

**Minutes**  
**Penn Township Advisory Board, St. Joseph County Indiana**  
**Penn Township Trustee's Office**  
**210 E Russ Ave, Mishawaka, IN 46545**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**In attendance:**

Kent Hizer- President  
Kris Verash- Board Member  
Doris Portolese- Trustee  
Michael Gerndt- Fire Chief

**Absent:**

Mark Voelker- Secretary

**Members of the public in attendance:**

Gary Deardurff  
Nancy Duncan



**5:30 pm- Pledge of Allegiance**

**Call to Order:** Kent Hizer

**New Business:**

Approval of Minutes for Feb 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Motion to approve: Verash
- Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hizer
- Approved 2-0

Chief Gerndt informed the board that the next phase of the crash site memorial on Jackson Rd will commence soon. They are looking to secure some materials to finish before they set a date sometime in the near future.

**Old Business:**

Clay-Penn Fire Territory status: Waiting on DLGF to approve the agreement/budget passed by all seven entities on March 24<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, Trustee Portolese informed the board that the trustees from each township would be meeting to begin discussion relating to transitional leadership and Fire Territory Board formation upon DLGF approval.

Trustee Portolese informed the board that the new ambulance chassis has been placed on insurance coverage. This precipitated the deceiver of the chassis to the body manufacturer in Wyoming to complete the assembly process. The planned time for this new ambulance to be in service is estimated to be during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2026.

**Fire Chief's Report:**

Chief Gerndt distributed the incident report for February 2026 to the board for review. It was noted there were three structure fires during this period. 56% of calls were medical related. 12% were hazardous situation calls. 18% were "no emergency" or false alarms and 9% were public service calls. The remaining calls fell into several other categories as detailed in the report and totaled 196 calls.

**Trustee's Report:**

Financials for February have been distributed electronically.

**Call for adjournment:**

5:50 pm

**Next Meeting Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 5:30 pm; Penn Township Trustee's Office**