

Record of Proceedings: September 22, 2026

West Chester Township Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting

Convene: Chairperson Becker convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mrs. Becker, Mr. Wong, and Mrs. Ortiz responded.

Pledge of Allegiance: Repeated by those present.

Mrs. Becker began the meeting with a statement regarding comments made at the previous Trustee meeting by former Trustee Mark Welch relative to the termination of former Finance Director Ken Keim. She said he voluntarily resigned, therefore the matter did not need to come before the Board, adding other comments she characterized as factual. She concluded by saying Administrator Brown was acting within the scope of her authority.

Citizen's Comments

Michael Eck, 8001 Woodglen Drive, praised the Board and township departments for their activities.

Mark Welch, 5879 Owl nest Drive, said Ms. Brown broke the policy for terminating an employee by not discussing the matter in Executive Session. He said Mrs. Becker was complicit, and questioned whether the Law Director had been consulted on the matter. He said earned benefits were withheld from Mr. Keim for four months as leverage, and was concerned the township was devolving into a place of fear and intimidation. He concluded by asking Ms. Brown to account for the whereabouts of the performance evaluation he submitted in December.

Dale Fenn, 7596 Nordan Drive, said Mr. Welch was trash talking and making up things about the Board. He said Mr. Welch's comments were just sour grapes. He concluded by saying Mr. Welch should find a hobby and leave the Board alone.

Joel Herzog, (declined to give his address for security concerns), spoke regarding the openness and transparency of the Board, noting the 5:00 meeting time prevents working people from attending and asked that the meeting time be moved back to 6:00. Furthermore, he said the Board's new ruled prohibiting citizen comments at both opportunities is restrictive. He concluded by asking that his January 26th public information request be fulfilled.

Bruce Jones, 5685 McCarthy Court, first praised Saniya Taylor for being a state champion. He praised the Budget Work Session of September 9th. He said he was there advocating for a reduction in resident's property taxes and asked the Board to pursue that. He reminded everyone he did not report to the Trustees, he reports to the voters, and therefore was their independent voice. Mr. Jones said it would not be a political win for him if they pursued a reduction in property owner's taxes, but would benefit everyone and that would be a positive reflection on the Trustees if they pursued a reduction.

Presentations

Saniya Taylor, Lakota West student athlete, was presented a Proclamation by PIE Director Brianna Wooten that recognized her for being a state track champion and an inspiration to others.

PIE Director Brianna Wooten conducted a drawing to select who would be permitted to play pickleball on the new Beckett West pickleball courts at the October 14th grand opening.

Personnel Items

Ms. Brown introduced the Personnel Items consisting of, (1) hiring career Firefighter/EMT Keegan Sauter effective October 5, 2026 at the bi weekly rate of \$2,800.99; (2) hiring career Firefighter/EMT Phillip Corcoran effective October 5, 2026 at the bi weekly rate of \$2,800.99; (3) hiring Jesse Reynolds to the position of Facility Technician effective September 21, 2026 at the hourly rate of \$34.86. These were identified on the agenda as Personnel Items 2 through 4. **MOTION** made by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve Personnel Items 2 through 4, seconded by Mr. Wong. Discussion: The Trustees each welcomed and expressed praise for the new hires. Their family members in the audience were recognized. **Motion carried unanimously.** Thereupon Fiscal officer Jones administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Sauter and Mr. Corcoran, accompanied by Chief Prinz.

Action Items – For Approval by Motion

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve payment of bills – August 29, 2026 through September 11, 2026. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve the Trustee Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2026. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve the Trustee Work Session Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2026. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Requisitions – Greater than \$7,500.00

Ms. Brown submitted the following requisitions greater than \$7,500:

- 08. CIT \$54,280.11 Dell Marketing L.P. - Purchase 54 computers and 10 monitors
(CIP 1760 - 1767 & 2183)
- 09. Fire \$13,736.00 Mobilcomm, Inc. - Purchase and install two wireless headsets
(CIP 2162)
- 10. Services \$14,880.00 Butler Tech & Career Dev Schools - Pay tuition for CDL
training September 22, 2026
- 11. Services \$10,860.00 Benchmark Land Management LLC - Reconstruct headwall on
Barrett Road

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve payment of requisitions

8 through 11. Discussion: In response to Mrs. Becker's question, Services Director Huxsoll said the CDL license is subject to renewal, and everyone in his department has a CDL license. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Items

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve Resolution 27-2026 declaring a Township vehicle unfit for public use and authorizing the disposal of said vehicle. Discussion: None. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve Resolution 28-2026 authorizing the acceptance of the proposed agreed entry resolving the West Chester Township Board of Trustees case involving property at 8468 Cox Road; Butler County Court of Common Pleas Case No. CV 2026 03 0581. Discussion: None. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to authorize Township Administrator to accept Norfolk Southern Safety First Community Grant. Discussion: Ms. Brown said the grant amount was for \$12,000 and will be used to upgrade the interior of their police vehicles. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve guaranteed maximum price agreement between West Chester Board of Trustees and Prus Construction for construction manager at risk for Beckett Park West improvements; and, authorize Township Administrator to make non-substantive changes with Law Director approval and execute said agreement (CIP 2120). Discussion: Ms. Brown said this would be used for the playground, the trails, and the restrooms. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve contract between West Chester Township Board of Trustees and Civil and Environmental Consultants for Beckett Park West construction material testing not to exceed \$55,000.00; and, authorize Township Administrator make non-substantive changes with Law Director approval and execute said agreement (CIP 2120). Discussion: None. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

Citizen's Comments

Darbi Boddy, (declined to give her address for safety concerns), questioned why West Chester had a trade mission to China given its adversarial relationship with the United States. She expressed concern with an Islamic and Socialist takeover, and cited concerns she has with Mrs. Becker's leadership. She said Mrs. Becker does not express a concern to protect West Chester residents.

Bill Lendl, 6080 Tennyson Drive, expressed his appreciation for West Chester's support for Founders Day. He praised our first responders, and also said he's lived many places and West Chester is the best place to live.

Resolutions, Emergency Readings

There were no such resolutions or emergency readings.

Discussion Items & Elected Trustees/Administrator Comments

Mr. Wong commented on Ms. Brown, Mr. Welch, and read a statement regarding performance evaluations by Board members. He said the Board would conduct business lawfully, transparently, and by majority rule. Regarding property taxes he said he'd just as soon eliminate them, adding that the Board did not have the authority to reduce property taxes, but only make suggestions to the Butler County Budget Commission.

Mrs. Ortiz praised Briana Wooten for the recent newsletter. She commented on several recent community events.

Mrs. Becker mentioned citizen comments regarding changing the meeting time, and the Board indicated they would like further discussion. Mrs. Becker asked Ms. Brown about the public information request submitted by Mr. Herzog and she said they replied to his request. Mrs. Becker reiterated her comment that former Finance Director Ken Keim was not terminated, rather that he resigned. She responded to Ms. Boddy's comment regarding Muslims saying they could not intervene in matters of religious practices as it would be unconstitutional. PIE Director Wooten commented on the upcoming Great Pumpkin festivities at Keehner Park.

Ms. Brown responded to an assertion by Mr. Welch by saying Mr. Keim's earned benefits were not withheld from him and cited pay and free health insurance he received after his departure. She said Communications & IT Director Dennis Dick received the 2026 Ohio Center for Technology Leadership Award.

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to recess the Regular meeting and go into Executive Session with legal counsel for the purpose of: (1) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property by competitive bid, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code. O.R.C. 121.22(G)(2); (2) conference with an attorney for the Township concerning disputes involving the Township that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. O.R.C. 121.22(G)(3); (3) consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance or negotiating with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance. The information to be discussed is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided under any of the Revised Code provisions set forth in O.R.C. 121.22(G)(8)(a), or involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project.

Mrs. Becker then asked Mr. Jones to conduct a roll call to determine that executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project and that the criteria specified in O.R.C. 121.22(G)(8)(a) and (b) apply. All Trustees responded affirmatively to the roll call.

Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Becker said the Board would return to recess the Regular meeting and go into Executive Session. Mrs. Becker declared the meeting in recess.

Post Executive Session/ Adjournment

MOTION made by Mrs. Ortiz to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Wong. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to adjourn the Regular meeting. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Jones, Fiscal Officer

Approved,



Ann Becker, Chairperson