

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
October 1, 2024 - REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of

Meeting

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3838 FORM NO. 10148

Held Minutes of BOARD OF TRUSTEES – BATAVIA TOWNSHIP 20

The Board of Trustees of Batavia Township met for their Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at the Batavia Township Community Center.

CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Lonnie Winkler, Jennifer Haley, Fiscal Officer, gave the roll call for the Board of Trustees. Present were: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Sauls. Also present were Karen Swartz, Township Administrator, Taylor Corbett, Planning and Zoning Director, Cody Smith, Service Director, and Sheriff Deputy Benkelmann.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES, AND FINANCIALS

Mr. Perry motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees approve the October 1, 2024 agenda as presented. Mr. Sauls seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Sauls	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Parsons	yes	Motion carried

Mr. Sauls motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees approve the September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	Motion carried

Mr. Sauls motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees approve the September, 2024 Financials -preliminary payments only. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	Motion carried

SHERIFF'S DEPARMENT REPORT

Deputy Benkelmann gave the Batavia Township crime stats for September, 2024.

The Batavia Township Deputies took a total of 159 offense reports which was an 12.6% decrease from last month. There were 28 violent crimes, 33 property crimes, 20 personal crimes, 16 drug or alcohol related crimes, 56 informational reports, and 4 juvenile related offenses. Theft was the highest crime type, 21 total.

For the Township activity, the Deputies conducted 122 of the offense reports, 135 of the incident reports, 26 traffic arrests, 57 traffic warnings, 124 warrant services, 370 civil papers, 75 assisting other departments, 38 adult arrests, 2 juvenile arrests, and 181 business checks. Of the totals, we took 84% of the incident reports and 77% of the offense reports. There was \$885 in recovered property. There were 403 neighborhoods patrolled. There was one overdose for September. We had two reported burglaries. There were three breaking and entering.

Deputy Benkelmann gave a presentation of crash reports on SR32 from 2019 to the present. These are all from the State Highway Patrol Crash Dash. This is public information. These are for the Main Street exit as well as the SR222/SR132 exit. In 2019 there were 31 crashes at the Main Street exit, in 2020 there were 27 with one fatality. In 2021 there were 24. In 2022 there were 27. In 2023 there were 22. And up to date so far in 2024 there have been 20. There are possibly more as some may not have been sent to the State yet.

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The reports for SR32 and Bauer, in 2019 we had 49 crashes, mostly property damage, one serious injury. In 2020, there were 39, mostly property damage. In 2021 there were 31. In 2022 there were a total of 41. In 2023 there were a total of 28 which included one off SR32. In 2024, it's already at 36, with one fatality and one serious injury.

At SR32 and Herold, in 2019 there were ten reported crashes, mostly property damage. In 2020, there were 15, with one possible injury. In 2021, we had 22 crashes, one fatality and two serious injuries suspected. In 2022 there were 22 crashes with two being serious injuries suspected. In 2023, there was one fatal and 24 crashes as well as some minor injuries. In 2024, so far, there has been one fatal reported.

Karen Swartz reported on her discussions with ODOT and the Village. The Herold Road intersection is in the Village of Batavia. Township and CJFED have participated in these meetings. ODOT asked the Village to come up with a plan to address the safety issues due to the increasing number of accidents. ODOT works with the Village, however, the Village makes the decisions. The Township will be supportive in decisions, in the name of safety.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sauls gave the September update for Central Joint Fire & EMS District. August was the busiest month in CJFED's history. Ms. Haley reported there were 405 EMS runs and 198 fire runs. There were some personnel considerations. They are overwhelmed with runs within a 30-day period. A new ambulance should be coming by the end of the year. It has been ordered for three years. The October meeting is canceled. They will have a special meeting to hire new employees.

Mr. Parsons gave the September report for Batavia Union Cemetery. They had a meeting on September 12th. So far this year we have had 17 internments, 6 of which were cremations. The joint paving project has been completed. We have asked the Village to vacate a section of the road that went through the cemetery and they have done so. This will enable us to sell additional cemetery lots. We will have a meeting to discuss this

SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORT

Cody Smith, Service Director, gave the September report.

We add a piece of curb near the playground for the hike/bike trail. There were drainage issues on playground 2. We installed a French drain.

We completed several sign orders.

We performed milling and patching at the entrance to Chapel Woods, on Snider Road, Statewood Ct., etc. We performed some ditching, seeding and straw at the intersection of Crooked Nail and Cabin Ridge. We repaired a sinkhole on Summit Rd.

We completed footers this fall in the cemeteries. We cleaned up landscaping and decorations at Odd Fellows Cemetery.

We have gotten numerous compliments about our mowing and trimming. The A-boom has been a great addition to our equipment.

Karen reported the lease started today with Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District at the old Sauls Homeless Shelter. Karen will switch all utilities over to them.

The handrail was installed at the new bathroom.

Cody discussed the Batavia Township 2025 Road Surface Project. This will be turned into the County by Friday.

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PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR/INSPECTOR REPORT

Taylor Corbett, Planning and Zoning Director gave the September report.

For the single-family home permits, we had four in Forest Grove, three in Billingsley, four in Rosewood, zero in Derby Place as it is complete. There were three in Heritage Farms. There were no multi-family units sold in September. Our total sales for single family homes, average for September is \$384,801.00. Our average year to date is \$390,369.00 for 14 single family units, totaling 128 units for the year.

For availability, Rosewood has 69 remaining homes available with 118 total sold. There are 42 for Forest Grove, 36 for Heritage Farms, 11 for Billingsley single family and for Billingsley condo section there are 15 available.

As of September, we have a total of 389 permits issued for 2024.

Taylor reviewed the nuisance complaints. Three are resolved and three unresolved.

Taylor reviewed parking regulations.

Taylor gave the planning updates, site plans, variances, etc.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Karen Swartz, Township Administrator, gave her September report.

Karen received requests from the Service Department as well as other needs at the Township Park. There is a balance of ARPA funds to use or lose. Karen presented a proposal to the Board. There was discussion.

Karen and Cody spoke about the Greenbriar Rd. drop-off areas that need guardrails.

Our Open Doors event was a nice event for residents to see historical items, etc. located at the Community Building.

Our community Shred Event will be October 12th. This is in conjunction with CJFED and it is opened up to the Township and Village residents. Fliers were dropped off at the Village Office and it has been shared on social media.

The fence was installed at the playground. Work will begin on the splashpad on October 14th and 15th. There was discussion about the finishing work at the splashpad, including turf, sidewalks, sunshades, etc.

Karen spoke about creating an events and park advisory committee/board. It would consist of four resident members and Karen Swartz/Township Administrator.

Karen spoke about the village developments. Many residents have come to the office inquiring about the projects, including public records requests.

Karen announced she has become a grandmother. Congratulations, Karen.

Mr. Parsons let us know Frank Ritchie, former Township Trustee, passed away recently. Rex has a copy of the Clermont County Township Association annual banquet from 1976 until it ended. There were many businesses, restaurants that Mr. Ritchie was a Trustee during those times. He was a true public servant.

Mr. Parsons suggested getting a generated list of current and prior Trustees and have them engraved on a plaque to be placed in the lobby of the Community Building.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chris Hicks, 444 Woodwick Ct., Cincinnati, Ohio, spoke about researching CRA's, having meetings on-line. He gave his opinion about residents who are concerned about the village projects.

Chris Wren, 308 Judd Rd, shared his concerns for the fire department funding. He has concerns about the village developments underfunding schools and fire department.

OLD BUSINESS

Cody Smith is handling Batavia Township's involvement in the Christmas Parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 10-01-2024

Mr. Sauls motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees adopt **Resolution 10-01-2024**, to create a Parks and Events Advisory Committee and appoint the four citizen members, Jason Petty, Jodi Stephens, Granville Jacobs, and Connie O'Conner and the Township Administrator, to serve a one-year term beginning on October 1, 2024. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	Motion carried

Resolution 10-02-2024

Mr. Perry motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees adopt **Resolution 10-02-2024** amending the 2024 Appropriations to meet current expenses of the Township, increasing the funds in the ARPA funds Account #2273 to \$348,402.86, effective October 8, 2024. Mr. Sauls seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Sauls	yes	
Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	Motion carried

Resolution 10-03-2024

Mr. Sauls motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees adopt **Resolution 10-03-2024** authorizing the Township Administrator to execute a contract with FILLMORE Construction LLC, for the Batavia Township Parking Lot Resurfacing in an amount not to exceed \$196,998.00 per their best and lowest bid opened received on August 29, 2024, and to issue a Purchase Order from ARPA Funds, after October 8, 2024. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	Motion carried

Batavia Township Trick or Treat Hours

Mr. Perry motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees set Trick or Treat hours for Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. within Batavia Township. Mr. Sauls seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	

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Mr. Parsons yes Motion carried

Payment Authorization

Mr. Sauls motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees approve the following payments:

VENDOR	\$ AMOUNT	FUND	PURPOSE
Pioneer Fence Co. Twistern	\$4,841.50	PO 53-2024 ARPA Funds	Fence at Back Playground
Batavia Union Cemetery	\$25,820.25	General Funds	½ Paving Project 2024 Resolution 06-05-2024
JDC	\$18,228.08		Parts for Repairs
TOTAL	\$48,889.83		

Mr. Perry seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	Motion carried

Clermont County Chamber of Commerce Membership

Mr. Perry motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees approve payment of 2025 Clermont Chamber of Commerce Membership annual dues of \$684.00. Mr. Sauls seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Sauls	yes	
Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Parsons	yes	Motion carried

Cemetery Deed

Cody Smith, Service Director signed a cemetery deed transfer for Lot #211, graves 5 & 6 in Olive Branch Cemetery from Ronald Binning to Brad and Rhonda Brackett.

TRUSTEES DISCUSSION/OTHER ITEMS

There was discussion about being prepared for issues within our Township and Village.

Mr. Parsons noted there are many younger players on the pickleball courts and the rear playground is busier than it has ever been with all the new playground equipment.

There was discussion about the irresponsibility of the Batavia Village developments in Batavia Township and how it is affecting our community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sauls motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees move into Executive Session under the following:

ORC Section 121.22G

(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of public employee.

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(3) – to consider conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

Mr. Perry seconded the motion. Time: 7:27 pm. On the roll being called:

Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Parsons	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	Motion carried

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:11 p.m.

Administrator Authorization

Mr. Perry motioned the Batavia Township Board of Trustees authorize Karen Swartz, Township Administrator, to send certified letters to tenant on Ohio Pike, Mr. Gadbury and property owner Mr. Daoud. Mr. Sauls seconded the motion. On the roll being called:

Mr. Perry	yes	
Mr. Sauls	yes	
Mr. Parsons	yes	Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sauls seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Rex A. Parsons,
Chairman



Jennifer Haley,
Fiscal Officer