

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

MESSENGER

419-359-1735

Fall 2025

Vol. 28, Issue 2

TRUSTEES

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

**Reminder: Trustee meetings are held once a month
on the 2nd Wednesday at 7p.m.*

Messenger Editor Turnover:

After 10 years of dedicated service as the Oxford Messenger Newsletter Editor, Liana Wensink decided it was time to concentrate more on family and family business. She has turned over the editor duties to Kathy Leber, who has offered to carry on the duties at no cost for her time. We thank Liana for helping us improve the Messenger and Kathy for taking on the editor's role.

Road Work:

For the third consecutive year, the Erie County Commissioners awarded funding to townships for road projects. As a result, Oxford Township, with assistance from Groton and Margaretta Township personnel, completed paving on Huber Road, Lovers Lane Road and the curves on Higbee Road. The OMG crew also finished laying stone on the berm. Striping will be done under contract this fall. The total funding grant for Oxford and each of the townships was \$111,111.11. Oxford Township spent approximately \$182,000 on road work, with about \$71,000 coming from the Township's Road & Bridge fund. The OMG crew completed crack sealing on Thomas Rd. using 4,400 lbs. of crack seal material. On behalf of Oxford Township residents, we thank Commissioners Shenigo, Shoffner, and Old for providing road funds again this year.

Andy Dunlap submitted a grant application to the State of Ohio for road sign replacement, and it was approved. The Township will have all the signs replaced to meet the latest reflective standards and format, with breakaway posts. The grant covers the full material cost of \$38,000. Andy will start installation in the spring.

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FROM THE TRUSTEES CONT.

Park:

The grant application for \$6300 to replace the swing set was approved by Erie MetroParks. The swing set was installed, and the child safety swing previously donated by the Brian Deering family was reinstalled on it. The township was also awarded funding by Erie County Solid Waste Division to replace the ballpark benches with recycled plastic material. Andy ordered, received, and installed the benches in time for use this year.

Zoning & Building:

Andy Dunlap is available Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm and he is also accessible by appointment after business hours for zoning information. You can schedule an appointment or ask questions by contacting his cell at 419-357-2493, the office phone at 419-359-1447 or via email at oxfordzninsp@yahoo.com. Zoning permits can now be downloaded from the website at <https://oxfordtownshipohio.com>. The entire Zoning Resolution is also available to view or download from the township website.

Residential and commercial building inspections, when required, are conducted by Huron Township Building Department staff under contract with Oxford Township. To obtain a building permit, contact Tammy Boos at 419-433-2755 Fax 419-433-8347 Email: tboos@hurontwp.org

Special Emergency Services Announcement:

The township must decide whether to merge with another entity for EMS services instead of depending on Northcentral EMS (owned and operated by Fisher-Titus). This is necessary because Trustees received the following from Fisher-Titus:

In follow up to the Huron County Township Association dinner meeting on July 10th where Mr. Dick Wiles read a letter from Huron County Commissioner Brad Mesenburg that informed the audience that the Fisher-Titus subsidy to North Central EMS is not sustainable, Fisher-Titus is offering to host a meeting on Thursday, August 21st to discuss the formation of a joint ambulance district.

In 2018 the leaders of North Central EMS initiated new efforts to improve the services and financial performance of the company. The service area was right-sized and new subsidies were negotiated. As a result, operating losses were reduced from \$2 million in 2018 to \$819,000 in 2024. Current township and municipal corporation subsidies total approximately \$620,000 per year. Fisher-Titus Medical Center subsidizes NCEMS to break even and makes annual capital investments for new vehicles, equipment, communication systems, and facilities.

Given the financial realities, and the challenges to pay for emergency medical services, Fisher-Titus requested that the Huron county commissioners review and introduce the idea of forming a joint ambulance district to provide EMS services. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Title 5, Chapter 505, Trustees, provides the guidelines for the formation of a joint ambulance district. The ambulance district board may levy taxes subject to Chapter 5705 of the ORC, to provide the equipment and services necessary.

Fisher-Titus is seeking a decision from township trustees and municipal corporations by October 23rd, 2025 on their willingness to form a joint ambulance district for their electorate. This request is not to form the district in 60 days, or to propose a levy, but to have a decision on whether or not the townships and municipal corporations are going to form a district.

Fisher-Titus is offering to host a meeting on Thursday, August 21st, at 6:30 pm at the Fisher-Titus Medical Center Jennings Auditorium at 272 Benedict Ave, Norwalk, Ohio 44857. Please RSVP to Connie Runkle, (419)660-2608 or crunkle@ftmc.com.

I look forward to discussing this with you and hearing your decision.

Sincerely,
Matthew Mattner

Special Emergency Services Announcement Cont:

As a result of this letter, Trustee Parker, serving as President of the Erie County Township Association (ECTA), presided over an ECTA subcommittee meeting with officials from affected Erie County entities on August 26, 2025. Trustees from Margaretta, Oxford, Groton, Perkins, Vermilion, Florence, Berlin, Milan, along with the Mayor of Milan, Chiefs from Perkins, Margaretta, Milan, and Berlin Townships, Sheriff, Commissioner Old, Auditor Jeffrey, and staff support from Erie County Commission offices attended. Mr. Parker facilitated a brainstorming session to identify solutions or options to address the issue presented in the Fisher-Titus letter. The group generated nine options, none of which involved forming an EMS district that would extend beyond Erie County's borders. The options were then narrowed down to the top three most desirable options.

1. The four townships currently served by North Central should explore the feasibility of partnering with their bordering townships – Groton with Margaretta, Oxford with Perkins, Milan and Berlin with Huron.
2. The four affected townships form their own EMS district
3. Form a county-wide EMS district.

Option 1 was selected to be pursued for the following reasons: conceivably quicker to implement, response times likely to be as good or better, service likely to be improved, and likely to be most cost effective, with least impact on existing budgets. A follow-up sub-committee meeting was scheduled for September 17 at Milan Township Hall for updates on progress in pursuing Option 1 and to determine if any adjustments to the options should be made. At this meeting it was determined that Margaretta township was not able to assist Groton Township with E/MS services and that Huron Township and the City of Huron could help Milan and Berlin Townships with EMS services, but the cost of services could be very expensive. The body of officials determined that to staff an EMS squad would take a minimum of at least 6 full time personnel at estimated standard costs of about \$100,000 per person that includes salary, benefits and average overtime. Mr. Parker reported that Perkins Township was willing to explore the feasibility of a contract with Oxford Township. Another ECTA subcommittee meeting was scheduled for October 21 to discuss further progress and meet with Fisher-Titus staff.

At the regular session of the Oxford Township Trustees on October 8 at 7 PM, Mr. Parker was authorized to discuss the feasibility of contracting with Perkins Township officials. Having reviewed previous response times, performance concerns, and the options discussed above, the Trustees concluded that Perkins Township can serve the residents as well, if not better, than the current arrangement. It was noted that Perkins Township once provided service to the entire Oxford Township. Regardless of the option the Trustees choose, the cost of service is expected to increase; however, they will try to limit any increase within existing income levels, at least for the short term (2-3 years).

Special notices to residents of any changes in services will be made via mail, the township website <http://www.oxfordtownshipohio.com/>, and Facebook.

Fire and Emergency Services (Chief Kerry Jett):

Due to extremely dry conditions, open burning is NOT allowed!

I AM STILL LOOKING FOR FIREFIGHTERS FOR THE OXFORD TOWNSHIP STATION.

If you would like to serve your community and neighbors, PLEASE give me a call or meet with us on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:30pm at the Groton Twp. Station, 9414 Portland Road. I can cover the requirements to be a Volunteer Firefighter.

**The Groton Township Fire Department is holding its annual Halloween Event
Saturday, November 1st From 6:30-7:30 at Fire Station #1 on Portland Road.**

