November Monthly Digital Newsletter

Fire Department

22 EMS checks received, totaling $12,171.86. Year to date, the total is $71,318.32.

The department responded to 41 calls. 16 were medical, 5 motor vehicle crashes (MVC), 2 door unlocks, 1 diesel spill, 1 tree down, and 1 unknown fire.

PTFD assisted Kingsville with 8 EMS calls, Kingsville with 1 EMS call, Ashtabula City Fire Department with 2 EMS calls, Jefferson with 3 EMS calls, Sheffield with 2 EMS calls, and Ashtabula Township FD with 1 smoke alarm call.

PTFD assisted Jefferson Fire Department with a controlled burn of five structures as part of ongoing training.

Repairs have been completed on the the 2001 pumper/tanker, and 2016 ambulance.

Chief Bill Strubbe is pursuing multiple grants including: Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), Lowe's ($3,700, appliances for the fire hall renovation), Firefighter's Charity Foundation ($10,000, turnout gear), AFG FY26 ($308,000, to replace SCBAs and cardiac monitors), OTARMA (seeking quote, backup camera), State Fire Marshall ($23,800, MARCs radios), Leary Foundation ($25,000), and Enbridge ($2,700, SCBA brackets).

Road Department

Picked up tree limbs on Hadlock Road.

Back-dragged grindings on Mills and Mann Roads.

Installed 30' of driveway pipe on Pinney-Topper Road.

Placed 3 tons of #411 limestone gravel, filling various potholes.

Ditched 100' on Morgan Road East.

Ditched five days on Morgan Road West as part of the OPWC project.

Trenched six days and installed 4” roadside sub-drainage on Morgan Road West.

Installed a new front left wheel bearing, brake pads, and a brake line on the 2006 1-ton.

Installed new batteries in the 1997 Mack truck.

Hauled a load of scrap (old culvert pipe) to Jefferson Recycling.

Completed the installation of 132 truckloads of asphalt grindings to raise Morgan Road West.

Completed one burial.

Seeking repair quotes for the 2023 Mack truck's hydraulic tank leak.

Zoning Department

Zoning Inspector Ryan Lencl made recommendations for a transient soliciting program to limit door to door sales in the township. The suggestions include permitting and ID requirements for solicitors, limited hours, No Soliciting stickers for residents to place on mailboxes and storm doors, a No Solicitation list for residents, and fines for violations of the program. A resolution creating the transient solicitation program was subsequently passed. Residents can be added to the No Soliciting list by emailing the zoning inspector at RyanLencl@gmail.com. No Soliciting stickers can be picked up at the fire hall daily between 9 am and 5 pm or at 6:30 pm prior to any regularly scheduled trustee's meeting.

Approved an agricultural exemption for 435 Garrison Road

The Inspector attended the September 23rd Board of Zoning Appeals hearing for an accessory structure at 3532 Pinney-Topper Road. The variance was approved due to hardship (underground high pressure gas lines and other utilities).

Completed a zoning permit for an accessory structure at 1286 Daly Road

Spoke with multiple residents regarding the specifics of the state “burn ban”

Continuing research on nuisance properties in the township

Discussed multiple nuisance properties with the county prosecutor

Compiling a list of potential zoning updates to strengthen township zoning

Compiling a list of the top 10 current zoning issues

The monthly zoning commission meeting took place on October 23rd.

Old business:

Updating definitions in the zoning code to increase clarity and close loopholes

Clarifying signage policy

Reviewing the Lenox Township wind farm policy, as they have hired legal counsel to guide their process.

Clarifying and updating rental definitions including commercial v residential, short-term (Air BnB, Vrbo), bed and breakfast, etc.

Providing additional clarity on setback requirements for accessory builidings

New business included:

The “Transient Vendor” Program launch: Maryann distributed copies of the township’s new “no soliciting” policy, for member’s information only. The Trustees created the program at their October 20th meeting.

November Meeting Cancellation: As has been past practice, the decision was made to cancel the November 12, 2026 meeting, as it falls only two weeks after the October meeting.

Communication Department

Our free communication app, Savvy Citizen, has been very useful for informing township residents of important issues. In the last month alone it was used to share Maple Grove Cemetery improvements, Morgan Road West/OPWC project progress, fire hall renovation updates, event location and schedule changes, and much more.

After researching options, CD Ryan Lencl has recommended the township enter into an agreement with Shumaker Technology Group to develop a new website. STG is an award-winning web development company specializing in small and medium municipalities. The new site would add new features, be easier to use, and will be 100% ADA compliant. The development cost would be between $1,825-$3,125 depending on final design complexity. The total annual cost for hosting, mail, security, and data backup would be $725. The trustees approved the recommendation and the township has reserved www.PlymouthTWPAshtabulaOH.gov for the new web address. By changing to a .gov address, the township website has increased security and becomes eligible for additional forms of support. The target date for launch of the new website is the first week in January 2027.

As a reminder, the township maintains social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Search “Plymouth Township Ashtabula” to get connected.

Fiscal Officer

The township's investment in the StarOhio program earned $4,014.04 for September. Since October of 2024, the township has earned $46,367.70 in interest. The interest is re-invested in the township, helping to stretch the value of every dollar in the budget.

Miscellaneous

Ashtabula Township Trustee Bambi Paulchel provided a presentation on the Hometown Hero banner program. The trustees will be reaching out to residents to gauge interest. The cost to create and display the banner for two years is $160. The program will be ongoing, but the

trustees would like to see the first group of banners erected by Memorial Day 2027.

Fire station renovations continue on schedule with an estimated completion date of early November.

Trunk or Treat took place on 10/31/26 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the township hall.

The first November trustee's meeting was moved to Monday, November 2nd to accommodate Election Day. The time is 7:00 pm.

The township is researching signage improvements for the corner of Plymouth and State Roads.

The county requested a letter of support from the trustees for an expanded waterline project. The trustees will research the financial implications of the project for Plymouth Township residents before proceeding.

Bills were paid, as the various amounts were available in the treasury, totaling $320,710.49. While monthly fluctuations are normal, this month's expenditures included payments for the previous purchase of a Mack dump truck, and loan payments on the fire station renovation.

The November trustee's meetings will continue to be held at the ODOT outpost at 492 Seven Hills Road until the fire station renovations are complete. Notification will be sent when the meetings return to the township hall.