training for all elected Officials, staff and contractors in order to comply with the requirements of Section 9.64 of the ORC. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

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Resolution 2025-135

Approve reducing collection of inside millage for 0.40 mills for one calendar year.

Mr. Coleman moved to approve reducing collection of inside millage for 0.40 mills for one calendar year. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle reported that last year the Trustees, by resolution, agreed to forgo the collection inside millage in the amount of 0.75 mills for one calendar year. The Township was the only local political subdivision to do that as well as the County last year. At the recent County Budget Commission hearing, the Township was again asked to consider reducing inside millage collection for an additional year. He further explained that County Auditor Jeffrey had provided the Trustees with a summary of the impact of reducing inside millage at various rates. Ommert thought that it would be appropriate to do this again, but the Township should be cautious in the future as funds are needed for our operations. Chairman Coleman mentioned that not collecting 0.40 mills for another year would be advisable to provide some relief for property owners. Lang added that he was thankful that the Township would be able to do this again. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-136

Approve a Then & Now payment to ODOT in the amount of \$10,000.00 for preliminary engineering work related to the East Perkins Avenue sidewalk project.

Mr. Coleman moved to approve a Then & Now payment to ODOT in the amount of \$10,000.00 for preliminary engineering work related to the East Perkins Avenue sidewalk project. Mr. Lang seconded. Director Link noted that our former ODOT contact had indicated that the Township would be billed at a 90/10 split, but it has been since identified that the cost sharing would be on a 50/50 basis. That has created the need for a Then & Now Payment. Chairman Coleman asked Director Link to explain the extent of the proposed sidewalk work. Director Link advised that it would be on the north side of East Perkins Avenue from Strub Road to Remington Avenue, and there will be connections to Merriweather and Westchester Estates. The new sidewalk will then connect with the sidewalk that the City has recently worked on. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Resolution 2025-137

Approve a contract with Fuelman/CorPay for gasoline and diesel fuel purchases.

Mr. Coleman moved to approve a contract with Fuelman/CorPay for gasoline and diesel fuel purchases. Mr. Lang seconded. Administrator Boyle advised that he appreciates that Lori Hohler continues to review expenditures, and determined that Fuelman/CorPay offers much more favorable discounts for gas and diesel than our current agreement with Speedway/ 7-Eleven. With Fuelman, we anticipate that all departments will benefit from switching to Fuelman, and cost savings could be at least \$1,000 per month depending on usage. Chairman Coleman asked whether this program can be used at all stations with the Fuelman sign. Administrator Boyle advised that it could be and that there is an extensive list of stations in the Township that are part of that program. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

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Resolution 2025-138

Approve a 63-month contract with Perry ProTech for copiers in the Police, Fire, Administration, and Community Development Departments.

Mr. Coleman moved to approve a 63-month contract with Perry ProTech for copiers in the Police, Fire, Administration, and Community Development Departments. Mr. Lang Seconded. Administrator Boyle mentioned that similar to the discussion on fuel cost savings, Lori Hohler has also researched copier expenses and as a result, it is recommended that a contract with Perry ProTech be entered into for copiers in Police, Fire, Administration and Community Development. That contract will enable the Township to reduce expenditures for copier leases as well as monthly expenses. Chairmman Coleman also expressed his thanks for Lori's work on this which will result in reduced expenditures. Roll call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Resolution passed.

Department Reports

Police Department – Assistant Chief Curran noted that the Chief's report had been submitted. He provided a reminder of the upcoming Senior Health and Safety Fair on Thursday, September 25th and that the K-9 Fundraiser last Saturday was a success.

Fire Department – Chief Murphy also indicated that his report was submitted. The Silent Parade is October 5th at 5:45 p.m. The Department's annual "Open House" at Station 3 is on October 12th. He also mentioned that the Department participated in a live burn training with 5 other Departments at EHOVE last Saturday. He thanked Captain Baer for arranging that training.

Community Development – Director Blanca advised that the Department's report was submitted. Chair Coleman asked about the status of Maui Dands. Director Blanca noted that she contacted the County last week and that it is anticipated that Maui Sands demolition work should be completed by late fall. She noted that there are 3 parcels of land involved, one will contain the remaining hotel building, the second is a parcel nearer Milan Road and where the demolition work is occurring, and the third is a small parking lot across Baywinds Drive from the former hotel. Ommert asked whether Police are still monitoring the site based on the number of problems in the past. Assistant Chief Curran advised that they are and there has not been any recent issues.

Public Works Department – Director Link mentioned that the fall yard waste drop-off will be held on November 1st and November 2nd at Barnes.

Recreation – Services Coordinator Henley reported that Senior Bingo will be this Thursday following the Health and Safety Fair.

Administrator – Administrator Boyle indicated that his report was submitted in writing to the Board. Boyle noted that at last week's CLOUT meeting, much discussion occurred regarding property taxes in general, and the petition being circulated proposing a Constitutional Amendment to ban collection of any property taxes. He mentioned that the Township will be represented at GSP's Annual Meeting on October 2nd. He further noted that ODOT has an "open house" on its Long Transportation Plan in Mansfield on September 29th.

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Notices/Correspondence

- Next Regular Meeting – October 14 @ 6:00 pm.

Fiscal Officer Comments

- Chairman Coleman noted the Fiscal Officer's comments on the agenda.
- Administrator Boyle provided an update on hotel/ motel collections: Motel Tax for the month of August totaled \$140,903.47, this is a decrease of 2.95% from last year's collection of this month, but we only decreased by 0.44% for the year.
- Payments for the period of September 6th – September 19th totaled \$300,486.56. This included payments to Stifel for the agent fee associated with the Fire Facilities Bond, App Architecture for contracted services relating to the fire station, and Pine View Trailer for equipment and utility trailer.

Trustees' Discussion

There was no additional discussion.

Public Forum

Darwitt Garrett, Decatur Street, Sandusky, mentioned that it is good to talk with people that you know like Mr. Lang, Mr. Ommert and Mr. Boyle.

Mr. Garrett advised that he had received a call from a family member regarding an incident on July 7th involving 3 juveniles aged 14, 15 and 17. The 17-year-old had his parents' car and was going to get his 2 friends and drive around. It is his understanding that they drove past some friends and stopped to talk to them around 10:45 p.m. that night. He is not sure whether Perkins Police were there, but the Erie County Sheriff's Office was. As he understands, the juveniles did not get out of the car. They were then stopped by Perkins Police and were told to get out of the car. They did get out of the car one by one and showed their hands. The driver asked to call his mother but was not allowed to. They were detained for an hour. After they were let go, the driver called his mother, and she had him go home. Perkins Police stopped them because they were told that someone was bringing drugs or alcohol to a party.

Mr. Garrett said that the Perkins Police and Erie County Sheriff's Offices' reports do not say the same thing. The youths' statements are different than the police reports. He has several questions about this.

Whose decision was it to stop them? Why were they stopped and detained? What was the reasonable suspicion or probable cause to stop the car? Are body camera and dash camera footage available of this incident? What are the policies and training regarding fair treatment at traffic stops? Will Perkins Police conduct an internal investigation of this? What steps will Perkins Police take to ensure that black men are not targeted in the future? Are there any plans to reach out to the young men and the parents involved and apologize? Who can they talk to? This event is disturbing to him and it could have been anyone's black sons stopped. Mr. Garrett mentioned that he is here today because parents talked to him. He also mentioned that he will be contacting Sheriff Sigsworth.

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Chair Coleman advised that 2 Trustees are former Police Officers, and he does not have the training that they have had. Chair Coleman added that body worn cameras and dash cameras are available to protect the public and the Officers. He mentioned that Mr. Garrett or the families can discuss this with Assistant Chief Curran who is here today, and he is sure that our Police Department is willing to share camera footage with them and to discuss this matter, their training, etc.

Mitch Lumen, 515 Pennsylvania, asked whether the Township has jurisdiction over school signs or highway signs on main roads. Director Link noted that the Township does not have authority to over signs on State roads like Milan Road or Hayes, or on County roads like Columbus, Campbell, Strub and Perkins Avenue. The part of Strub Road that is west of Campbell is in the Township.

Mr. Lumen then asked about the crosswalk at Columbus and Bell Avenues. He noted that the crosswalk sign is installed at an angle and did not understand why it was installed that way as he thinks that it is ineffective. Director Link explained that the Township had worked with the County Engineers Office on the Bell Avenue paving project and crosswalk. The flashing beacon sign can be activated by pedestrians using the crosswalk. That sign and beacon lighting is angled so southbound traffic on Columbus Avenue can also see the flashing lights indicating that there is a pedestrian in the crosswalk.

Mr. Lumen mentioned that he lived in a community in Indiana that had a “complete streets” policy. He has been coming to Trustees’ meetings for about a year and half since moving here and wanted to speak to the Trustees about that policy since it ensures that everyone has access to our streets including pedestrians and bicyclists and not just cars. This policy also helps to have streets that are not just created and maintained to allow speedy travel. He thought that the Township Departments should review and update existing procedures to accommodate all users of streets. This will, in turn, increase the quality of life of people who live here, and he encouraged the Trustees to look into this national program. Chair Coleman noted that the Township has been active in installing sidewalks and that the Township really expanded our sidewalk network in the last 9 or 10 years. We will continue to look into this. He also noted that Kevin Cannon at the MPO has a bicycle and pedestrian committee, and they sometime look for committee members.

Colleen Mathews, Lakeland Avenue, stated that she appreciated the recent repair of a sink hole in her neighborhood. She mentioned a recent watermain break in the neighborhood at Spruce and Pleasant which has affected the road surface. Director Link indicated that he would contact the County Water Department to have any repairs done as it is their responsibility.

Adjournment

Mr. Lang moved to adjourn the Board’s meeting at 9:40 a.m. Mr. Coleman seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Ommert, aye; Mr. Lang, aye; Mr. Coleman, aye. Meeting adjourned.

Timothy Coleman, Chairman

Alexis Koch, Fiscal Officer