

**Canaan Township Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 14, 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 was township resident Samantha Swope.

The fiscal officer presented the minutes from the March 10, 2026, meeting. Mr. Bayles made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Carwell 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 Statements were also distributed. Credit card purchases for March and early April were reviewed and the attestation statement signed by Mr. Levering. The 1<sup>st</sup> half 2025 payable 2026 RE Tax Settlement was also reviewed. Mr. Carwell made a motion to approve the reports and pay the bills. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Communications included:

- Grassroots Clippings newsletter
- Mt. Gilead Fire Department Report
- March 2026 Zoning Report
- OTA Office Update
- Right of Way Permitting Information

The Mt. Gilead Fire Department Report showed a total of 93 calls in March with 41 of those calls for Rescue/EMS. There were 4 total calls in Canaan Township. The crews were extremely busy during the wind storm on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Crews also responded to various calls related to the March 26<sup>th</sup> EF1 tornado that largely impacted areas in Gilead and Franklin Townships. Three firefighters were selected to receive the EMA Star of Life Award by the Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services. This award stems from aid provided to the Troy Township Fire Department in December 2025, when they rescued a victim trapped in a grain bin.

The March 2026 Township Zoning Report showed a total of 17 zoning permits, 17 lot splits, and 13 new house numbers in the county. Canaan Township had 3 zoning permits, 1 lot split and 1 house number.

Notice was received from the OTA that the OTA Board of Directors voted on March 26, 2026, to terminate the contract of Heidi Fought as Executive Director. Kyle Brooks was appointed the Interim Executive Director. On April 13, 2026, Kyle Brooks was unanimously appointed Executive Director following a vote of the OTA Board of Directors. Brooks, who has served as OTA's Director of Governmental Affairs since 2023, will now lead the Association.

The township received an email from a company named Atco Communication Services inquiring if the township has Right of Way permit requirements. The company is replacing failing utility poles in need of emergency replacement in the township and surrounding areas. The company will remove a pole and replace it in the same spot. Mr. Carwell responded to the email letting the company know that the township has no right of way permit requirements.

The trustees checked all the roads on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bayles and Mr. Levering recently put up 4 new signs and reset 4 others. The Road Sign Inventory and Management form was completed and is on file. A township resident has been in contact with the trustees regarding some ditch and drainage issues he is having. The resident has dug out a ditch and placed some tile that will need to be properly filled so it is not dangerous for traffic getting down into the deep ditch that has been dug.

Mr. Bayles reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> Consolidated Fire District meeting. Medicount is \$37,960 year-to-date through March; these funds are saved annually and allow the district to purchase a new ambulance every 4–5 years. The bay doors were repaired for about \$2,000 less than estimated and the roof has also been repaired. A training grant has been submitted. An estimated \$6,000 is needed to replace mattresses on five cots. Unit 111 (rescue truck) requires approximately \$10,000 in front-end repairs. The board voted to order a new rescue truck, which will take three years to build; Mr. Bayles presented photos of the plans. Preliminary plans were also shown for a new station on SR 98 south of SR 95. Marion Regional Planning is encouraging turn lanes on Pole Lane and Patten Pike for the proposed Circle K in that area.

There was no Regional Planning Report.

The trustees looked over an estimate for berming from Slaughterbeck Services. The estimate was to install and compact new berm stone along the road edges of both Township Road 10 from State Route 309 to the township section line and also on Township Road 66 from the grain elevator to State Route 95. The estimate was \$21,000. Mr. Bayles made a motion to accept the quote from John Slaughterbeck, with Slaughterbeck Services, to provide berming to the mentioned township roads. Mr. Carwell seconded the motion. Motion passed. The trustees and fiscal officer signed the contract. The contract will be emailed to Mr. Slaughterbeck for signature.

A records disposal form RC-3 was sent to the Ohio History Connection with a group of records to be disposed of following the Records Retention Schedule for Canaan Township. The disposal form was approved by the Ohio History Connection and after a required 15 day waiting period, the records can be disposed of beginning on May 1, 2026. The last records disposal was preformed in May of 2020. The trustee signed the Certificate of Records Disposal and that form is on file in the township office.

The trustees were recently approached by a realtor about vacating some undeveloped streets/alleys in Climax. The streets were never developed but are part of the original plat map of Climax. The undeveloped area has been farmed for years and the streets on the original plat map are situated between eleven undeveloped lots that are also part of the farm ground. The trustees have been in contact with the County Commissioners on the next steps as this something the commissioners must approve with petitions, resolutions, and hearings.

At the March meeting last month, the trustees were presented with information regarding the proposed U.S. 23 Bypass Study and determined that the potential negative impact outweighs the benefits. Mr. Levering had made a motion to draft a resolution expressing the township's opposition to a bypass in Morrow County. Mr. Bayles had seconded the motion. Motion passed. The resolution that was prepared was presented this evening and signed by the trustees.

**A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE FINDINGS OF THE OHIO  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2024 PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY  
STUDY AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING  
U.S.23 CORRIDOR AS THE PREFERRED APPROACH**

**CANAAN TOWNSHIP, MORROW COUNTY, OHIO, RESOLUTION #4.14.26-1**

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), in coordination with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), conducted the 2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study to evaluate conditions on U.S. 23 between the Village of Waldo and Interstate 270; and

**WHEREAS**, ODOT'S 2024 analysis builds upon the May 2022 Preliminary Feasibility Study, which evaluated the feasibility of a free-flowing connection between Waldo and I-270 through (1) upgrades to the existing corridor, (2) a new freeway to U.S. 33, and (3) a new freeway to Interstate 71; and

**WHEREAS**, the May 2022 study determined that converting U.S. 23 into a fully free-flowing facility is infeasible, while concluding that targeted improvements to the existing corridor would provide meaningful benefits to tens of thousands of daily drivers; and

**WHEREAS**, based on these findings, ODOT advanced the 2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study as a forward-looking plan to identify and prioritize stand-alone improvements along existing U.S. 23 that can be delivered more effectively, more quickly, and with fewer impacts than constructing a new bypass; and

**WHEREAS**, ODOT's 2024 study concludes that the recommended improvement concepts for U.S. 23, if implemented, are expected to:

- Reduce more than 150 fatal or serious-injury crashes over a 20-year period,
- Reduce travel times between I-270 and Waldo by nearly 35 minutes in the design year, and
- Eliminate 32-34 traffic signals for U.S. 23 through-traffic between I-270 and Waldo; and

**WHEREAS**, ODOT publicly stated in January 2025 that improvements to the existing U.S. 23 corridor are the recommended and preferred approach, and that a new bypass is not the preferred concept; and

**WHEREAS**, these recent and comprehensive findings provide a clear, data-driven basis for moving forward with U.S. 23 improvements, and therefore it is not necessary to re-evaluate the need for a bypass or pursue concepts that ODOT has already determined do not offer superior benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, state lawmakers subsequently directed ODOT and the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) to study whether building a brand-new freeway between U.S. 23 and Interstate 71 is feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, ODOT’S most recent presentation to regional stakeholders indicated that a new bypass would save only 4 to 22 minutes for long-distance travelers, and that when compared with the travel-time reductions already projected from the recommended improvements to existing U.S. 23, a bypass would not provide a superior travel-time benefit and could, in practice, take longer for drivers traveling between Toledo and Columbus. Additionally, if travel time is not the primary concern, U.S. Route 30 already connects U.S. 23 and I-71 and could be utilized at little to no cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township desires to formally acknowledge ODOT’s conclusions and support a path forward that minimizes impacts to farmland, residences, natural resources, school bus routes, law enforcement response times, fire and EMS coverage, and rural community character while addressing legitimate transportation needs.

**WHEREAS**, the Township desires to formally acknowledge ODOT’s conclusions and support a path forward that minimizes impacts to farmland, residences, natural resources, public safety, and rural community character while addressing legitimate transportation needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Canaan Township, Morrow County, Ohio, that:

1. **The Township formally acknowledges and accepts the conclusions of ODOT’s 2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study and January 2025 finds**, including the determination that improvement to the existing U.S. 23 corridor – not a new bypass – constitute the recommended and most effective approach.
2. **The Township finds that there is no necessity to re-evaluate the need for a bypass**, as ODOT has recently and conclusively analyzed these concepts and recommended corridor improvements as the preferred path forward.
3. **The Township supports ODOT’s continued development and implementation of stand-alone U.S. 23 improvements** that enhance safety, reduce congestion, improve travel times, and benefit both through-traffic and local road users.
4. **The Township encourages ongoing public engagement**, transparency, and coordination between ODOT, local governments, and affected residents as individual improvement projects advance.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

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 8:15 PM.

Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tyler Levering, Chairman

Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Bayles, Vice Chairman

Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Carwell

Fiscal Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Retterer

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March 2026 Receipts:

Date:	Amount:	Receipt #:	From:	For:
3/11/2026	\$75.00	21-2026	Betsy Barler	Township Hall Rental
3/11/2025	\$75.00	22-2026	Heather Isgett	Township Hall Rental
3/11/2026	\$75.00	23-2026	Katrina Fisher	Township Hall Rental
3/17/2026	\$741.20	24-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	March Local Government Distribution
3/17/2026	\$528.32	25-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	March Local Gov. Dis. Per sec 57
3/20/2026	\$9,714.71	26-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	March Excise Gas Tax
3/20/2026	\$2,501.73	26-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	March cents per gallon Gas Tax
3/21/2026	\$715.25	27-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	March License Tax - State
3/21/2026	\$448.50	27-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	March License Tax - County
3/31/2026	\$25.00	28-2026	Christopher Gandert	Township Hall Rental
3/31/2026	\$101.37	29-2026	Park National	March ICS Interest
3/31/2026	\$1,047.58	30-2026	STAR Ohio	March Income Dividend Reinvestment Interest
3/31/2026	\$179.55	31-2026	Morrow Co. Auditor	2025 IRP Excess Compensation Distribution
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$16,228.21</b>			

March 2026 Payments:

Date:	Amount:	Voucher/Warrant:	To:	For:
3/3/2026	\$1,057.10	18-2026	OPERS	February 20262295 Payroll
3/6/2026	\$54.50	19-2026	Ohio Edison	Denmark Street Lights
3/6/2026	\$40.88	19-2026	Ohio Edison	Climax Street Lights
3/10/2026	\$2,295.00	4464	Mitchell Trucking	February Plowing and Salting
3/10/2026	\$463.10	4465	John Bayles	February Health Ins. Reimbursement
3/10/2026	\$472.68	4466	Matthew Carwell	February Health Ins. Reimbursement
3/10/2026	\$301.48	4467	Tyler Levering	February Health Ins. Reimbursement
3/10/2026	\$330.80	4468	Jill Retterer	February Health Ins. Reimbursement
3/13/2026	\$103.14	20-2026	Ohio Edison	Township Hall Electric
3/17/2026	\$15.50	21-2026	Delco Water	Township Hall Water
3/31/2026	\$820.12	4469	John Bayles	March Payroll
3/31/2026	\$843.48	4470	Matthew Carwell	March Payroll
3/31/2026	\$850.03	4471	Tyler Levering	March Payroll
3/31/2026	\$954.54	4472	Jill Retterer	March Payroll
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$8,602.35</b>			

Bank Balance March 31, 2026

Park National Balance:	\$106,440.30
Park National MM Balance:	\$58,999.91
STAR Ohio Balance:	\$326,793.33
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$492,233.54</b>