

**CUMRU TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Cumru Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Lisha L. Rowe. Other Commissioners in attendance were Vice-President Greg Miller, Andy Donnell, and William B. Miller. Also attending were Chief of Police Madison Winchester, Fire Chief James Beane, Superintendent of Public Works Robert McNichols, Jr., Asst. Superintendent of Public Works Michael Yost, Jr., Business/Personnel Administrator Kristin Yoder, Manager/Secretary Jeanne E. Johnston, and Special Projects/Asst. Secretary Patricia A. Wylezik-Pfeiffer. Commissioner David J. Batdorf was absent.

NOTICE:

Public comment will be accepted in person. Please include your first name, last name and address for all comments. Any comments without a name or address will not be considered. To accommodate as many people as possible, we request that each person's comments be limited to 3 minutes (resolution no. 301). The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 60 minutes. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Commissioners. While public comments will be given due consideration, immediate responses will be made at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Pledge to the Flag.

COMMISSIONERS

A.) Executive Session

Executive session began at 6:32 p.m. – To discuss an emergent personnel issue.

Executive session ended at 7:00 p.m. – An emergent personnel issue was discussed. No action was taken.

PUBLIC

Attendance: Ruth O'Leary, Tonya Campbell, Perry Haas, and Mark Ferrero.

CORRESPONDENCE

A.) Meeting advertised on 11/20/25

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A) Sale of Surplus Fire Apparatus – consider authorization

- 1) Letter of intent from Dadeville Fire Department, Dadeville, AL, to purchase tanker 42 for \$50,000

Ms. Johnston explained that a broker was used for the sale, which is common practice for fire apparatus and had been authorized by the Board. Chief Beane reported that a letter of intent to

purchase fire apparatus for \$50,000 was received from Dadeville Fire Department from Alabama. Ms. Johnston explained that the broker fee will be deducted and the revenue will be deposited into the Fire Capital Fund.

ON MOTION OF MR. DONNELL, SECOND OF MS. ROWE, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF 1992 TANKER 42 TO DADEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR \$50,000.

B.) Pay Application #13 for Air Management Technologies, Inc. – consider approval

1) Pay application #13 in the amount of \$137,376.18

ON MOTION OF MS. ROWE, SECOND OF MR. DONNELL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE PAY APPLICATION #13 FOR AIR MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$137,376.18.

2026 BUDGET

A.) Fire Fund

The budget for the Fire Fund was presented based on the 3 mil maximum allowed under the 1st Class Township Code.

- 4110-132 Fire Wages – The amount listed is based on 15 total firefighters (current employees + 2 more).
- 4110-002 Fire MMO – This amount, recommended by the actuary, is based on the new pension plan.
- 4110-363 Fire Hydrant Rental – 3 out of the 4 water companies charge rental fees which are increasing. The cost appears as a surcharge on the water bills and the Township pays fees. RAWA is the only one that did not charge the rental fee. There was discussion about the number of hydrants, how often they are used, and if this could be considered double billing.

B.) Fire Capital Fund

Revenue from the sale of tanker 42 will be deposited into fire capital. Certain costs associated with the fire station would be expensed from fire capital.

C.) Final 2026 Proposed Budget

Ms. Johnston asked the Board how the budget should be formatted for publication and gave several options. Mr. Donnell proposed using one that was easier to read and suggested including the accounts with explanatory labels, consistent with the formats of prior years.

There was discussion about the proposed Fire Fund budget.

Mr. Greg Miller asked what would happen if the Township did not hire 3 extra employees. Chief Beane explained that safety is the primary concern. Hiring would help to backfill staffing and cut back on overtime.

Ms. Rowe asked if coverage was provided by the on call shift or others too. Chief Beane explained the current practice of recalling career staff to cover when needed, but it is difficult to predict when they will be needed. He offered to show and explain how run cards work.

There was a discussion about the number of firefighters and the shortages everywhere. Chief Beane reported that it was in the news that one local fire company will be closing.

Mr. Donnell asked if the concern was the safety of our firefighters or safety across the board. Chief Beane responded that it was safety across the board. More bodies help everyone be safe and get the job done effectively. Chief Beane used a recent mayday in Spring Township as an example.

Chief Beane explained that 1 position is for an officer. Currently there are 2 platoons with 3 members and 2 platoons with 2 members. The 2 new firefighters would fill out the platoons so each platoon has 3 members. This allows more flexibility to move people around and provide coverage.

Mr. Greg Miller stated that even with the increase in the fire tax to 3 mils, the end of year Fund Balance will still be short \$400,000.

There was a discussion about finances. Ms. Johnston said that another fund, usually the General Fund, would have to cover the shortfall.

Mr. Donnell stated that he was conflicted. We need to figure out this problem because the Township has a duty to the firefighters to provide safety.

Mr. William Miller explained that the budget is based on the number of firefighters per the negotiations with the union. He recommended that the Board err on the side of caution to not upset the negotiations.

Ms. Rowe agreed with the safety aspect.

Mr. Ferrero asked about the fire call volume, Chief Beane reported that it is approximately 1086 calls to date this year. The information is broken out in the monthly report to the Commissioners.

Mr. Ferrero asked if the firefighters were all career or if we have volunteers. Chief Beane replied that he can count the active volunteers on one hand. He explained civil service and all the training requirements. The number of volunteers has dwindled over the years.

Chief Beane explained that a study was done and most of the structure fires occurred in the middle of the Township. That is where the new Fire Station is being built.

Mr. Donnell introduced Ms. Campbell and Mr. Ferrero. He talked about the ability to open the budget after they are sworn into office. Ms. Johnston informed the Board that, regardless of opening the budget, the real estate tax millages must be set by the end of December to be included in the County tax bills.

Mr. Greg Miller asked the Commissioners elect how they feel about funding \$400,000 for 3 firefighters in 2026.

Mr. Ferrero said that if it is a safety issue then the Township must bite the bullet. He recommended providing good reasoning to the residents for the increase. He asked if the numbers had been vetted.

Ms. Campbell agreed that safety is a priority. We must give the residents answers and safety is a good answer.

Mr. Donnell agreed that safety was a compelling argument. He stated that in his military service he had to see grieving widows and he doesn't want to have to look into anyone's eyes again with that kind of news.

Mr. Donnell recommended that the Board should get the budget where it needs to be by getting the fiscal house in order.

Mr. William Miller stated that the Board must look at the fact that there will be 3 unions with contracts that must be upheld now and in the future. He reminded the Board that the 2 new hires for the Fire Department are needed to replace people who left. The Township did not hire the 3rd officer in 2025 as originally budgeted.

Chief Beane reported that the fire tax cap was increased in some municipalities around Philadelphia. He would recommend lobbying to lift the current cap set for the fire tax.

Mr. Greg Miller stated that pure financial analysis would indicate that the General Fund needs to be closer to 6.5 mills to mitigate the numbers. He suggested increasing the General Fund to 6.5 mills.

Mr. Donnell said that long-term vision and growth can help to move this in a different direction. We owe it to our residents to do the right thing.

Ms. Johnston stated that the auditor had instructed the Township to pay down the EOY fund balance in prior years. Over the past several years the revenue has decreased and cost of expenses has increased. For example, two more tax assessment reduction appeals were received today for Dollar General and Genesis Healthcare. The reductions in real estate assessments continue. The departments have cut several hundred thousand dollars of expenses.

Ms. Johnston asked about the ambulance tax. She stated that it needs to be at least 0.4 mil and Mr. Greg Miller had originally suggested 0.45 mil.

Mr. William Miller asked where 0.45 mil would leave the budget. Ms. Johnston replied that the carryover would get the Ambulance Fund through January and February of 2027 based on the current rates. Raising it to 0.50 mil would provide carryover for the first 3 months of 2027.

Mr. Donnell said that the state mandates that the Township must provide emergency services so we need to fund them.

Ms. Rowe asked how millage works. Ms. Johnston explained the formula and millage money value. 1 mil = \$100 on each \$100,000 of assessed property value. This is based on assessed value not market value.

Ms. Johnston requested a motion to authorize Administration to publish the budget based on the fees and tax rates agreed upon by the Board.

ON MOTION OF MR. WILLIAM MILLER, SECOND OF MR. DONNELL, A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADVERTISE THE BUDGET AS AGREED UPON BY THE BOARD TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TAX RATES: 6.5 MILS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES, 0.85 MIL FOR DEBT SERVICE, 3.0 MILS FOR FIRE SERVICES, AND 0.5 MIL FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Ms. Johnston explained that the budget will be available in the Administration Office. The budget and the Tax Rate Ordinance will be advertised for adopting at the December BOC meeting. She recommended having a consent agenda for the December meeting.

She reminded that the new Board could open the budget in respect to line items but the millage on the tax bills will already be set.

Ms. Johnston asked about having the committee appointments on the January Organization Meeting agenda. The Board agreed.

Ms. Johnston stated that the Organization Meeting is supposed to be held on the first Monday of the year. If the Board can't meet the first Monday, then it must meet the next day. There are special provisions if the Board is unable to meet within 10 days. Some parameters of the Organization Meeting are to set the regular meeting schedule and decide on officers.

REMINDERS

A.) Board of Commissioners meetings for December 2025 and January 2026

1) 12/16/2025 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular meeting

2) 1/5/2026 – Organization Meeting – establish time

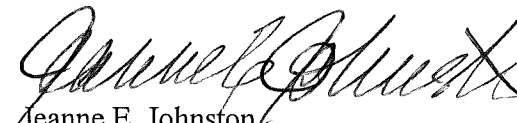
The Board agreed on 6:30 p.m. as the time for the Organization Meeting.

B.) Planning Commission 12/01/2025 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF MR. DONNELL, SECOND OF MR. WILLIAM MILLER, A
UNANIMOUS VOTE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:19 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanne E. Johnston
Manager/Secretary