

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Regular Session on October 20th, 2025, at 7:00pm.

1) Mr. Cramer called the session to order at 7:01pm.

2) Mr. Demko called the roll with Board Members Mr. Moeller, Mrs. Destefani and Mr. Cramer in attendance. Also, in attendance were Barry Tiffany, Cara Tilford, Chief Mike Brown, Chief Buffenbarger, Justin Windsor, Louie Schatzberg, Denise Moore, Linda Nierneier, Glen Nierneier, Jodi Martin, Julija Vinckevicietel, Sean Murry, and Jan Tavalero.

3) All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Swearing in of Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic – Justin Veverka

4) Reports

Administration

Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report. Mrs. Destefani asked for an explanation of a tree city designation. Mr. Tiffany explained it recognizes communities that maintain and preserve trees along public roadways. Mr. Tiffany added that he is looking into whether a “tree community” designation is available since Sugarcreek is a township and not a city. Mr. Cramer inquired about the expected opening date for the Pickleball Courts. Mr. Tiffany expects them to open sometime in November.

Zoning

Mrs. Tilford had nothing to add to her report.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Demko reported that appropriations in the general fund need to be increased to cover the payoff for the previous copier contract, with funds coming from a rebate on the new contract. Mr. Demko is reviewing equipment purchases for police, roads and fire. He is also reviewing year-to-date figures to prepare the 2026 budget.

Fire

Chief Buffenbarger had nothing to add to his report. Mr. Moeller inquired about repair costs to the Medic.

Police

Chief Brown had nothing to add to his report. Mrs. Destefani inquired about the TASER instructor training course.

Roads and Service

Mr. Windsor had nothing to add to his report.

Information Technology

Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report. Mrs. Tilford noted that Spectrum is aware of the current outage. Mrs. Tilford added that most of the township applications are cloud-based, allowing her to continue reviewing and approving projects remotely if the outage lasts a few days.

Trustees

Mr. Moeller reported attending the regional planning meeting where efforts continue to move the township from ODOT District 8 to District 7. He noted ongoing sewer issues delaying road adoption in one subdivision and plans to address construction debris left in nearby woods by developers.

Mrs. Destefani reported attending the Greene County Township Association meeting and plans to attend the Centerville Mayor’s Breakfast tomorrow, followed by regional planning in the afternoon. She also noted two upcoming events.

Mr. Crammer reported that Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools offers free lifetime passes to all home athletic events for residents aged 60+, excluding tournaments. He noted that a letter will soon go out to River Ridge 1, River Ridge 2, and Mead Road residents regarding a county water meeting. The township will also send a letter about the upcoming end of Greene County’s end of electric aggregation rate.

5) Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

6) Old Business

- A. City of Bellbrook, Bellbrook Sugarcreek Parks and Schools Meeting – November 17, 2025

7) Consent Agenda Items

- A. Payment of Bills
- B. Minutes
- C. Increase of Appropriations - 2025.10.20.01
- D. Appointment of Part-Time Police Department Staff – William Sheldon – 2025.10.20.02
- E. Resignation of Fire Department Staff – Bryan Deis, Shawn Smith – 2025.10.20.03
- F. Appointment of Fire Department Staff – Taylor Creech, Jonathon Patterson III, Ryan Parker, Lucia Pett – 2025.10.20.04
- G. Retirement Notice for Roads and Services Staff – Richard Cipriano – 2025.10.20.05
- H. Declaring Property a Nuisance – 2025.10.20.06

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.01

IN RE: Increase Appropriations for General Fund

WHEREAS, the need exists to increase appropriations for the General Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Officer has certified the availability of these funds within the 2025 Budget and has provided this Board with the funding number and the Township Administrator has provided the amount to be appropriated:

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Contracted Services 1000-110-360	\$137,200.00	\$149,900.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the increased appropriation shall be made in accordance with the law.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.02
IN RE: Appointment of Police Department Staff
William Shelton

WHEREAS, the continuing need exists to maintain proper staffing within the Sugar creek Township Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, vacancies exist within the classification of Part-time Police Assistant; and,

WHEREAS, William Shelton has the necessary qualifications to serve in that capacity for the Sugar creek Township Police Department; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that William Shelton shall be appointed to the position of Part-Time Police Assistant within the Sugar creek Police Department at the rate of \$20.00 per hour; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the above-mentioned appointment for William Shelton will have an effective date of October 13, 2025, with a one (1) year probationary period ending on October 13, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.03

IN RE: Resignation of Fire Department Staff – Bryan Deis, Shawn Smith

WHEREAS, Part-time Firefighter/EMT, Bryan Deis, has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugar creek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Deis was hired as a member of the Sugar creek Township Fire Department on December 1, 2014 as a volunteer and moved to part-time January 4, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Part-time Lieutenant, Shawn Smith, has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugar creek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was hired as a member of the Sugar creek Township Fire Department on December 19, 2005 as a Firefighter and was promoted to part-time Lieutenant on January 9, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Doug Buffenbarger recommends we accept the resignations of Mr. Deis, and Mr. Smith.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Sugar creek Township Trustees officially accepts the resignation of Bryan Deis with an effective date of October 10, 2025, and Shawn Smith with an effective date of November 13, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.04

IN RE: Appointment of Fire Department Staff
Taylor Creech, Jonathon Patterson III, Ryan Parker, Lucia Pett

WHEREAS, the continuing need exists to maintain proper staffing within the Sugar creek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, vacancies exist within the classification of Part-time Firefighter II/EMT; and,

WHEREAS, Taylor Creech, Jonathon Patterson III, Ryan Parker, and Lucia Pett have the necessary qualifications to serve in that capacity for the Sugar creek Township Fire Department; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Taylor Creech, Jonathon Patterson III, Ryan Parker, and Lucia Pett shall be appointed to the position of Part-Time Firefighter II/EMT within the Sugar creek Fire Department at the rate of \$18.80 per hour; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the above-mentioned appointments will have an effective date of October 10, 2025, with a one (1) year probationary period ending on October 10, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.05

IN RE: Accepting Retirement of Richard Cipriano

WHEREAS, Rick Cipriano submitted his letter of retirement from the Sugar creek Township Roads and Services Department with an effective date of November 3, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Barry P. Tiffany, Township Administrator, has stated that Mr. Cipriano, started his employment with Sugar creek Township October 14, 2002 as a full-time service worker I. Over the next 23+ years at Sugar creek Township, Rick has been a pivotal member of the Roads and Service department finishing out his service as the Supervisor of Roads and Services, and Mr. Tiffany recommends the Board of Trustees accept Mr. Cipriano's notice of retirement; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees and Township Administrator, Barry P. Tiffany, would like to publicly thank Mr. Cipriano for his dedication of service to this community for the past 23 years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Township Trustee officially accepts the retirement of Richard Cipriano from the Sugarcreek Township Roads and Services Department effective November 3, 2025; and,

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Trustees wishes Mr. Cipriano the very best in retirement for many years to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.06

IN RE: Declaring a Nuisance Parcel L32-0001-0014-0-0065-00

WHEREAS, the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 505.87 provides for the abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris from land in the township, if the board determines that the owner's maintenance of that vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris constitutes a nuisance; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning and Zoning has inspected parcel L32-0001-0014-0-0065-00 (521 Conifer Trl.) and has observed vegetation in excess of 12"; and,

WHEREAS, at least seven (7) days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal of any vegetation, the Board of Township Trustees shall notify the owner the land and any holders of liens of record upon the land that the owner is ordered to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, the owner's maintenance of which has been determined by the Board to be a nuisance; and,

WHEREAS, if such vegetation is not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provision for its abatement, control or removal is not made within seven (7) days, the Board shall provide for the abatement, control, or removal, and any expenses incurred by the township in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Sugarcreek Township Board of Trustees hereby determines that the condition of parcel L32-0001-0014-0-0065-00 does constitute a nuisance in accordance with ORC 505.87 and orders the Director of Planning and Zoning to proceed with the removal of such vegetation and refuse in accordance with the provisions of ORC 505.87.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025.10.20.07

IN RE: Authorizing the Township Administrator to Act as a Signatory for Purchase of Polaris Ranger UTV for the Fire Department

WHEREAS, a well-equipped Fire Department fleet is necessary for the safety of Fire Department Staff in Sugarcreek Township; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Doug Buffenbarger has determined it to be in the best interest of the Department to purchase a 2026 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 Northstar for the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Buffenbarger has received a quote from Clinton County Motorsports, a copy is attached; and,

WHEREAS, Township Administrator, Barry Tiffany has reviewed Chief Buffenbarger's request and supports the purchase with a recommendation to this Board of Trustees to approve.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Ohio, does hereby approve the purchase of a 2026 Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000 Northstar at a cost of \$38,028.97, with additional accessories, to be financed as a lease purchase and authorizing the Township Administrator to act as signatory for the purchase and financing a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

Mrs. Destefani made a motion to accept all consent agenda items A through H as stated.
Mr. Moeller seconded.

Mr. Moeller – Yes
Mrs. Destefani - Yes
Mr. Cramer – Yes

8) Discussion Agenda Items

None.

9) Public Comments

Denise Moore raised concerns about AT&T's work in neighborhoods, including damage to yards and a hit on a gas line. Residents had not received prior notice, only door hangers during the work. Ms. Moore asked about the extent of utility easements on private property. Mr. Tiffany clarified that a 10-foot utility easement behind the sidewalk exists on most Ohio lots, allowing utilities to install, repair, and replace lines. Ms. Moore asked if the township could require utilities to notify residents or get approval before work. Mr. Tiffany answered that no, by law, the easement gives utilities the right to enter and perform work without township approval.

Linda Nierneier voiced concerns about AT&T working on her lawn within what they said was a 10-foot easement, but their heavy equipment came almost to her front porch – well beyond the easement. She also noted that the crew left a large pile of dirt in her yard and an orange pipe sticking out of her yard. They have not replaced the soil, seeded the area, or restored anything.

Denise Moore inquired about previous discussions regarding the Kroger retention pond and potential collaboration, asking for an update on the project's status. Mr. Tiffany noted that the project to reduce the pond to the proper size is currently on hold due to cost.

Donna Hellmann reported unauthorized signs placed on weekends, including one by a realtor on private property and near intersections.

Julija Vinkevicietel asked about offering a renewable energy aggregation option. Mr. Tiffany explained the county manages aggregation for unincorporated areas. Ms. Vinkevicietel also asked how residents learn about public meetings and was directed to the township website.

10) Trustee/Staff Discussions

Mr. Tiffany reported that the Township has worked with IGS for several years. Following recent county rate changes, IGS provided a new 60-month rate quote of \$0.08045 per kilowatt hour for the Township. He requested trustee approval to enter into a 60-month agreement with IGS at this rate.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to accept the agreement with IGS for a 60-month term at a rate of \$0.08045cents per kilowatt hour. Mr. Moeller seconded.

Mr. Moeller – Yes
Mrs. Destefani – Yes
Mr. Cramer – Yes

Mr. Tiffany reported that the Fire Department has been without an ATV for over a year. A bid from Clinton County Motorsports for a 2026 Polaris 1000cc, six-passenger ATV with a medic skid, lights, siren, and road licensing was received for \$58,326. Mr. Tiffany requested trustee approval to proceed with the purchase, not to exceed \$60,000.

Mrs. Destefani made a motion to approve the purchase, not to exceed \$60,000. Mr. Moeller seconded.

Mr. Cramer – Yes
Mrs. Destefani – Yes
Mr. Moeller – Yes

Mr. Tiffany reported that the Roads and Services Department needs to replace its 2008 Bobcat rubber-tire skid steer. A high-flow performance Caterpillar skid steer with rubber tracks has a list price of \$128,689, but with the State of Ohio and Sourcewell discounts and trade-in, the final cost is \$69,665. Mr. Tiffany requested a motion to approve the cash purchase.

Mr. Moeller made a motion to approve the purchase. Mrs. Destefani seconded.

Mr. Cramer – Yes
Mr. Moeller – Yes
Mrs. Destefani – Yes

11) Executive Session

None.

12) Adjourn

Mr. Moeller made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Destefani. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

Mr. Moeller – Yes
Mrs. Destefani - Yes
Mr. Cramer – Yes