



**Minutes
Board of Trustees for the Town of the City of Bloomington - Regular
Session Monday, November 24, 2025 - 5:30 PM**

The City of Bloomington Township Board convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 5:31 PM. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Brady who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Trustee Dan Brady
Trustee Jenna Kearns
Trustee Micheal Mosley
Trustee John Danenberger
Trustee Michael Straza
Trustee Cody Hendricks
Trustee Mollie Ward Trustee
Kent Lee
Trustee Abby Scott

Absent: Trustee Sheila Montney

Elected Officials/Staff Present: Deborah L. Skillrud, Township Supervisor; Steve Scudder, Township Assessor; and Leslie Smith-Yocum, Township Clerk.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda are listed and voted on separately.

Trustee Ward made a motion, seconded by Trustee Straza, to approve the Item as presented.

Item 5.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the October 27, 2025, Regular Township Meeting. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 5.B. Consideration and Action to Certify the October 2025 Statement of Funds for the General Town Administration Fund, General Assistance Fund, and Cemetery Fund. (Recommended Motion: The October 2025 Statement of Funds be certified.)

Item 5.C. Consideration and Action to Approve the November 24, 2025 General Town Fund Request for Payment. (Recommended Motion: The November 24, 2025 Request for Payment be approved.)

Item 5.D. Consideration and Action to Adopt the 2026 Annual Schedule of Meetings for the Township Board of Trustees and the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Board of Trustees, as well as the 2026 Schedule of Holiday Office Closures, as requested by the Township Department. (Recommended Motion: Adopt the 2026 Annual Schedule of Meetings as well as the 2026 Schedule of Holiday Office Closures.)

Trustee Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Brady, Kearns, Mosley, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion Carried.

Regular Agenda

Item 6.A. Consideration and Action on the Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy Ordinance, as requested by the Township Department. (Recommended Motion: The Fiscal year 2026 Tax Levy for Tax Year 2025 of \$2,351,600 be adopted and the Tax Levy Ordinance No. 2025-04, as certified by the Township Clerk, be passed and placed on file with the County Clerk.)

Township Supervisor Deb Skillrud reported that there were no changes from the prior presentation. She welcomed comments from the Board.

No additional comments by the Board.

Trustee Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Trustee Scott, to approve the Item as presented.

Trustee Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Brady, Kearns, Mosley, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion Carried.

Reports by Elected Officials

Item 7.A. Presentation and Discussion of the Township Supervisor's Report.

Supervisor Skillrud reported on a change of payment models and income guidelines, which happened once a year in relation to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") Guidelines, which impact the General Assistance Handbook, from the Department of Human Services. She explained the changes primarily affected the minimum assistance amount, which was established at \$456, an increase from \$439, and was effective November 1st. Supervisor Skillrud explained that Township updated its average rent guidelines for one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and other units, increasing the amounts in all categories. She noted that the new figures may be slightly higher than the calculated average rents in order to account for utilities, and that the revised assistance levels were now roughly equivalent to one month's rent for an individual or family unit. She stated that this change was intended to better support residents who may be facing financial crises.

She then reported that Township received \$28,264 in Social Security reimbursement, including a single check for \$18,000 for an individual who had been on general assistance for an extended period, with the remainder made up of smaller reimbursements. She highlighted the Emergency Food Relief Program, noting that the oldest recipient was 89, the youngest was 19, and the average age was 47, and that the program served nearly 500 people. She described how the office was overwhelmed with demand, receiving over 600 calls related to the food program while also continuing to process general and emergency assistance. Due to the volume, staff had to temporarily close the office doors to focus on handling calls and processing applications. She expressed that the program was very rewarding and emphasized how proud she was of the staff's response during this challenging period.

Trustee Brady thanked Supervisor Skillrud and the Township staff for their work on the food program.

Trustee Ward asked if anyone was turned away from the emergency food benefits program. Supervisor Skillrud replied that no one was turned away, though some applicants did not provide the required documentation or return calls. She believed the Township met its goal of helping as many people as possible until the State's system was restored.

Trustee Ward then asked Supervisor Skillrud for more information about the Workfare Program, specifically what kind of work participants do and how sites were chosen. Supervisor Skillrud explained that workfare sites were nonprofit or church-related organizations and were selected so that participants would not displace regular employees. She listed several sites, including the POTS program, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Oasis Church (food pantry), the Bloomington Public Library (book sorting), and another church where participants do general cleaning. She noted that some sites, such as Home Sweet Home and the Library, require stringent background checks, so clients with certain criminal histories cannot be placed there. She emphasized that clients can be unpredictable in their ability to maintain regular work habits, and the goal was to match individuals with appropriate sites and encourage proper work ethics. She added that Township currently had enough sites and was working on an intergovernmental agreement with the McLean County Department of Human Services to share their POTS location for that agency's work requirements.

Item 7.B. Presentation and Discussion of the Township Assessor's Report.

Township Assessor Steve Scudder reported that the Assessor's Office had received around 350 complaints for the Board of Review at the County level, all of which had to be individually reviewed by his small team. He noted that, while 350 complaints did not seem like many compared to approximately 27,000 parcels, the volume still posed a challenge given the time constraints and their commitment to thoroughly checking each complaint for possible assessment errors. He added that another challenge was that his staff assisted in answering phones for the Township Supervisor's Office when they became overloaded with calls related to a benefit program. Despite these pressures, he stated that his team were on target and they expected to meet the end-of-year deadline.

Trustee Scott asked for more information on the second chart in his report.

Assessor Scudder explained that the dollar amount change shown in the chart represented the total reduction in assessed values resulting from Board of Review complaints. He stated that in 2023, there may have been a computer glitch that caused some extra data to be pulled, but that the system was corrected. He clarified that the figures came from comparing the original

assessment level with the requested assessment on each complaint, and the dollar amount change reflected the decrease in assessment the office ultimately granted, since assessments at the Board of Review typically could only go down. He also noted that the chart was preliminary, based only on data entered as of November 18th, and that the total dollar amount change would continue to grow until all hearings were completed and the Board of Review issued a final count sometime in January.

Adjournment

Trustee Ward made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hendricks, to approve the Item as presented.

Trustee Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

Ayes: Brady, Kearns, Mosley, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP

ATTEST



Dan Brady

Amanda Stutsman

Dan Brady, Board Chair

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy Township Clerk