

LEROY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Leroy Township Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 6 p.m., at the community center.

Present were: Rich Vanpelt, Trustee and Chairman; Trustee Heather Shelton. Alexandra Brown Fiscal Officer and Attorney at Law, Ron Graham.

Rich opened the meeting with the pledge.

On behalf of The Leroy Township Trustees and Community, Heather Shelton congratulated the 2025 Riverside High School Girls Softball Team for winning the first state championship in Riverside school history.

Heather stated, “This is the 2025 Riverside girls’ softball team. We invited them this evening to present them with a resolution acknowledging their accomplishments and to let them know how proud of them that we are.”

Heather continues, “You didn't just represent yourselves; you represented all of Lake County and the Riverside School District”

Trustee Heather Shelton presented the team and coaches with **RESOLUTION 25-20** recognizing their remarkable accomplishments achieving the State Championship title. Rich seconded.

Poll the vote.

Rich VanPelt, aye. Heather Shelton, aye.

Resolution 25-20 adopted.

Congratulations were given and pictures were taken with the Trustees and team with cupcakes and drinks in the pavilion to follow.

Rich made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 20, 2025. Heather 2nd. All in Favor.

Next Trustee Heather Shelton presented **RESOLUTION 25-17** showing Leroy’s appreciation members of Leroy Township’s zoning board, BZA, and members of the Lake County Planning Commission for their extensive work on Leroy’s Comprehensive Plan.

Lake County Planning Commission: David Radachy and Alanna Ciancibello

Zoning Commission Members: Sharon Noewer, Ron Baker, Charlie Cross, John Brown

Board of Zoning Appeals: Rudy Veselko III, Dan Himmelman

Zoning Inspector: Noell Sivertsen

Rich seconded this motion.

Poll the vote.

Rich VanPelt, aye. Heather Shelton, aye.

Resolution 25-17 adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Beverage reached out to Kristi Milo on behalf of one of his constituents regarding the Hometown Heroes Banners Program. Heather Shelton spoke on the details and cost of this program. The program, while honorable, requires significant funding and manpower. She stated that “If there was a big enough interest from the community she would be willing to look into it more.”

Rich VanPelt received a letter from a company that says they can help with solar street lighting.

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FISCAL:

Rich made a motion to pay all bills. Heather 2nd. All in favor. Motion passed.

Lexi Brown asked for the adoption of **RESOLUTION 25-21** presenting the 2026 budget to be submitted to the Lake County Auditor.

Rich made a motion to accept the 2026 budget as submitted by the fiscal officer.

Heather 2nd.

Poll the vote, Richard Van Pelt. Aye. Heather Shelton. Aye.

Resolution 25-21 was adopted.

Rich made a motion to fill out Ohio Township Association Risk Management’s questionnaire regarding employees and elected officials’ insurance.

Heather 2nd.

Motion carried.

FIRE:

Chief Toman gave the fire report.



**LEROY TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRUSTEE’S REPORT:**

DATE: 06/10/2025

OF CALLS: 64

YEAR TO DATE: 259

FIRE	13
EMS	43
HAZARDOUS COND	0
SERVICE CALL	4
GOOD INTENT	3
FALSE ALARM	1
SPECIAL INCIDENT	0

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NEW BUSINESS:

We are requesting to place a 5.5 mil levy on the ballot this November. As discussed in previous meetings the costs entailed with the operations of the fire department have increased significantly over the past few years. If passed this levy will replace the current 4.5 mil levy that we have in place. We will cancel the 4.5 mil if the 5.5 mil levy passes. The township is unable to give any funding to support the fire department, and we rely solely on these levies. Our levy funding decreases over the years they are in place and as we see our cost of operations increasing, we see our funding actually decreases. We are asking that Resolution 25-19 be passed so we can place this levy on the ballot in November.

OLD BUSINESS:

2412's new ball joints were installed in house by Fireman John Slansky. It went to Countryside for an alignment and ended up needing new batteries, and a U-Joint. This can at a cost of \$1057.19.

We are currently working with the county and trustee Shelton to find a solution for the old subway building on the roundabout. This is a slow process but hopefully we will see movement in the future.

-End of Fire Report-

Rich VanPelt asked for the adoption of **RESOLUTION 25-22** to enter into a contract with First Republic to purchase the new squad.

Heather seconded this motion.

Poll the Vote.

Richard Van Pelt. Aye. Heather Shelton. Aye.

Resolution 25-22 was adopted.

Rich moved for the adoption of **RESOLUTION 25-19**, determining to submit to the electors of Leroy Township the question of the additional 5.5 mill fire levy pursuant to Sections 5705.19(I), 5705.191, and 505.39 of the Revised Code.

This additional tax levy will occur in calendar year 2025, with the collection of the additional tax for five years beginning in 2026, is necessary for the proper operation of the Township Fire Department.

This levy will replace the 4.5 mill.

Heather Shelton 2nd this motion.

Poll of the vote: Shelton, aye, VanPelt, aye.

ROADS:

Rich read a report by Trustee Jason Rodgers regarding roads:

We have started roadside mowing.

We also finally after receiving the CAT 308 Excavator in Late February, and Finally the Hydraulic ditching bucket at the end of May, we were able to get the hoses made and the excavator ready to start ditching after being without anything since last August.

We have started on the culverts that have been paid for, and once those have been finished, we will start on ditching. As previously stated, it is hard to install culverts or do any ditching with an Excavator w no bucket, and once you get a bucket, having the custom hoses made so the bucket works to ditch. We now have that and look forward to getting to work.

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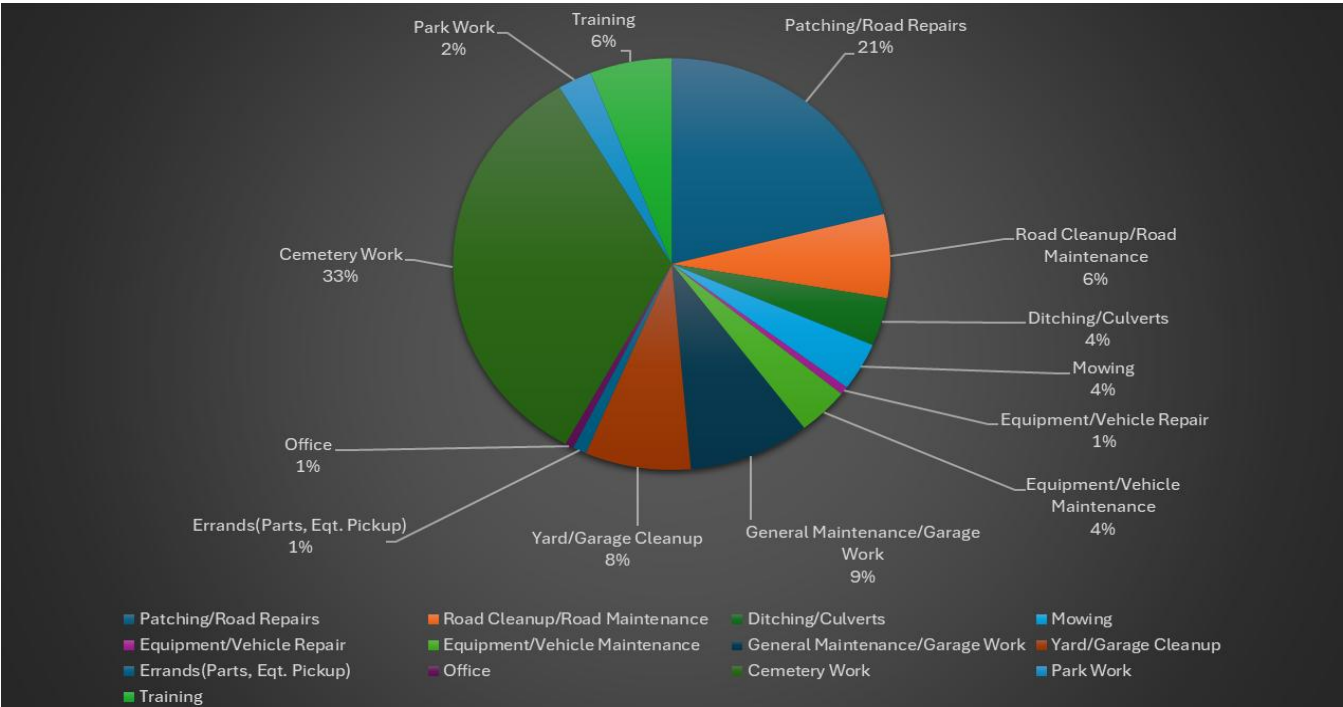
The work on Taylor rd. Hill, and Monte' dr. It is not finished, and Jason has refused to pay till it is completed as requested.

The work on Phase 2 of Callow rd. As mentioned in the last meeting has also been completed.

As soon as ODOT approves the Seal Coat projects, we will inform the residents when, Taylor rd. Hill, Monte dr., Lester Dr., and hopefully the long end Phase 2 of Callow rd. will be seal coated. After that is all completed, that will be the end of our road patching program for this year, as we will be out of money.

Leroy Township Service Department
Approximate Work Hours for May 2025

Activity	Hours
Patching/Road Repairs	83.5
Road Cleanup/Road Maintenance	26
Ditching/Culverts	15
Mowing	15
Equipment/Vehicle Repair	2.5
Equipment/Vehicle Maintenance	15
General Maintenance/Garage Work	35.5
Yard/Garage Cleanup	31
Snow Removal	0
Errands(Parts, Eqt. Pickup)	4
Office	2.5
Cemetery Work	132
Park Work	10
Fire Work	0
Training	24
Total Hours	396



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-End of Road Report-

Several Leroy residents asked about ditches being dug. The information was forwarded to Sara Jusko, Road Department Secretary.

CEMETERIES:

Cemetery Sexton Jenn Grieg reported that Leroy hired a cemetery restoration company to work on Northeast and Brakeman Cemetery.

This year they redid 33 monuments. Moved one major one (a big stump was in the way). They did a really nice job.

Jenn reported that her and Kristi are still working on combining the data from the cemetery programs Burrows and CIMS. This is a lengthy and detailed process.

PARKS:

Heather drew attention to the Park Path behind the Fire Station/Community Center that connects all the softball fields. The grass is coming in nicely and none of the pavements are heaved.

Heather made a motion to pay the balance to Adams Construction for the work that they did on the path.

Rich second.

All in favor.

Motion passed.

Heather reminded the audience that there will be a concert in the park with food trucks, frying pan toss and raffles this coming Saturday evening June 14. This is a fundraiser in support of Leroy Community Day that will be held June 27, 2026. The Leroy recreation board is planning a parade, festival and ending the evening with fireworks.

Heather made a motion on behalf of the Leroy softball board to hire Zachary Greig to line fields and do some maintenance on softball fields during the softball season at a rate of \$16 an hour, not to exceed 20 a week.

Rich seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

ZONING:

Noell gave the zoning report.

Accessory structure at 7920 Sumner Road, 24 by 24 shed.

Addition to a dwelling at 7430 Brakeman Road, a 500 square foot addition.

Solar panels were installed at 12898 Painesville Warren Road, two locations that are roof mount solar panels.

Board of Zoning Appeal for a request for a variance for 5909 Payne Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Townhall ramp is still under construction.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Heather stated, “There has been a lot of requests for our township meetings to be videoed. In my experience of what I've seen in the past, video, this is my opinion, tends to bring folks out that want to grandstand and want their five minutes of fame and want more or less to be seen and not heard. So video, again, for me is, I don't find value in that. But I think what is said at these meetings is valid.

I think the tone in which something is said is valid. I think the context gets lost at times in print. I would very much like to see that our audio is heard of what goes on in these meetings. It's hard to capture everything with the print of the minutes. It's not anybody's fault or anything, just things kind of get lost in context and we try to summarize as best we can what takes place in a meeting, but it's difficult at times.”

Heather made a motion that from this meeting on (June 10, 2025), once the meeting minutes are approved that, along with the release of the printed version of the minutes there will also be an audio recording of the meeting minutes released. These audio and printed versions will be available to download on the Leroy Township website.

Rich 2nd.
All in favor.
Motion carried.

AUDIENCE:

-Stacy Slater stated “Some people are not able to attend (Trustee Meetings) because of work or other obligations so now we're all making assumptions on the Facebook page and I being an admin on that Facebook page is being attacked by a trustee that I take off what his friends say publicly being attacked by him”

Attorney Ron Graham said to Ms. Slater, “I'm informing the chairman that you're now going to be out of order because you're going beyond what this meeting's about. When the audience participates, it's to ask questions about legislation that the trustees pass or things that are coming up that the trustees should know about”

-Eric Stutzman stated “I will say something. I come to all these meetings and there's only about three or four people that are at these on a regular basis. So, for the people that come and say they hearsay things through Facebook, that's the worst way to hear anything. And if you're the admin, you should be here to hear these things firsthand so you can then judge the Facebook posts properly.”

-An unnamed member of the audience asked “I have a question. I don't know if we can answer it. Where are we on lawsuits or anything? Are we pretty clean going forward?
I know last year we were in different things, taking people to court and back and forth. Are we doing pretty good this year? Taking someone to court?
Well, between zoning and variances and not complying, are we in a better place? “

Attorney Ron Graham answered, “We do not have any pending zoning cases in front of Judge Malchesky at this time.’

-There was a discussion on videoing the Trustee Meetings for the public.

-Attorney Ron Graham stated, “as their legal counsel the minutes are the official business of the township. We cannot release anything until the minutes have been released.
If the audio is taped at the same time as the minutes are taken, we can't release an audio tape which doesn't conform with the minutes. The minutes have to be approved by law by the trustees for them to be official. Once they're official, then you will also get the ability to get the audio.”

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-Trustee Heather Shelton wanted to state “I am going to go on record, as a township trustee and let you know that the behavior that was exhibited last meeting was appalling.

I do not condone berating our citizens. I don't like the intimidation tactics that were being used. I want you to feel free, everybody here, to come to us with anything. All three of us, we work for you. Again, I'm sorry by how that went down at the last meeting without getting into detail, but that we are here to work for you. It's what I was elected to do. I am supposed to pick up my phone. I want to hear from you. You may not get the answer that you want is all I can say. I don't have all the answers. I don't.

I'm learning just like you folks. I mean, I'm a nurse by trade. I'm not a politician, but I do have networking. It's something I've worked on really hard for the past 12 years to pick up the phone and I can get a hold of the person that has the answer if I don't have it.

And that is our job for you. So, when it comes to roads, cemeteries, parks, whatever it might be, those are just what we oversee. But if you have something for me that you want me to try to get an answer to, the same with Rich. I mean, we're open.

Whatever you need to come to us with. But I just want to go on record as saying that is not how I see myself as an elected official. I take great pride in being open to you guys.

So, again, I just want to go on record for saying that.”

-Herb Searson of Seeley Road: “I have been blocked from calling a trustee that I voted for. I got blocked on the phone because I he stated I was unreasonable and inappropriate when I contacted him. I started to contact this individual December 17th of last year. The road in front of my house had a 100-foot area of disrepair. I thought, I'd let somebody know and we'd get it worked on. And I sent photos. And I never called the individual. I only did text.”

“No phone calls were made. Six weeks later, which is not unreasonable, certainly not repeated, not inappropriate, I sent photos of eight-inch-deep ruts in our road. Now I'm worried about safety concern for our road.”

“The response I got from a trustee, “it'll get worse.”

Herb goes on “People were driving around the ruts up on the main road of my driveway. I'm worried about losing them in my driveway.”

Herb continues: “So four days later, I texted and said that. This is the response I get, “we'll be there tomorrow.” He shows up with a gradall and shoves the whole heaved road over into my ditch.”

“I came to a meeting a while back I found out the gradall got caught on fire.”

“At the next meeting it was mentioned that we were going to get insurance money from that gradall and put a little extra cash on it and get a good used gradall.”

“11 weeks later, and this is not unreasonable, certainly not repeated, not inappropriate, but 11 weeks later, did you purchase the gradall yet?”

Trustee states “Couldn't afford one.”

Herb,”That's the only response I got.”

“Two weeks later, on 5/1, I saw that the Leroy Road Repair Schedule came out. No mention of Seeley.”

"Will you be getting the ditch cleaned up?" I asked him. "Hopefully." He said.

I sent new photos four days later of the road ditch and how it was all filled up with water, soil, gravel, everything else.”

Trustee responds, "We will get to it. Eventually.”

Herb says, “Last week, Rudy and Rick, came out and they did approximately 60% of my ditch.

They did a good job. I thank them for that. Thank you, Rudy and Rick.”

“My point is, last month the Trustee said that Seeley will go back to dirt road.

There are nine seniors living on that road. Three of them are 85 plus years old and several are 80. Right now, there's three big holes in the road that hold water.”

Herb Searson then spoke to Heather Shelton, “But I did not appreciate the way I was treated, which you pointed out, and I appreciate your apology.”

**LEROY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
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-Eric Stutzman spoke on the importance of attending meetings and being informed of Township business.

Heather Shelton made a motion to go into executive session regarding personnel matters. Invited were: Hesther, Rich, Lexi, Kristi, Jenn, Vicki, Chief Toman, Shannon and Attorney Ron Graham.

Heather made a motion to open the executive session. Rich 2nd. All in favor.

Heather moved to close executive session. Rich 2nd. All in favor.

Rich opened the public meeting back. Heather 2nd. All in favor.

Heather adjourned. Rich 2nd. All in favor.

Next Trustee meeting will be July 8, 6 pm at the Community Center.

Rich VanPelt, Chairman, Trustee

Alexandra C Brown, Fiscal Officer