

*Board of Trustees*

*Gary Biggs*

*Beth van Haaren*

*Carolyn Wright*

*Fiscal Officer*

*Deborah A. Watson*

*Administrator/Fire Chief*

*Andy Ehrhart*

*Assistant Fire Chiefs*

*Josh Schiebrel*

*Jay Zimmerman*

*Planning & Zoning*

*Marty Caskey*

*Lead Road Worker*

*Robert Yocum*

*Township Offices*

*8735 S. Second Street (Brandt)*

*Tipp City, Ohio 45371*

*937.845.8472*

## Trustee Hirt Retires

After 36 years of service, Bethel Township Trustee Jerry Hirt retired on December 31. Jerry was first elected in November, 1981, and took office on January 1, 1982. It is believed he is the longest serving Bethel Township Trustee since the Township was formed in 1807.

In 1981, Jerry campaigned on the necessity of water and sewer services in the southern end of Bethel Township. He saw this a way to ensure safe drinking water for residents as well offering an additional way for the Township to fight annexation from Huber Heights (Huber was incorporated as a city in 1981 and has been on a northward expansion ever since). Jerry worked diligently with the County and with Bethel School District to secure funding for water to Brandt and to the school in 2003. Under Jerry's leadership, the Township also received significant funding for sewer in Brandt (2009), and then a large EPA \$5.5 Million grant for sewer in Phoneton (2012) and lastly, matching funds for the water project in Phoneton (2016).

Another change he is proud to claim is the membership of the Township in the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC). With our participation in that organization we were able to strengthen the County's bargaining power to renegotiate the sewer facility planning areas. Jerry's participation as our representative to the five county MVRPC earned him that organization's Regional Stewardship Award for 2015.

The Township would like to thank Jerry Hirt for his many years of service to this community. Trustee van Haaren said, "Jerry retains an incredible amount of Township history and is very knowledgeable about the rules and regulations that govern the operation of a township. Before I was a trustee, I remember Jerry standing in the pouring rain the entire day during the 2000 presidential election, when the entire Township voted at the Methodist church in Brandt. The lines were long, the weather was horrible and Jerry was directing people to the correct precinct line to vote, in an effort to minimize the confusion and frustration of the residents. It wasn't his job as a Trustee to do this, but because he cares for the Township, he did."

Jerry's words of wisdom after 36 years in public service, "Change is inevitable, but with careful long-term planning and coordinated strategies undesirable change can be mitigated. Also, the success of any public official is only possible with the active participation of their constituents."



## Bethel Township Welcomes new Trustee, Carolyn Wright



In November, voters elected Carolyn Wright to the position of Township Trustee. Carolyn is a long time Bethel resident and already very active in our community. She has worked on various school levies, is currently an assistant swim coach for the Bethel Swim team and organized the Mr. Bethel pageant at the school. Carolyn is married to Todd Wright and has two children: Ben, who graduated from Bethel in 2016 and Eiliana, who will graduate this year. Carolyn is a social worker who is employed by Equitas Health as a department manager. She is excited to begin her new role.

## Zoning Update

### ZONING CERTIFICATES

ZC-30-17	7338 Agenbroad Rd.	New residence
ZC-31-17	5209 S. St. Rt. 202	Accessory building
ZC-32-17	6555 Studebaker Rd.	Addition to residence
ZC-33-17	6160 E. US Rt. 40	Commercial building

### BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA)

The BZA reviewed the following variance cases October – December 2017:

CU-02-17	6165 St. Rt. 201	Wedding venue on A-2 (Denied)
CU-03-17	9161 St. Rt. 201	Retail on I-1 (Approved)

### BETHEL TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION (ZC)

The ZC reviewed the following rezoning case October – December 2017:

ZA-08-17	4714 Dayton-Brandt Rd.	Rezoning 4.229 acres of one parcel from A-1 to R-1AAA with the remaining 1.783 acres rezoned A-2 and joined to the primary property already zoned A-2 (Approved)
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The ZC will review the following rezoning cases in January 2018:

ZA-09-17	5950 St. Rt. 202	Rezoning 58.865 acres from A-2 to A-1 for lot splits.
ZA-10-17	7095 Staley Rd.	Rezoning 11.302 acres from A-2 to B-1, and 12.489 acres from A-2 to A-1.

The ZC meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM and the BZA meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Bethel Township Meeting Room when they have cases. Public notices for both the ZC and the BZA meetings are posted in the news section of the Township website at [www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org), and in the Troy Daily News. Additionally, residents within 500’ of the subject property are notified by first-class mail as per the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution and the Ohio Revised Code.

### Spotlight on the Bethel Township Zoning Commission

The ZC is made up of five sitting and two alternate volunteer members who are residents of the Township and are appointed by the Trustees. The members serve five-year terms. The ZC has these principal duties:

- Upon receiving a rezoning request from a property owner or the Trustees, the township zoning commission reviews the facts, reports and plans and makes a recommendation to the Township Trustees. This is in the form of a recommendation for approval or recommendation for denial. The Trustees make the final decision.
- The zoning commission may, within the limits of their budget, employ or contract with such planning consultants and executive and other assistants as it deems necessary.
- The zoning commission shall organize, adopt rules for the transaction of its business, and keep a record of its actions and determinations. Their agendas and approved minutes are posted on the Township website.

We need interested residents for both the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission. Please contact Marty Caskey, Director of Planning and Zoning at 937-845-8472 if you wish to be considered.



### Fire and EMS Total for 2017:

EMS 425  
 Fire 148  
**Total 573**

### Runs compared to 2016:

EMS 382 (+11%)  
 Fire 141 (+5%)  
**Total 523 (+9.5%)**

## Winter Road Tips

The winter months are here and we have already had several snowfalls resulting in very cold weather and challenging road conditions. Our plows will be out plowing and salting the roads as inclement weather arrives. During snow and ice storms, the Bethel Township Road Department makes every effort to keep roadways as safe as possible for drivers. Please note that in an effort to reduce costs, we will not plow between the hours of 1 a.m. - 5 a.m. unless storm conditions dictate otherwise. Below are a few tips from our road department:

- Remember that the road in front of the plow is usually in much worse condition than the roadway behind the plow. Plows will typically travel under 35 miles per hour and there is always a temptation to pass them. For your safety, it is recommended that you stay a safe distance behind the snowplows.
- During plowing operations, visibility can be reduced by blowing snow and plow operators may need time to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles. Keeping a safe distance between your vehicle and the plow is very important in order to avoid accidents.
- Allow plenty of room when passing a snowplow. Do not cut back into the lane ahead of the plow too quickly since the blade extends several feet ahead of the truck.
- When you see an approaching snow plow on an undivided roadway, move as far away from the center line as you safely can since blowing snow may obscure the actual width of the snowplow's blade.
- Turn on your lights - to see and be seen. Brush the snow off your headlights and taillights frequently.

Winter driving requires motorists to be careful and alert, but the most important tip for winter driving is: **SLOW DOWN!**

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## Bethel Township Police Levy

One of the most important services in Bethel Township is the contract we have with the Miami County Sheriff's office. Even though the County Sheriff provides protection for all of Miami County, we specifically contract for extra services. Bethel Township has a contract for an additional eight hours of specific coverage per day. This means that a deputy is stationed in Bethel for his/her eight hour shift. The schedule is assigned by the County Sheriff based on trends of when he thinks it is needed the most.

As with anything, the extra coverage comes with a cost. The township currently has a 1 mill Police Levy that was made a permanent levy in 2000 which covers the costs of the additional hours. A permanent levy can not be renewed until it is replaced. This levy replaced a .5 mill levy and a 1 mill levy at the tax rate in fiscal year 2000, which is still the rate collected today. The tax collection for this levy in 2017 was \$109,184.08.

Along with the actual deputy the Township also covers the cost of the fuel for the police car. The total expenditure for 2017 was \$108,219.55. The actual contract was for \$101,789.48, the fuel was \$4,756.49 and there is a tax collection fee from the County Treasurer of \$1,673.58. The contract for 2018 will increase to \$103,825.28 which is a 2% increase plus approximately \$5,000 for fuel and the tax collection fee. The projected total cost for 2018 will be approximately \$110,498.86.

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## Financial Facts from the Fiscal Officer

Bethel Township frequently gets questions on "How much did that cost?" Here are a few informative facts about costs of projects and equipment.

- Paving of roadways cost about \$115,000 per mile.
- Cardiac Monitors for both medics cost over \$50,000
- The recycling center offered by the Township costs about \$7,200 per year.
- The Township uses about 3,500 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,300 of gasoline per year.
- A new ambulance is around \$225,000.
- The Township employs 35 part-time fire personnel, 1 full time road worker and 2 part-time road workers, 1 full time zoning administrator, a part-time receptionist.
- Fire trucks are around \$500,000.
- Plow trucks cost approximately \$150,000 with the plow, lights, etc.



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TIPP CITY, OH  
PERMIT #22

## Bethel Township Trustees

Miami County  
8735 South Second Street—Brandt  
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

Phone: 937-845-8472  
Fax: 937-845-7316  
Email: [www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org)

### Trustee Carolyn Wright

ph. 620.9144  
[carolyn.wright@betheltownship.org](mailto:carolyn.wright@betheltownship.org)

### Trustee Beth van Haaren

ph. 477.0289  
[beth.vanhaaren@betheltownship.org](mailto:beth.vanhaaren@betheltownship.org)

### Trustee Gary Biggs

ph. 657.2954  
[gary.biggs@betheltownship.org](mailto:gary.biggs@betheltownship.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.BETHELTONNSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.BETHELTONNSHIP.ORG)

*Or like us on Facebook— Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio*

### January

- 3 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 9 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 15 Martin Luther King Day, Township Offices Closed
- 16 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 23 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 25 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

### February

- 7 Historical Society
- 13 Public Hearing, 6:30 PM
- 13 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 19 Presidents Day, Township Offices Closed
- 20 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 22 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 27 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM

### March

- 7 Historical Society Meeting, 7 PM
- 13 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM
- 20 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7:30 PM
- 22 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 27 Trustees Regular Business Meeting, 7 PM

### Please note:

**The Board of Trustees meets in Workshop Session on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 8:30 AM in the Township Building in Brandt. Please check the Township's website at [www.betheltownship.org](http://www.betheltownship.org) for Workshop Session cancellations.**

All meetings are held in the Bethel Township Community Room, 8735 S. Second Street-Brandt unless otherwise noted.