

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in **Special** session on **Monday, January 26, 2026** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at **7:07 AM** Chairman Craig S. Richter presided.

Roll Call: Trustees Craig S. Richter and Ken Radtke Jr. were present
Trustee Davis arrived at 7:28 AM
Fiscal Officer Patricia Jarrett was absent
Serving as Clerk Pro Tem, Mark Purchase

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Board led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Leading Motion #: 2026-34

Topics of Discussion

2026 Permanent Budget

The Board met with each Department Head to review and discuss the 2026 permanent appropriations. Departments outlined critical funding needs related to infrastructure, safety, and storage for the upcoming year and future planning.

The Road Department reported increased material costs associated with road maintenance and discussed the potential need for a new road levy in 2026.

The Police Chief highlighted the need for increased personnel, specifically the addition of one officer. Funding options under evaluation include renewal of an expiring levy or the introduction of a new levy in 2027.

The Fire Department expressed concerns regarding the future of Fire Station 2. Although the Board has discussed the possible sale of the facility following the 2025 rezoning of the property to industrial use, the department emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate storage capacity for life- and property-saving equipment currently housed at that location.

2026 Goals

Discussion of this item was tabled to a future meeting.

Executive Session

An executive session was not required and was not held.

Park Board Joint Meeting

Mr. Richter and Mr. Davis plan to attend the joint meeting. If more than one Trustee attends, the meeting will need to be publicly advertised. Mr. Somrak suggested holding the meeting at the Geauga West Library; however, a date and time have not yet been established.

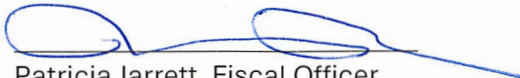
2026-34 Mr. Richter moved to approve, sign and support the proposed Memorandum of Agreement, as provided and recommended by Attorney Gregory Beck, in the continued pursuit of a potential resolution to an on-going legal matter.

Mr. Davis seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Richter, yes; Mr. Radtke, yes; Mr. Davis, yes. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Richter adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

2/5/26
Approval Date / Motion # 2026-36


Craig S. Richter, Chairman

Ken Radtke Jr., Vice-Chairman


Brandon Davis, Trustee