

Board of Trustees

Kama Dick

Julie Reese

Josh Wilkerson

Fiscal Officer

Rhonda Ross

**Assistant to the Fiscal Officer
& Zoning Secretary**

Cathy Fortunato

Road Crew

Robert Yocum

Eric Campbell

Interim Fire Chief

Terry Weldon

Township Offices

8735 S. Second Street (Brandt)

Tipp City, Ohio 45371

937.845.8472

CURRENT

Bethel Township Trustees

Welcome New Trustee Joshua Wilkerson-Bienick



Joshua Wilkerson-Bienick is originally from Beaver, PA. He attended the College of Charleston in South Carolina, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force in 2009 after completing ROTC at Detachment 772. He later earned a Master of Engineering in Industrial Engineering from Clemson University in 2017.

He has nearly two decades of experience in supply chain management and logistics. He was selected in the top 10% of his logistics career field for the prestigious Logistics Career Broadening Program. He spent nearly 15 years on active duty before transitioning to the Ohio Air National Guard. Mr. Wilkerson-Bienick is a Lieutenant Colonel serving as a traditional Guardsman (one weekend a month). He currently holds the position of Squadron Commander of the 121st Logistics Readiness Squadron, part of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio.

He met his wife, Charity, while they were both serving together on active duty. They have been married for 13 years and have four daughters and one son.

While a candidate for Bethel Township Trustee, he campaigned on preserving the township's rural character and farmland, supporting larger lot size requirements for agricultural protection, opposing large-scale development, improving resident involvement in decisions, active listening to community feedback, and ensuring any growth aligns with residents' wishes.

He looks forward to serving the citizens of Bethel Township, listening to their concerns, and working to make the community a truly great place to live today as well as in the future.

Terry Weldon Named Interim Fire Chief

Terry Weldon currently serves as the Interim Fire Chief of the Bethel Township Fire Department, bringing nearly three decades of dedicated service to the community. Throughout his career with Bethel Township, Mr. Weldon has held multiple leadership roles, including Captain and Battalion Chief, while serving as a paramedic firefighter since joining the department almost 30 years ago.



In addition to his service in Bethel Township, Mr. Weldon has built an extensive career in emergency medicine through his work with Dayton Children's Hospital. He has served as a paramedic in the Emergency Department, contributed to the hospital's transport team, and now serves as the EMS Coordinator. His diverse clinical and administrative experience in both emergency response and pediatric care strengthens his leadership within the fire service, particularly in EMS operations and community health initiatives.

Mr. Weldon is deeply committed to both the development of EMS providers and the well-being of the community he serves. His long-standing service, operational experience, and clinical expertise position him well as he steps into the role of Interim Fire Chief.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, Weldon is a devoted family man. He has been married to his wife, Shannon, for 30 years, and together they have four grown children. In his free time, he enjoys supporting Ohio State football and catching a game when he can—especially with his soon-to-be son-in-law.

Staff Highlights

Long Time Trustee Beth van Haaren Departs



After 20 years and 7 months of service to the Township, Mrs. van Haaren served her last day. When she first took office, the dust from the massive annexation that became Carriage

Trails had barely settled. In her own words, “from that moment forward, standing firm against annexation wasn’t just an issue; it became the mantra of my public service.”

Along the way Mrs. van Haaren had the good fortune of learning about township government under the guidance of Trustees Jerry Hirt and Cliff Wray. After Mr. Wray retired, Gary Biggs joined the team. When Mr. Hirt retired and Carolyn Wright came aboard, Mrs. Van Haaren found herself the “experienced one,” which she felt was both an honor and an education—sometimes simultaneously. Don Black was appointed to fill the slot Mr. Biggs vacated in 2020. Work began to grant 168 acres of farmland with a conservation easement to Five Rivers MetroParks. A TIF was placed



on some properties subject to future annexation. In January 2022, Julie Reese replaced Mrs. Wright on the board and the MetroParks deal was finalized and more TIFs added. Two years later Kama Dick replaced Mr. Black on the board. Trustees came and went over the 20+ years, but Mrs. van Haaren said she was “struck less by the length of time and more by the sheer volume of work, debate, progress and collaboration along the way.”

Mrs. van Haaren also mentioned the “remarkable township administrators that she was fortunate to serve alongside”: Bill Lutz, Kate Reagan, Mike Gebhart, and Andy Ehrhart. She also thanked the residents of Bethel Township for their support over two decades... “It has been an honor.” Thank you Trustee van Haaren for your service to our Township.



Fire/EMS



Fire/EMS Runs			
Sept 22 — Dec 31			
Fire	28	YTD	110
EMS	112	YTD	443
MVC	20	YTD	53
		TOTAL	606

Township Admin / Planning & Zoning Director Takes New Position

Cody Smith, who joined us in early January of 2025, has taken a position with the City of Riverside as of November 21, 2025. We wish him luck and success! To ensure uninterrupted service, Trustee Reese has been appointed Acting Township Administrator until a replacement is hired and Trustee Wilkerson will be handling Zoning requests.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Ben Cahill and Battalion Chief Mike Arnold left us at the end of 2025. Both already had full-time positions at other Fire Departments. Chief Cahill had been with the Township for over 10 years and Battalion Chief Arnold over 20 years. The Township wishes to thank them for their long-time service and hard work—they will be sorely missed.

We are also saying good-bye to Firefighters Andrew Kopp and Cassandra Channell—we thank them for their service and wish them well.

Please welcome Jace Justice and Andrew Kopp to the Bethel Township Fire Department!

Job Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering to be on a zoning board, please scan or click the QR code for more information or call the Office at 937.845.8472.

Interim Fire Chief Weldon is seeking additional part-time staff. If you are a Firefighter/EMT and want to join the team, please scan or click the QR code or call the office non-emergency fire phone# at 937.845.4274.

The Township will also be looking for a Zoning Inspector and also a Special Projects Manager soon. Sharpen your resume so you are ready when new positions are posted. Check the Job Opportunities website to see what new positions may be available.



Zoning Update

ZONING CERTIFICATES ISSUED:

ZC-40-25	7975 PISGAH RD	ACCESSORY BUILDING
ZC-41-25	9415 MANN RD	SINGLE FAM RESIDENCE
ZC-42-25	4455 GIBSON RD	SIGN
ZC-43-25	7045 US RT 40	SIGN
ZC-44-25	9865 WILDCAT RD	NEW CONSTRUCTION
ZC-45-25	7340 ROSS RD	NEW GARAGE

BETHEL TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION (ZC)

The Bethel Township Zoning Commission did not meet in 4th Quarter of 2025.

BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA)

The Bethel Township Board of Zoning Appeals met October 23, 2025 to hear the following case:

Case: CU-07-25: A request from Burkhan Holding Inc. for a Conditional Use for an Agricultural Business located at 7195 Singer Rd, Dayton, OH 45424. This is a 10 acre parcel zoned A-1 Domestic Agriculture. Miami County Parcel ID# A01-017200. This case was tabled at the Sept 25, 2025 meeting. **APPROVED 5-0**

The Bethel Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) met November 20, 2025 to hear the following cases:

Case: V-21-25: A request from Adams Home Construction Services, located at 6655 Bethelville Dr, New Carlisle OH 45344, for a variance to allow for a 40' front yard setback. Bethel Township Zoning Section 5.05, minimum front yard setback is 50' from the right of way. The parcel is .846 acres zoned R-1AAA. Miami County Parcel Number: A01-084527. **APPROVED 4-0**

Case: CU-09-25: A request from Hemi Properties LTD for a Conditional Use for a Retail Business located at 7114 US 40, Tipp City, OH 45371. This is a 1.979 acre parcel zoned B-2 Office/Residential District. Miami County Parcel ID# A01-052250. **APPROVED 4-0**

BETHEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Bethel Township Board of Trustees held a public hearing for the following cases on October 22, 2025:

Case ZA-06-25: a request from Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team, 9315 State Route 202, Tipp City, OH 45371, to re-zone Miami County parcel ID# A01-250094 from B-2 Office/Residential District to I-1 Light Industrial. **DENIED 1-2**

Case ZA-07-25: a request from Fannie Mae at 6780 E Walnut St, to re-zone Miami County parcel ID#s A01-086136 and A01-086137 from B-3 Neighborhood Business District to R-1AAA Residence District. **APPROVED 3-0 with the condition to join the two parcels into a single parcel**

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room. The Zoning Commission meets @ 7:30 pm the same night and in the same location.

Notice for both the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals meetings and public hearings are posted on the home page of the Township website at www.betheltownship.org, and the Township's social media account (Facebook and/or Instagram).

Additionally, residents within 500' of the requesting property are notified by first class mail as per the Bethel Township Zoning Resolution and the Ohio Revised Code.



Sad News—Carolyn Royer

Mrs. Carolyn Royer, age 89 of Tipp City, Ohio passed away Wednesday, November 5, 2025. She was born January 10, 1936, in Troy, Ohio to Paul A. and Gladys {Henderson} Honeyman. Carolyn is preceded in death by her parents, husband William A. Royer and siblings Joyce Eberle, George Honeyman and Michael Honeyman. She is survived by her children Lisa Hiler of Tipp City and Steven Royer of Tipp City and siblings Gordon Honeyman of Tipp City, Rebecca Long of Tipp City and John Honeyman of New York City. Also surviving are grandson Rob Hiler and great granddaughter Lillian Hiler.

Carolyn was a lifelong member of Tipp City Global Methodist Church, where she was both baptized and confirmed. She found great joy in gardening and in raising Hereford cows and chickens for their fresh eggs. Carolyn was a wonderful cook who loved preparing meals for her family and the church dinners.

Bethel Township Trustees

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Tipp City, Ohio 45371

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Trustee Joshua Wilkerson-Bienick

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT www.betheltownship.org

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

Note: you must login to Facebook after scanning the QR code on the left.



January

- 1 New Year's Day observed, Township Offices Closed
- 6 Trustee Regular Business Meeting, 6 PM
- 7 ~~Historical Society, 6 PM, cancelled~~
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed, Township Offices Closed
- 20 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7 PM
- 27 Trustee Workshop Meeting, 6 PM
- 29 Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Meeting, 6:30 PM *
~~Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM *~~
- 29 Zoning Text Update Meeting, following BZA meeting

February

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 3 Trustee Regular Business Meeting, 6 PM
- 4 Historical Society, 6 PM
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 President's Day observed, Township Offices Closed
- 17 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM *
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM *

March

- 3 Trustee Workshop Meeting, 6 PM
- 4 Historical Society, 6 PM
- 8 Daylight Saving Time
- 10 Trustee Regular Business Meeting, 6 PM
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Co. Planning Commission Mtg. in Troy, 7 PM
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 6:30 PM *
Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM *

We invite you to attend!

The Board of Trustees generally meets in Workshop Session on the first Tuesday of each month and Regular Business session on the second Tuesday of each month, if needed.

* Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission only meet if a case is pending. Please check the Township's website for meeting notices, cancellations, or updates.

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