

Canaan Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
March 10, 2026
Minutes

Chairman Tyler Levering called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call showed all trustees and the fiscal officer present. Also present were County Commissioner Tim Siegfried and township resident Samantha Swope.

Commissioner Siegfried reported attending a U.S. Route 23 Bypass Study open house hosted by the Ohio Department of Transportation, where updates were presented and public comments were received. He noted the meeting is required by the legislature as part of the study process. Several groups, including Concerned Citizens of Morrow County, Fix 23 Group in Marion County, and No Highway Group in Delaware County, are working together in opposition to a potential bypass. Two Morrow County townships, along with the county commissioners, sheriff, prosecutor, engineer, and the mayor of Mt. Gilead, have issued statements or passed resolutions stating that a bypass would not be beneficial to the county, regardless of its location. The township was encouraged to consider passing a resolution and to contact ODOT, state representatives, and the state senator to share their concerns.

After discussing the proposed U.S. Route 23 Bypass Study and determining that the potential negative impacts outweigh the benefits, the trustees agreed to pursue a resolution expressing the township's opposition to a bypass in Morrow County. Mr. Levering made a motion to draft a resolution for consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Siegfried and the trustees discussed a potential ballot issue this fall that could eliminate property taxes. If approved, it could significantly affect funding for townships, counties, law enforcement, schools, public libraries, and other government services that rely on property tax revenue. Mr. Siegfried distributed a fact sheet titled "*Property Taxes in Ohio: What Property Owners Should Know – A Plain Language FAQ.*" The document serves as a helpful resource for residents seeking to better understand the issue and how it could impact essential public services that communities rely on every day.

The fiscal officer presented the minutes from the February 10, 2026, meeting. Mr. Carwell made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The fiscal officer reported receipts and balances to date in all funds. The bank reconciliation report was also presented. Automatic drafts were examined. The Park National and STAR Ohio Statements were also distributed. Credit card purchases for February and early March were reviewed and the attestation statement signed by Mr. Levering. Mr. Carwell made the motion to approve the reports and the bills for payment. Mr. Levering seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Communications included:

- the Grassroots Clippings newsletter
- MCTA Quarterly meeting is Thurs. 3/19/26 at the Cardington Community Methodist Church. Canaan, Cardington, Gilead, and Washington Townships are the host townships this quarter.
- February 2026 Zoning Report
- DKMM 2026 Special Collections – locations, dates, and times
- February 2026 Fire Report from Chief Carey

The February 2026 Fire Report showed a total of 47 calls including 5 fires, 30 EMS calls, 2 hazardous conditions, 1 service, 7 good intent, and 2 false alarms.

The February Zoning Report listed 11 zoning permits issued, 25 lot splits, and 13 new house numbers assigned. One Conditional Use case was filed by Melissa Tipple requesting approval to operate a dog grooming business in Harmony Township.

The trustees reported that the February 12th Engineer's Meeting at the new county facility went well. Engineer Dennison shared that all Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) projects submitted in Morrow County received funding. As a result, Canaan Township will resurface and widen Township Road 133 this year using OPWC funds.

The roads were checked on Wednesday, February 24, 2026. The Road Sign Inventory and Management form was completed and is on file. The trustees plan to install new horse-and-buggy warning signs as more Amish families continue to move into the township.

Mr. Bayles presented the First Consolidated report and shared updates from their February 24th meeting. Chief Canterbury shared several maintenance items that need addressed, including replacement of the fire station doors, repair or replacement of the bay door openers (in service since 1990), resealing of the bay floor (last completed in 1997), and sealing of the parking lot. Chief Canterbury is also applying for a \$1.5 million grant to hopefully construct a training facility at the new fire station. The department recently lost a full-time employee to the City of Tiffin; however, a new full-time employee has since been hired. Mr. Bayles also shared that there are plans for a Circle K to be built near the intersection of Pole Lane Road and State Route 309. Additionally, the chief reported that the Morrow County Squad Association is expected to disband sometime in 2028.

There was no Regional Planning Report.

The trustees discussed the need to add additional dirt to a grave from a burial that took place at the end of January at Worden Cemetery. Mr. Levering will take care of this.

The trustees discussed the need to berm several township roads, including TR 10, TR 66, and potentially TR 62 and TR 60. Mr. Levering will request an updated quote from Slaughterbeck Services. A quote of \$48,000 was received last year, but the project was not pursued at that time due to cost.

The township received an email from Josh Cross, our township representative for Ohio Edison/First Energy. Mr. Cross was letting informing us that the streetlights in Denmark and Climax will be upgraded to LED as part of the Ohio Edison/First Energy's five-year streetlight conversion program. Over this time, older streetlight technologies – such as high-pressure sodium and mercury vapor fixtures will be gradually replaced with modern, energy-efficient LED fixtures. To help them plan for the transition, they asked for feedback on preferences for LED streetlighting. The trustees chose to go with the 3,000-Kelvin LED fixtures.

An estimate from Strine Contracting for the 2026 spraying for Canaan Township was reviewed. The estimate is the same as the last two years (\$1,175.90) and includes spraying and destroying all noxious weeds, brush, briars, burrs, and vines growing along the roads within the township road right-a-way and in the cemetery driveways. Spraying of vegetation must occur every year between June 1st and September 20th according to ORC 5579.04 and 5579.08. Mr. Carwell made a motion to accept the quote from Matt Strine, with Strine Contracting, to spray the township roadways and cemetery driveways for weeds for the 2026 season. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. Motion passed. The trustees and fiscal officer signed the contract. The contract will be emailed to Mr. Strine for his signature.

The fiscal officer will prepare a contract for signature at the next monthly meeting in April.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Levering made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Trustee: _____
Tyler Levering, Chairman

Trustee: _____
John Bayles, Vice Chairman

Trustee: _____
Matthew Carwell

Fiscal Officer: _____
Jill Retterer

**Canaan Township Board of Trustees
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March 11, 2026
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February 2026 Receipts:

Date:	Amount:	Receipt #:	From:	For:
2/2/2026	\$750.00	11-2026	Snyder Funeral Homes	Open and Close grave for Marjorie Graham
2/11/2026	\$75.00	12-2026	Calin Farris	Township Hall Rental
2/11/2026	\$25.00	13-2026	Cheryl Baughman	Township Hall Rental
2/11/2026	\$75.00	14-2026	Tina Dennis	Township Hall Rental
2/13/2026	\$741.20	15-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	February Local Government Distribution
2/13/2026	\$528.32	16-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	February Local Gov. Dis. Per sec 57
2/21/2026	\$9,880.62	17-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	February Excise Gas Tax
2/21/2026	\$2,551.80	17-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	February cents per gallon Gas Tax
2/24/2026	\$696.37	18-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	February License Tax - State
2/24/2026	\$330.00	18-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	February License Tax - County
2/28/2026	\$91.41	19-2026	Park National	February ICS Interest
2/28/2026	\$946.63	20-2026	STAR Ohio	February Income Dividend Reinvestment Interest
TOTAL:	\$16,691.35			

February 2026 Payments:

Date:	Amount:	Voucher/Warrant:	To:	For:
2/3/2026	\$90.92	5-2026	Elan Financial	Sam's Club - Township Hall Supplies
2/3/2026	\$37.78	5-2026	Elan Financial	Amazon - Printer Paper
2/3/2026	\$1,057.10	10-2026	OPERS	January 2026 Payroll
2/5/2026	\$55.85	11-2026	Ohio Edison	Denmark Street Lights
2/5/2026	\$41.90	11-2026	Ohio Edison	Climax Street Lights
2/10/2026	\$1,645.05	4449	Washington Twp.	Twp. Rd 9 Maintenance - 2025
2/10/2026	\$50.60	4450	Morrow Co. Treasurer	2025 Special Assessments/911 & Otter Creek Ditch
2/10/2026	\$2,442.00	4451	Mitchell Trucking	January Plowing & Salting
2/10/2026	\$442.46	4452	John Bayles	January Health Ins. Reimbursement
2/10/2026	\$472.68	4453	Matthew Carwell	January Health Ins. Reimbursement
2/10/2026	\$301.48	4454	Tyler Levering	January Health Ins. Reimbursement
2/10/2026	\$413.50	4455	Jill Retterer	January Health Ins. Reimbursement
2/13/2026	\$126.38	12-2026	Ohio Edison	Township Hall Electric
2/17/2026	\$16.50	13-2026	Delco Water	Township Hall Water
2/28/2026	\$820.12	4460	John Bayles	February Payroll
2/28/2026	\$843.48	4461	Matthew Carwell	February Payroll
2/28/2026	\$850.03	4462	Tyler Levering	February Payroll
2/28/2026	\$954.54	4463	Jill Retterer	February Payroll
TOTAL:	\$10,662.37			

Bank Balance February 28, 2026

Park National Checking Balance:	\$99,963.39
Park National MM Balance:	\$58,898.54
STAR Ohio Balance	\$325,745.75
TOTAL:	\$484,607.68