

Regular Meeting of the Goshen Township Trustees

March 11, 2025

Trustee Chair Shawn Mesler called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the pledge to the flag. Trustees Shawn Mesler, John Bricker, and Teresa Stratton and Fiscal Officer Michele Barratt were present.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes of the February 4, 2025 regular meeting were presented as distributed.

Motion by Bricker, seconded by Stratton, to approve these minutes. Voting YES – Bricker, Stratton, Mesler. Motion carried.

Public Comment/Special Guests:

Resident Rhodes asked if the township would like have one of the Mahoning County Commissioners' Meeting to be held in Goshen. The trustees agreed that that was a good idea and will call the commissioners to set it up.

Rhodes also asked about electronics recycling. The trustees said the county handles that and to call the county recycling to set up an appointment.

Dave Bakalar from Thomas Fok & Associates was present to collect the bids on Phase 2 of the South Duck Creek Road project. Trustee Bricker opened 8 bids:

Kirila Contractors, Inc.	\$164,682.00
R.T. Vernal Paving & Excavating	\$173,080.10
Geauga Highway Company	\$181,167.64
Delta Asphalt Company	\$177,324.10
Shelly & Sands Inc.	\$185,635.46
Lindy Paving Inc.	\$147,167.70
Phillips Paving LLC	\$197,208.50
Barbicas Construction Co., Inc.	\$172,529.90

The Engineer's estimate for the project was \$221,375.00

Old Business:

none

Police Business:

Police Chief John Calko presented the stats for the month of February:

Goshen:	7,298 miles driven with 314 events
Green:	6,954 miles driven with 349 events

The new F150 police cruiser has been received and went to WB Signs for the graphics. Cruiser was dropped off last week at Fa;;sway Equipment and should be on the road by the end of this month.

2025 police policy manual has been updated and a copy was provided to the Administration on a flash drive.

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The department has been having a hard time hiring part-time patrolmen due to the fact that neighboring agencies are hiring at higher rates. Calko proposed raising the part-time rate to \$24.06 per hour which would align the part-time patrolman wage with the full-time patrolman wage. Mesler was not opposed as the township needs more part-time officers to help ease the burden of overtime. Bricker and Stratton agreed.

Mesler made a motion to raise the part-time patrolman rate to \$24.06 per hour. Stratton seconded. Voting YES – Stratton, Mesler, Bricker. Motion carried.

Calko proposed that the township eliminate the probationary pay rate which is 50 cents less per hour for the first year until the officer is off probation. The one-year probationary period would remain, only the pay reduction would be eliminated.

Stratton made a motion to eliminate the pay reduction. Bricker seconded. Voting YES – Mesler, Stratton, Bricker. Motion carried.

Officer Stanton turned in his resignation letter. Stanton took a position with U.S. Border Patrol and is stationed on the Texas / Mexico border.

Bricker made a motion to accept Stanton's letter of resignation. Stratton seconded. Voting YES – Bricker, Mesler, Stratton. Motion carried.

Calko requested a motion to hire Timothy Tusek as a part-time patrolman. Tusek was out of town for work but could be sworn in at the court on Thursday.

Stratton made a motion to hire Timothy Tusek as a part-time patrolman. Bricker seconded. Voting YES – Mesler, Bricker, Stratton. Motion carried.

Calko made a proposal to promote Officer Jacob Rohr to the rank of Patrol Sergeant.

Stratton made the proposed motion to promote. Bricker seconded. Voting YES – Bricker, Mesler, Stratton. Motion carried.

Approve Bills:

Motion by Stratton, seconded by Bricker, to approve payment of:

Electronic payments	\$ 49,732.36
Payroll	\$ 99,120.12
Other Warrants	\$ <u>52,700.25</u>
Total	\$ 201,552.73

Voting YES – Mesler, Stratton, Bricker. Motion carried.

The February 2025 bank statement is in balance and was reviewed by the Trustees.

The February 2025 VISA statement has been reviewed by the Trustees.

The township website has been updated to include a page for 2025 meeting minutes.

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Barratt reported that the township made two transfers to the Damascus Fire Department from recent advances from the county – one for \$20,000 and one for \$15,000.

The township received a body armor grant from the state in the amount of \$2492.89. Barratt thanked Police Chief Calko for all his work in applying for grants.

The township fiscal office received a new computer and printer from the State Auditor.

Bricker made a motion to accept the old computer and printer as a donation from the Auditor of State. Stratton seconded. Voting YES – Bricker, Stratton, Mesler. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-0311-01

A resolution to transfer Certificate of Ownership for Ground Interment Rights in Bunker Hill NEW Lot 98 SW4 from Erin Drew O'Hara to Patrick Lee O'Hara. Mesler moved, Bricker seconded. Voting YES – Mesler, Bricker, Stratton. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 2025-0311-02

A resolution to transfer Certificate of Ownership for Ground Interment Rights in Bunker Hill NEW Lots 108 NE2, 108 SE3, and 108 SE4 from David Todd and Deborah L Labas to Troy David Todd. Mesler moved, Stratton seconded. Voting YES – Mesler, Bricker, Stratton. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 2025-0311-03

A resolution to enter into grant agreement with NOPEC and have Trustee Stratton execute and accept. Mesler moved, Bricker seconded. Voting YES – Mesler, Bricker, Stratton. Resolution adopted.

Road and Parks Report:

Road Foreman Adam Corll reported that in February, 1860 miles were put on trucks. They used 181 gallons of diesel and 103 gallons of gasoline. There were 7 weather events and they used 50 tons salt mix.

There was one burial and no cremations. They poured no head stone foundations. There were no culvert installations. They applied two tons of cold patch and used 16 tons of limestone.

Cemetery Clean Up Day is March 15. Since the 15th is a Saturday the township will be performing the work on Monday the 17th. Mesler urged residents to remove any items from the grave sites prior to the clean up.

Fire Report:

Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Prevention Officer April Thorne submitted the report for February.

Damascus Fire Department responded to 42 out of 42 calls for the month of February:

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33 medical calls (Goshen – 15, Butler – 12, Winona – 1, Sebring – 3, North Georgetown – 1, Green – 1)
3 MVA with injuries (Goshen – 3),
1 MVA without injuries (Goshen – 1),
1 Structure Fire (Winona – 1),
3 Fire Alarms (Goshen – 2, Butler – 1),
1 Brush Fire (Butler – 1),

The department had 149.5 training hours in February.

Police Report:

See after “Old Business”

Trustee Items:

Stratton made a motion to sign the Goshen and Green Police Protection Contract Addendum for 2025. Mesler seconded. Voting YES – Mesler, Stratton, Bricker. Motion carried.

The trustees signed the addendum.

Bricker attended the annual County Engineer’s meeting. They plan on paving Stratton Road from 165 to Middletown, and Calla Road from Seacrist to Stratton, using the ¼ % sales tax money. Next year they may be removing the recycling bins and moving to curbside recycling.

Stratton reported that Columbiana Tree Service did a good job with the tree on 1st street.

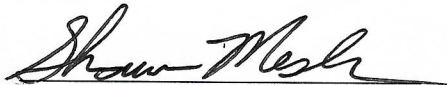
Stratton asked if anyone had heard anything about Brightspeed. Mesler responded that he had had several phone conversations with them regarding requirements. Our requirements are the same as the county’s. The service area is in the Damascus area and east to Seacrist road and north on Seacrist to Garfield Rd.

Adjournment:

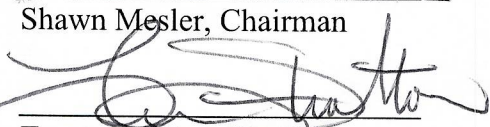
The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00pm.

With no further business to conduct, Stratton moved, seconded by Bricker to adjourn at 6:38 pm. Voting YES – Stratton, Bricker, Mesler. Motion carried

Attest:



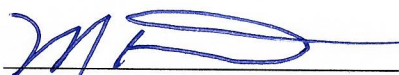
Shawn Mesler, Chairman



Teresa Stratton, Trustee



John Bricker, Vice Chairperson



Michele Barratt, Fiscal Officer