

LEROY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Leroy Township Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6 p.m., at the community center.

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

Rich opened the meeting with the pledge.

Rich made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from June 10, 2025 and special meeting June 30, 2025 Heather 2nd. All in Favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Trustee Jason Rodgers had a request to review a maintenance quote for Paine Road Cemetery from current mowing contractor.

The Trustees received correspondence regarding Next Gen 911. The discussion was tabled to do further research. Concerns were raised about increased costs and the impact on budgets, especially for smaller communities. Feedback was collected from neighboring communities, with all citing staffing mandates as primary reason for opposition. The board agreed that current information was insufficient for a final decision and tabled the matter. Special meeting is set for July 29 to decide after gathering further details.

Heather made a motion to set a date for a special meeting on Tuesday, July 29th, to discuss and decide. Rich 2nd. All in favor.

FISCAL:

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

Lexi presented an updated budget for the Trustees. She also reported that the year-to-date interest Leroy has made for the first six months is \$48,037.53.

Proposal discussed to allocate up to \$15,000 annually for park infrastructure from general funds, not including softball

Lexi received an email regarding OPWC and Callow Rd to finalize all the paperwork.

FIRE:

Rich asked for the adoption of **RESOLUTION 25-23** to place an additional 5.5 tax levy on the ballot in November to replace the 4.5 levy for the benefit of providing funds to cover increased operational costs for the Leroy Township Fire Department. It is expected to generate approximately \$1,011,705 over five years. Jason 2nd.

Poll the vote.

Rich VanPelt, aye. Heather Shelton, aye. Jason Rodgers, aye.

Resolution adopted.

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ROADS:

Trustee Rodgers gave a report on roads:

Jason requested approval to sell surplus and scrap equipment (mower/carry-all/air compressor/old distributor/lawn sweeper & wagon) via GovDeals.
Rich 2nd. All in favor.

Jason made a motion to advertise for both full-time and part-time (30 hours/week) service department employees. Discussion was held on pay rates, with part-timers capped at 30 hours and no benefits.
Rich 2nd. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Jason made a motion to transfer \$2,000 for road garage repairs; remainder moved to contingency fund.
Rich 2nd. All in favor

Updates provided on Blair Road closure and pursuit of state funding for future road projects.

Staffing and training efforts for new service employees reported, with attention to mowing, ditching, and pothole repairs.

Public encouraged to request ditch dirt.

Extended discussion on the communication breakdown regarding approval of change orders and spending on resurfacing and OPWC projects. Consensus reached on the need for improved communication and documentation among trustees and with fiscal staff.

Board clarified that full-time road employee Jake is currently on probation and will be offered healthcare benefits upon successful completion.

Detailed technical and procedural debate regarding specification, procurement, and vendor selection for the new township Mack truck. Fundamental differences between vendors regarding motor size, clutch type, and dimensioning led to disagreement and need for further clarification. Board deferred final vote until all technical questions are answered.

***Attach Jason’s Notes**

Meeting Notes for Service Dept, 7/8/2025 - - - - -
Selling used Equipment, we no longer need, use, or is not worth keeping - Old distributor \$1,000.00 - John Deer riding a lawn mower \$500.00 - Old Mobile Air Compressor \$500.00 - Old Carry-All \$2,000.00 - Scrap- old lawn sweep and wagon
Put out for Additional Full time as before.
Put out for additional part timer, 30 hrs. a week for road mowing, flagging, driving no CDL truck, and overall general tasks- used per discretion of Road Supervisor with Dept Budget
Garage Repairs: we need to have the back garage door repaired as the garage door cables broke. We need to move additional funds into that Garage Repair fund to pay out the bill submitted.
Road Resurfacing updates: The work on Monte’ dr, and on Taylor hill was viewed by me as sub-par. They will be returning the week of July 17th, and we will be meeting onsite to go over issues and how to resolve them. Once these are completed, we will be seal coating Lester dr., Monte Dr., and Taylor hill, as long as the budget projected works in our favor. Once these are completed, this will be the end of our large

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resurfacing project for 2025. We will continue to repair any potholes as they come up. However, as I stated before, and larger blows outs or sub surfaces repairs, we will not have the funds to complete this year, but we will try our best to manage those as they come up. I will also repeat that any roads that have been seal coated in the last 10 years, will eventually be left to go back to a gravel road, as Leroy Twp doesn't have the funds, the manpower, or the experienced manpower to keep these roads as a hard surface road. They include Seeley rd., Chadwick rd., Short end of the Hollow/ (Trask), and Valentine. We will try our best to keep the intersections of these roads seal coated, to help with Winter driving and Maintenance.

Callow rd. Phase 2: The additional repairs to the subbase were completed, along with an additional seal coat on the entire surface of Phase to help support and seal coat that section of road. That portion for Phase 2 is now complete, and the project can be closed.

County (Blair rd.): Blair rd. hill will be closed as soon as the 17th, if not earlier. They expect the road to be closed till the end of the year but are hoping for sooner. This will all depend on how the project goes once they open the road up to start.

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After my trip to DC for work, I had the opportunity to talk to local Senators and Representatives about additional funding. There are local state issues that might be added into the budget for 2025 that might benefit Leroy Twp. However, with budget cuts at the Federal Level this is unlikely. The only hope is at the State level where this would be possible, if passed. These additional funds might be beneficial to the Fire Dept, but as far as Roads is concerned, none of these would be beneficial. In Fact there is little to no additional resources expected to be given that isn't already available to Twps. of our size. There is a measure for additional funds to be required to be given out to Twps. of our size, which would be mandatory, however our area for OPWC already gives these additional funds out voluntarily for years through "Small Governments" which Leroy Twp has benefitted from in the past. Leroy Twp doesn't have the matching funds to receive additional funds through OPWC, and we typically get kicked down to Small Governments portion which we have received a few projects in the past from Small Governments as stated. However, even this has become unattainable given the funds Leroy twp. has to "match". - - -

That being said, I will be submitting Taylor rd., and Sumner in 2025 for consideration in 2026, but the chances of being awarded those projects will be slim to none given our current funding. We did not submit any projects in 2024 for 2025 as we didn't have the funds to support an additional project.

Currently, Rick and Jake have been road mowing which is required in the months of June and August by law. This has taken longer than normal as both Rick, and Jake are new to the department and Road mowing as time goes on they will get better, and faster. Rick, Jake, and Ben (New part timer) did a drive around with me last week to go over the areas road by road to make sure they understood where, and how it needs to be accomplished. Once the first round is done, they will be doing weedwacking of all Twp guardrails. For the past 20 years we were able to spray weedkiller on the guardrails to save a lot of time and money physically weedwacking the guardrails. However, since the retirement of Rich VanPelt jr. who held a weedkiller license, we currently don't have anybody licensed to spray the guard rails. We hope in the future to get somebody licensed so spraying the guard rails can continue to help save time and money. This is also required to be done by law. Once the guardrails are done, they will start over again and mow the second round of roadsides in August.

In between roadside mowing, repairing potholes, maintenance and repair of equipment, and an above normal funerals they guys have been able to accomplish getting gall the culvert pipe replacements completed. Some of these have been paid for since last year, when our Gradall caught fire, and was no longer serviceable. As

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previously mentioned, the Gradall was eventually replaced by the Twp. Insurance company with a CAT 308 midsized Excavator, and new carryall. The Gradall caught fire and was inoperable from 9/9/2024 until we receive the new 308 Excavator around 3/13/2025. However, the Buckets to use the excavator to ditch with didn't arrive till 5/27/2025. We could ditch any major areas till after 5/27/2025. This put us behind significantly in what ditches we were able to get done. As soon as Roadside mowing is completed in August, there are a few spare time in between when we can get part time driver help, we will get back to ditching at full speed. Thank you to the people who have been patient with this as our ditching request list is long! - - I would like to thank overwhelming the additional help we have received from our part-time Army of: Rick, Rudy, and Ben who help us out significantly in the winter w plowing, and when their schedule allows them in the summer. Finally, Rick and Jake, both who really were not even full-timer till after or around the 1st of the year, continue to improve and give back the service we strive to achieve for the residents of Leroy.

Thank you,
Jason

CEMETERIES:

Rich reported one burial and one foundation request received.

PARKS:

Discussion initiated regarding leasing park field space for Riverside Soccer Club, with focus on scheduling, liability insurance, additional infrastructure (shed, goals, port-a-john), and parking needs.

Board to research lease arrangements and draft agreement.

Heather reported the town hall ramp construction was delayed; progress expected to resume shortly.

Report given on successful community concert and planned upcoming events, including a kids' garage sale and preparations for the 2026 parade and celebration.

ZONING:

Zoning Inspector Noell Siverstein to address RT 90 gas station non-compliance and property use.

Plans discussed to remove unauthorized signs and address old Subway building as potential blight.

OLD BUSINESS:

-none-

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NEW BUSINESS:

Rich to call Gary Ball regarding security camera issues.

There was a discussion regarding drafting a conflict-of-interest policy to be prepared for all board and committee members to sign annually.

AUDIENCE:

Herb Searson spoke on Seeley Road maintenance and operational issues.

Eric Stutzman provided feedback on team dynamics in the township.

Former fiscal officer Sharon Rodgers clarified duties regarding OPWC paperwork and project payments.

Json Rodgers made a motion to go into executive session regarding legal matters. Invited were Heather, Rich, Jason, Lexi 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.

Special Meeting scheduled for July 29 at the Community Center.

Rich VanPelt, Chairman, Trustee

Alexandra C Brown, Fiscal Officer