Washington TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEES: *Don Barto, Sr. 517.581.6871*
Jerry Mayfield 419.729.1167
Mark Schuster 419.466.9884

FISCAL OFFICER: *Michele Nowakowski 419.410.8304*

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REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 2026

Mr. Barto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Schuster; seconded.

Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, present; Mr. Barto, present; Mr. Schuster, present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Schuster – Trustee

- Mr. Schuster delivers opening prayer.

Also present:
Fiscal Officer – Michele Nowakowski
Township Administrator – Leo Brittson
Department Heads Present:
Fire – Chief Bailey
Police – Chief Hart and Sgt. Andrew Whitmore
Roads and Parks Superintendent – Ryan Breininger

Announcements from Trustees and Department Heads:

Mr. Mayfield presents Heather Bacon with a pin acknowledging her anniversary on being on the Washington Township Fire Department for 25 years.

Mr. Mayfield presents Chief of Police Eric Hart with a pin acknowledging him being on the Washington Township Police department for 15 years.

Ryan Breininger announces they will start leaf pickup soon as needed. Updates regarding pickup will be posted on Washington Township Website and Facebook.

Fiscal Business

MOTION: Approve supplemental appropriations, blanket certificates, purchase orders and checks numbered 51736 through 51760 and electronic payments numbered 1332 through 1487, totaling $125,009.46; $51,705.92 for accounting and $73,303.54 for payroll.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Discussion regarding raising costs of fees and fines associated with Shelter Park, Tow Lot and Permits.
Fiscal Officer Michele Nowakowski feels that the trustees should consider raising above fees when a credit card is run for any of the above services. She states we are paying a lot out in fees when doing these. She feels by raising the cost for fees and fines associated with shelter park rentals, tow lot fees and fees when people get permits that would allow the township to recoup some of the money that we pay out when people use their credit card. Mr. Brittson and Mr. Breininger don't feel the zoning and park fees need to be raised but Chief Hart would like to see an increase. She states the police use the credit card machine the most.
Table until next meeting. Trustees would like to see more research on this before making a decision.

RESOLUTION #61:26: BLIGHT TRANSFER OF FUNDS. $135.00 TO THE POLICE FUND 2191, $3,420.00 TO THE ROAD FUND 2021 AND $324.50 TO THE ROAD FUND 2031.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

RESOLUTION #62:26: 2027 TAX & RATES.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

RESOLUTION #63:26: JOINT COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR EAST HARBOR RESURFACING PROJECT
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Trustee Business

MOTION: Approve Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 8, 2026.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

MOTION: To set date for Halloween for Saturday, October 31, 2026.
Mr. Mayfield moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Barto, abstain; Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes.

Zoning

RESOLUTON #64:26: FOR BLIGHT AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5933 VISTAMAR. VIOLATION 1325 VEHICLE IN DRIVEWAY, 1308(D) TRASH IN DRIVEWAY AND 1308(H) GRASS AND OVERGROWN WEEDS AND GRASS IN FENCE LINE IN BACKYARD.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

RESOLUTION #65:26: FOR BLIGHT AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2423 SHORELAND AVENUE. VIOLATION 1314 MORE THAN THREE GARAGE SALES IN A 12 MONTH PERIOD.

Mr. Brittson states that with the help of Chief Hart they issued a stop work order notice.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes.

RESOLUTION #66:26: FOR BLIGHT AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5243 PATRIOT DRIVE. VIOLATION 1325 VEHICLE IN DRIVEWAY.

Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Schuster, yes; Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes.

Motion: **to spend up to $1,700.00 with Cosgrove to clean up 5541 Pageland**
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Motion: **to spend up to $1,700.00 with Cosgrove to clean up 5229 Patriot**
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster, seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Mr. Breininger states he has quotes from Cosgrove for both addresses on how much it will cost to have Cosgrove come out and do the blight cleanup.

Motion: **Amend Resolution #60:26. It was stated at the September 8, 2026 meeting that the blight address was 2855 Shoreland the correct address should be 2585 Shoreland.**
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Police

Discussion to be able to issue parking tickets in the Township.
Chief Hart states he is unaware of this. He did not know of or have knowledge that this was going to be put on the agenda. Further discussion was held.
Table revisit. Mr. Barto would like more research done on this before passing a Resolution to have this new procedure be put in place.

Motion: to accept the resignation of Patrolman Daniel Wells effective September 14, 2026.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Motion: to promote Travis Rombach from part time patrolman status to full time patrolman status. At a pay rate of $24.26 effective October 14, 2026.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Motion: to hire Brian Zeman as a full-time patrolman with a start date of November 9, 2026 at a payrate of $24.26.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes, Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

Discussion to purchase a cleaning and a mini split air handling system for the evidence room to manage the increasing mold problem.
Trustees agree that this is a necessity and give Chief Hart and Mr. Breininger the approval to price unit out and purchase upon finding the right one.

Discussion regarding the Flock Cameras. Trial period ends on November 7, 2026. Washington Township Police will cease operation of the Flock system effective November 6, 2026 due to cost concerns before entering into a contract with them.

Motion: to approve police department to be able to donate children's clothing and shoes to the Shoreland School clothing closet in lieu of selling the items on GOVDEALS. These are recovered non-returnable stolen property items obtained through the tow lot.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Schuster seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield yes; Mr. Barto yes; Mr. Schuster yes.

<u>Fire</u>

Discussion regarding need for a 7(k) exemption to further allow for clarification of our part-time employees' work hours.

RESOLUTION # :26 ADOPTING FLSA SECTION 7(K) EXEMPTION FOR FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL.
Mr. Barto moved; **no seconded. (NO RESOLUTION NUMBER GIVEN)**
Resolution dies for lack of second.
Table. Revisit next month's meeting.

Update on the Polar Express, Feather Party, and 2027 Fireworks.

Mr. Barto ask Chief Bailey if there is going to be a feather party this year. There had been talk that the fire department was not going to be putting one on this year. Chief Bailey states that the Association voted to not put on the feather party this year and probably moving forward as well. Due to declining attendance and getting donations is getting harder every year. Any more the profits are just not there. They are looking into other ways to fundraise to replace having a feather party.

Mr. Barto ask Chief Bailey about the fireworks display next year, if that is going to happen. Chief Bailey states they are evaluating it. The fireworks company that they used for years has changed partnership and the people that physically did the fireworks quit that company. Last year they had to decide if they were still going to use that company or move to a new one. There are big changes in the cost moving forward to purchase the fireworks.

In the past they had to have help from the association to pay for them and make up the difference. Donations are just not there like they use to be. Last year they were short by a few hundred dollars this year they may be looking a few thousand dollars short with the price increases. They will be looking into pricing closer to the first of the year and then will have more of an idea what they're looking at.

Chief Bailey expresses the Polar Express is near and dear to them. Thanks to Jim Binienda, Rick Phillips and George Green for them volunteering in the past years taking it out and attending events with it. The intention was never to get rid of it but to improve it and make it safer. The plan is to put lights back on it, keep better maintenance on it and move forward with it not just for the Christmas holiday but for other events, other holidays and parades.

With the new lighting system, they will be able to utilize it more. The fire department association voted to spend $6,000.00 on revamping it. With the new lighting it would be controlled by two buttons. Easy to work and to maintain. The company that presented the quote and layout of what it would be like is called Lyte House Customs. The quote was for $6,800.00. If they need to go back to the association for more money that's what they will do. Trustee Schuster is willing to donate towards it if needed.

The reason they feel it needed updated was mainly due to safety issues on wiring and the items that were hooked up on the truck. There were some problems in the past with the electrical on it. They also wanted to be able to utilize it more. Mr. Barto was just concerned because the polar express was stripped apart without any of the trustee's knowing. Mr. Schuster looks forward to seeing what is in store for the polar express moving forward.

DELEGATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Groszewski
5414 Fortune
Neighbor concerns regarding calls made to police and neighbors' previous comments at last meeting.

Mandy Miller
5406 Fortune
Continuing neighbor issues and concerns.

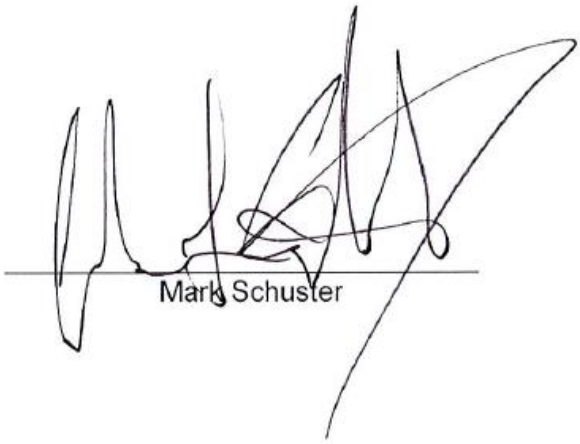
Karen Mayfield
2244 Terramar
Mrs. Mayfield voices her opinion on Flock Cameras. She would like to see the township continue the use of the Flock Cameras. She feels they would be a real asset to the township and for the police officers. She shared a few instances where they came in handy to assist police on issues that happened in and around the township.

MOTION: With no additional business or comments, Mr. Barto moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17p.m.
Mr. Barto moved; Mr. Mayfield seconded.
Roll Call: Mr. Mayfield, yes; Mr. Barto, yes; Mr. Schuster, yes.

APPROVED:



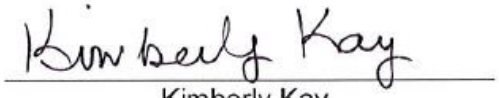
Don Barto



Mark Schuster



Jerry Mayfield



Kimberly Kay