

ANDERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

June 5, 2025

Lexi Lausten, Trustee Chair
Joshua S. Gerth, Trustee Vice Chair
R. Dee Stone, Trustee
Brian M. Johnson, Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Lausten called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees including Township Administrator Vicky Earhart, Assistant Township Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers, Assistant Township Administrator for Human Resources Suzanne Parker, Planning & Zoning Director Paul Drury, Public Works Director Eric Luginbuhl, Law Director Margaret Comey, Anderson Township Fire & Rescue Chief Richard Martin, Sheriff's Department Lt. Dave Downing, Director of Finance Tammy Disque, Planning & Zoning Assistant Director Sarah Donovan, Planner 1 Eli Davies, and Administrative Assistant Molly Mohrfield

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

Mrs. Lausten moved to adopt the agenda **Mrs. Stone** seconded.

Mr. Johnson called the roll: **Mrs. Lausten**, yes; **Mr. Gerth**, yes; **Mrs. Stone**, yes.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS/ FISCAL OFFICER

Mrs. Stone stated that she was extremely concerned about a petition being circulated regarding the abolishment of taxes on real property. She explained the potential downfalls included loss of essential local funding, negative impact on schools, increased reliance on state funding, and economic instability. She would like to see an education campaign launched to make residents aware of the drawbacks if property taxes were abolished. **Mrs. Earhart** agreed, stating that residents had no idea that funding for township operations came from property taxes. She also mentioned that the state legislature requested all county auditors to work on ways to reduce property taxes. **Mrs. Lausten** suggested working with the legislature to show how limited townships are on funding opportunities and stated there needs to be some type of protection in place for townships. She fears residents will vote "yes" out of frustration. **Mrs. Stone** stated that if this were to get on the ballot it would be constitutionally amended, and the township would no longer be able to continue operations. **Mrs. Earhart** stated that the legislature needed to understand that townships are the most effective way to operate.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Draft Preliminary 2026 Tax Budget – **Mrs. Disque** explained that each year the township is required to submit a tax budget for the next fiscal year. Several meetings have been conducted with department heads and administration in which capital projects were discussed along with some areas of concern. The first five months of 2025 the budget remained flat. Expenditures would increase in 2026 with new construction projected.

Anderson Native Plant Initiative – **Ms. Donovan** explained that the Black-Eyed Susan has been selected as the Anderson Native Plant of the year. The kickoff event for the Native Plant Initiative would be held on July 19, 2025, at Anderson Center.

Managed Natural Lawn Definition – **Mr. Drury** stated that according to the trustees' request staff had researched various communities' procedures in embracing natural lawns/naturalization while addressing residents' concerns of unkempt lawns. The City of Oxford recently adopted a definition of a "managed natural lawn" that would work well for defining the township guidelines. The definition was a good balance between naturalization and a nuisance which would help the trustees differentiate between the two. The definition stated....

MANAGED NATURAL LAWN. A planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or non-invasive plants of any origin. This may include a variety of horticultural practices including but not limited to: natural lawns, natural landscapes, native lawns, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, meadow vegetation, native prairie, prairie gardens, monarch waystation, native plantings, native gardens and butterfly habitat. A managed natural lawn shall not include turf grass lawns or turf grass lawns left unattended.

Any lawn determined to meet the definition of a managed natural lawn shall be required to have a maintained perimeter and shall not encroach on public right of ways, drainage easements, or neighboring properties.

Mrs. Stone thought it was a good definition. **Mrs. Lausten** agreed but was concerned with subjectivity. **Mrs. Comey** pointed out that staff needed guidance from the Board to infuse objectivity/subjectivity into the definition, adding that a plan that was intentionally followed would be helpful to staff. **Mr. Gerth** asked if there was a formal appeal process. **Mr. Sievers** replied that it would be the Boards ultimate decision. **Mr. Drury** added that a formal policy would give staff and residents more guidance. **Mr. Gerth** questioned if a formal policy was needed given Planning & Zoning was so efficient at mitigation. He thought a policy would place the burden back on staff because of its ambiguity. **Mr. Drury** mentioned that a policy would help to give staff more guidance.

Crime Prevention Officer Appointment – **Lt. Downing** announced that Crime Prevention Officer Brian Hayes would be taking over as the Clerk at District 5 and Deputy Kevin Wanner, with more than 18 years of patrol experience, would be assuming the Crime Prevention Officer role.

Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Cooperative Agreement with the Board of Education of the Forest Hills Local School District Regarding School Resource Officers –

Resolution 25-0605-01: Mrs. Stone moved to adopt a resolution approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a cooperative agreement with the Board of Education of the Forest Hills Local District regarding School Resource Officers as follows; Mr. Gerth seconded the motion:

RESOLUTION NO. 25 – 0605 – 01

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FOREST HILLS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Hamilton County, Ohio (the “Sheriff”) provides police protection services to the Township pursuant to an Agreement for Police Protection Services, effective as of April 1, 2025 (the “2025 Agreement”), among the Sheriff, the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio (the “County”), and the Township, acting by and through the Board; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Agreement terminates on March 31, 2028 unless the 2025 Agreement is terminated earlier or renewed as provided therein; and

WHEREAS, the Township has contracted with the Sheriff and the County in the 2025 Agreement for, among other things, the provision of services of two (2) school resource officers (one to be at the rank of Corporal and one to be at the rank of Patrol Officer) by the Sheriff, at the expense of this Board as provided in the 2025 Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Board has paid historically for the services of one school resource officer (a “SRO”), provided under by the Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, desiring to provide for the services of a second SRO, the BOE of the District entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Board, effective as of August 16, 2023 (the “2023 Cooperative Agreement”) in order to provide for the services of a second SRO under the Township’s Agreement for Police Protection Services effective April 1, 2023 (the “2023 Agreement”) for the remaining term of the 2023 Agreement, which 2023 Agreement (and 2023 Cooperative Agreement) terminated March 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the BOE of the District desires to continue to provide for the services of a second SRO at the expense of the District during the term of the 2025 Agreement; provided that the Board provides a police vehicle for said second SRO at the expense of the Township;

WHEREAS, this Board desires to enter into a Cooperative Agreement, the substantial form of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and by this reference is incorporated herein, with the Board of Education (the “BOE”) of the Forest Hills Local School District (the “District”) to provide for the reimbursement to the Township of the cost of the second SRO to the District under the 2025 Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Township Trustees (the "Board") of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio (the "Township"), that:

SECTION 1. This Board hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the Township to provide for the reimbursement to the Township of the cost of providing a second SRO to the District under the 2025 Agreement.

SECTION 2. The substantial form of the Cooperative Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved and the Township Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement with such changes thereto as the Township Administrator, after consultation with the Law Director, has determined are not materially adverse to the Township, such determination being evidenced by her execution of the Cooperative Agreement.

SECTION 3. The preambles hereto are and shall for all purposes be construed to be integral and operative parts of this Resolution.

SECTION 4. This Board hereby finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of the foregoing resolution were taken in open meetings of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including (without implied limitation) Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, except as otherwise permitted thereby.

There was no further discussion.

Mr. Johnson called the roll: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mr. Gerth, yes; Mrs. Stone, yes.

Set Public Hearing for a "Protect and Serve Charge" in Anderson Township –

Resolution 25-0605-02: Mrs. Lausten moved to set Public Hearings for a "Protect and Serve Charge" in Anderson Township in accordance with Section 503.54 of the Ohio Revised Code said hearings to be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025, beginning at 5:30 P.M. and Thursday, August 7, 2025, beginning at 2:00 PM. Both Public Hearings will be held in the Board Meeting Room at Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road, Anderson Township, Ohio 45230. Mr. Gerth seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

Mr. Johnson called the roll: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mr. Gerth, yes; Mrs. Stone, yes.

Mr. Gerth moved to retire to Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee as permitted by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, and to confer with the Law Director concerning disputes that are the subject of pending or imminent court action as permitted by Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3). Mrs. Stone seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson called the roll: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mr. Gerth, yes; Mrs. Stone, yes.

Mr. Gerth left at approximately 3:40 PM.

Mrs. Lausten moved to return from Executive Session. Mrs. Stone seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

Mr. Johnson called the roll: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mr. Gerth, absent; Mrs. Stone, yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

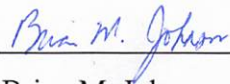
Mrs. Lausten moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Stone seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson called the roll: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mr. Gerth, absent; Mrs. Stone, yes.

These minutes were approved at the meeting of July 17, 2025.



Lexi Lausten, Chair

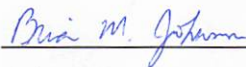


Brian M. Johnson, Fiscal Officer

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, duly elected and acting Fiscal Officer of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true excerpt from the minutes of a regular meeting, including the roll call votes thereat, of the Board of Township Trustees of said Township held on the 5th day of June 2025, and that said minutes have been duly entered upon the Journal of said Township.

This 17th day of July 2025.



Brian M. Johnson
Fiscal Officer