

Record of Proceedings
Joint meeting of Village of Peninsula Council & Boston Township Board of Trustees for
the Village of Peninsula and Boston Township Association & Regular Council Meeting
Held: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER OF JOINT MEETING: Mayor Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL FOR JOINT MEETING

Boston Township Board of Trustees:

Amy Anderson	Present	Randy Bergdorf	Present
Donald Beal	Present		

Village of Peninsula Council:

Mayor Daniel Schneider, Jr.	Present	George Haramis	Present
Richard Slocum	Present	John Najeway	Present
Daniel Schneider	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Douglas Steidl	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor, Brad Bryan

REVIEW OF 2025, REVIEW OF 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT, AND REPORT ON 2025 BUDGET AND PLANS:

Mr. Bergdorf provided an overview of cemetery income and expenses, noting modest revenue from lot sales, burial services, and headstone foundations, and revenue from the property tax. The miscellaneous income included reimbursements from the Bureau of Workers Compensation. The major expenses are payroll-related, with additional costs for utilities, grave digging, equipment supplies, and occasional new purchases. Recent projects included displaying restored historic headstones at the museum, routine maintenance like branch removal and flag replacements, and pre-made foundations. Planned projects include fence repairs at both cemeteries, resurfacing drives, replacing dead trees, and repairing and stabilizing grave markers, which become the cemetery's responsibility after installation.

Ms. Anderson reported recent conditions at the cemetery were challenging due to flooding but praised the efforts of the staff and their dedication and hard work in maintaining the grounds. She noted that Mark mowed twice in difficult conditions to restore the lawn's appearance, Marty excelled in string trimming around graves, and Rick handled both oversight and regular mowing duties. She also mentioned the purchase of ground protection equipment to improve long-term maintenance efficiency. During the discussion, Ms. Anderson recounted an incident where a tractor mower became stuck. Help and equipment provided by Mr. Najeway resolved the issue. Mr. Najeway added that he checks the cemetery daily and noted the contributions of Councilman Schneider and Ms. Anderson, even if they can't be present every day. The conversation concluded with Mr. Bergdorf sharing a lighthearted story about a lot sale where a potential buyer laid down on the plot before purchasing it.

Resolution No. 10-2025

A Joint Resolution Authorizing the Continuance of the One Mill Cemetery Maintenance Tax for the Village of Peninsula and Boston Township Union Cemetery Association

Mr. Bryan read the legislation by title and explained the Township does not have a three reading rule for legislation. Mr. Haramis made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bergdorf to

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waive the three-reading rule on behalf of Village Council. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bergdorf to adopt the legislation. Roll call vote: Ms. Anderson, yes; Mr. Bergdorf, yes; Mr. Beal, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes.

Mr. Bergdorf mentioned that the Library provided the Village with a sewer easement document in 1989, and he is not sure whether it was actually filed with the County. He does not know whether the Village Council accepted the easement, authorized it to be filed, or actually filed it. Mr. Bryan stated he would look into the matter and wondered whether the legal description would need to be updated if it needs to be filed. Mr. Bergdorf also voiced his concerns about the Village Area Master Plan referencing the Township Hall parking lot as a potential location for additional public parking. Mr. Bryan confirmed that OHM was notified of the Township's stance on that issue. Mr. Slocum stated the project Steering Committee and Village never supported that idea and advised OHM accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING:

Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Slocum to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Ms. Anderson, yes; Mr. Bergdorf, yes; Mr. Beal, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Daniel Schneider, Jr.	Present	George Haramis	Present
Richard Slocum	Present	John Najeway	Present
Daniel Schneider	Present	Eliud Rosales	Present
Douglas Steidl	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor Brad Bryan; Fiscal Officer Katie Iaconis; Administrative Assistant Faith Dorton.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

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PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

April 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Haramis made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Steidl to approve the Minutes. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The Minutes were approved.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mo Riggins raised concerns about the short-term rental unit above the toy store. She alleged the owner was falsely advertising only one parking space instead of the required three. Although the listing was later updated, she questioned whether the underlying violation was resolved. She noted many similar listings lack sufficient parking and mentioned her public records request from two weeks ago that the administration is still processing. Ms. Riggins also addressed an alleged liquor law violation at the Bronson House during the Ramp Up event, questioning how Mr. Piekarski or others would be held accountable. The Mayor responded that the Police Department was not contacted regarding the issue, and no police report was filed. He only learned of the issue several days later and emphasized the importance of real-time reporting to the Police Department. Mr. Najeway added that the beer was sold under the expectation of legal compliance, which was not met. He recommended that a warning letter be issued to the organizers to prevent future violations.

Amy Frank-Hensley referenced a previous discussion proposing a Dark Sky Ordinance initiative and asked whether the Planning Commission intended to move forward with that issue. Mr. Bryan stated the matter would be on the next Planning Commission Meeting agenda. He noted the issue was discussed by the Planning Commission a few years ago, but no legislation was requested at that time. Ms. Frank-Hensley asked how the NOPEC grant funds would be used by the Village. The Mayor explained they would probably be used for replacing windows at Village Hall. There are only two windows left to be replaced. Mr. Bryan added that this NOPEC grant is awarded annually to the Village and is based on the number of customers in the Village. The Village is required to accept the grant and has a three-year window to use the funds. The Village receives around \$2,000 per year from this grant. Ms. Frank-Hensley recommended publicizing how these funds are used. She asked whether the Village has explored participation in the NOPEC natural gas discount program as well, noting Boston Township is listed as a participant. Mr. Haramis explained that Peninsula residents should be included under the Boston Township program due to all Village residents also being residents of the Township. Ms. Frank-Hensley advocated for greater involvement in regional programs, specifically suggesting the Village revisit Summit County's surface water management program. Mr. Slocum and Mr. Bryan expressed concerns about reporting requirements and potential staffing limitations that would prevent the Village from preparing the required reports without costly outside help. Mr. Bryan and Mr. Slocum also acknowledged there may be some benefits associated with being a member of that group. Ms. Frank-Hensley encouraged Council to invite a representative to present information so the community could make an informed decision. Mr. Slocum supported this idea, emphasizing that program participation could eventually bring project funding to Peninsula.

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Greg Canda noted the residential exterior lighting ordinance is on second reading this evening. He requested that it be added to the next Planning Commission Meeting agenda before it is passed by Council.

REPORTS

Mayor, Daniel Schneider, Jr.: The Mayor confirmed the next Planning Commission meeting would be moved to Tuesday the May 27, 2025 due to the Memorial Day holiday. He reported that interviews for the open Zoning Officer position would take place the following day, and there are now two vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals due to a recent resignation. Mr. Bryan added that BZA members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council. There is a notice requesting interested applicants to apply posted on the Village website and in the community newsletter. Mr. Bryan stated the Village Ordinances permit one Planning Commission Member to also serve on the BZA in order to facilitate communication between the two bodies. He asked Mr. Canda if he was interested in applying.

Fiscal Officer, Ms. Iaconis: Ms. Iaconis apologized for not sending out financial updates, explaining that she was having issues with the state-provided accounting system. While it is inexpensive and user-friendly, a forced update tied to newly issued equipment has hampered her work. Ms. Iaconis confirmed the Village's General Fund balance has remained steady at approximately \$1.5 million throughout the year. She noted the Village is expected to receive additional property tax revenue later this month. Councilperson Schneider brought up the need to schedule a JEDD meeting to appoint a replacement for Bill Clifton, who recently resigned from the Township Board of Trustees. The Mayor and Ms. Iaconis agreed to check whether the appointment must occur immediately or can wait until the annual meeting.

Street Commissioner, Mr. Anderson: The Mayor advised Mr. Anderson had nothing to report.

Finance Liaison, Mr. Slocum

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports & Ratification of Submitted Bills List

Mr. Slocum asked for an update on the status of the audit. Ms. Iaconis explained that due to an immediate family member passing, there was a delay in the process, but it is now back on track. Due to the disruption with the new software provided to her, Ms. Iaconis did not have financial reports or a bills list for the meeting.

Police Department Liaison, Councilperson Schneider: Councilperson Schneider stated he had nothing to report.

Roads and Public Works Liaison, Mr. Haramis:

Motion to Authorize the Mayor to Accept the Quote from Melway Paving Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$33,760 for Paving Work on Six Village Roads

Mr. Haramis provided an update on the Village roads, reporting that he and Melway Paving Company conducted a review of road conditions. Melway Paving has worked extensively with multiple local municipalities and the Village in the past. Road damage over the winter was more severe than expected, particularly from the February storms. Mr. Haramis stressed the

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urgency of performing a chip and seal to preserve the roads and prevent further deterioration over the next winter. Mr. Haramis made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to accept the quote and authorize a not to exceed amount of \$40,000 for the repairs. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Steidl: Mr. Canda stepped in for Mr. Steidl, since Mr. Steidl was not present for the last Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Canda reported that while most Planning Commission topics had been covered, he needed to add a few key updates. One issue raised at the meeting was the need to remind residents in the Historic Overlay District that a Certificate of Appropriateness is required when changing the exterior color palette of their home. There is a concern that the color change regulation is not widely known. Mr. Najeway clarified that the complaint appeared to concern his property. He stated his property is not within the Historic Overlay District. He noted that despite not being in the district, he verified the appropriateness of the chosen color with the National Archives and historic architecture experts. Mr. Canda also noted the Planning Commission agreed not to put the Area Mater Plan on the agenda for final approval at its next meeting. The Commission would instead review the Plan chapter by chapter. The Commission also commenced discussions about potential zoning changes for portions of N. Locust and Main Streets. No decisions on those issues were made at the meeting.

Zoning Officer: The Mayor noted he addressed this issue under his Mayor's report.

Board of Zoning Appeals, Mayor Schneider: The Mayor reported that the variances requested for the three properties on the BZA Meeting agenda were approved by the BZA. He also noted there are two vacant seats on the BZA, which was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Liaison, Mr. Steidl:

Motion to Authorize an Additional \$9,000 to Hummell Construction Company for the Village Hall and Police Station Modifications Project to Replace the Carpeting in the First Floor Rest Room Corridor and Refinish the Council Chambers and Main Staircase Wood Floors

Mr. Steidl announced the next Planning Commission Meeting will be held at the Boston Township Hall, while the following Council Meeting is expected to return to Village Hall. He noted that most of the project's contingency funds have been used for critical life safety improvements, including a full circuit board replacement, new wiring, and a fire alarm system upgrade, due to persistent and dangerous electrical issues. Some structural issues also came to light during the renovation. The building has been significantly improved, and the Police Department received new lockers and shelving. Mr. Steidl made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Haramis to authorize an additional \$9,000 to Hummell Construction Company for the Village Hall and Police Station Modifications Project. Roll call vote: Mr. Steidl, yes; Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved

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Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Liaison, Mr. Rosales: Mr. Rosales reported that Music on the Porches is scheduled for September 20, 2025, and the Ramp Up event was very successful. No determination was made regarding the cause of the Eddy's Bike Shop fire. Permits to clean up the site are under review.

Community Events Liaison, Mr. Najeway: Mr. Najeway shared that the June 6 Peninsula Live event is approaching. Signs are up, but the event still needs a few vendors. Some vendors have been hesitant to commit due to economic concerns.

Policies & Procedures Liaison, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum stated he had nothing to report. The Mayor shared that the Village employees are in the beginning stages of switching from Gmail to Microsoft accounts. Other technical matters are in the process of getting resolved.

Fire Board, Mr. Slocum: Mr. Slocum reported the Fire Board held both a regular meeting and an emergency meeting to approve funding for repairs to a 10-year-old diesel fire truck with a clogged filter. During repairs, the department relied on a failing 30-year-old Boston Heights tanker, prompting discussions about its potential replacement. New tankers now cost around \$900,000 and take years to acquire. The Department is also hiring a new full-time firefighter to replace a current one who is leaving for another job. Two major fires occurred recently, including a significant fire on Rt. 303. Seventeen different departments responded to that emergency. The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Chief was so impressed with the Valley Fire tanker shuttle system that he requested training for his department. The Mayor noted the Village nearly matched hydrant-level water flow using their dump tank method, which is a technique dating back to the 1970s.

Cemetery Board, Councilperson Schneider: Councilperson Schneider reported there is a Board Meeting on Thursday.

JEDD Board, Councilperson Schneider: Councilperson Schneider stated he had no further updates.

Wastewater/Stormwater/Water Liaison, Mr. Najeway: Mr. Najeway reported there are no new updates.

Area Master Plan, Mr. Slocum and Mr. Steidl: The Mayor asked whether the updated version of the Plan is posted on the Village website. Ms. Dorton confirmed everything received has been posted and is current on the Village website. Mr. Slocum added that Mr. Burgoyne responded to the request to add left turn lanes at the Rt. 303 and Riverview Road intersection, stating that the turn lanes were not necessary, except briefly for westbound Rt. 303 traffic during the weekday rush hour. The Mayor and Mr. Slocum discussed the possibility of using smart traffic lights to improve flow during those peak times. Mr. DeAngelo and Mr. Haramis shared their experiences with regular traffic congestion at that intersection. Mr. Bryan noted any request to extend the 25 miles-per-hour speed zone farther west would require formal justification through the state

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warrant process, since that area is not considered a downtown business district. The Mayor noted that the previous

speed limit signage changes were made by the state, and the Village has little ability to influence those decisions.

Solicitor, Mr. Bryan: Mr. Bryan informed Council that the road levy must be placed on the ballot this year, and that legislation to certify the levy to the Board of Elections for placement on the November ballot will need to be passed by Council. Mr. Bryan received the certificates from the County showing a renewal levy would generate \$61,727 annually, while a replacement levy would generate \$86,119. Due to House Bill 28, which has been passed by the Ohio House and is expected to be adopted by the Ohio Senate, the Village would be prohibited from placing a replacement levy on the ballot, effectively requiring the Village to certify a renewal levy. In moving that legislation, the State Legislature has highlighted voter confusion and fairness to commercial property owner concerns associated with replacement levies. Mr. Bryan stated he would draft renewal levy legislation for the next meeting, aiming to meet the early August filing deadline for the November ballot. He confirmed Mr. Haramis' understanding that renewal levies generate the same amount of revenue, despite rising property values, whereas replacement levies adjust for current values and increase revenue.

LEGISLATION:

Third Reading:

Resolution No. 06-2025

Requested by: Councilperson Najeway

A Resolution Amending the Rate of Pay for the Mayor for the Term Commencing January 1, 2028

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. Mr. Slocum made a motion to adopt the Resolution that was seconded by Mr. Najeway. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The legislation was adopted.

Second Reading:

Ordinance No. 09-2025

Requested by: Mayor Schneider and Solicitor Bryan

An Ordinance Establishing Section 1351.23 of the Village Property Maintenance Code Pertaining to Exterior Lighting on Residential Properties

Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. It was determined that this Resolution would advance to a third reading at next month's Council Meeting.

First Reading:

Resolution No. 11-2025

Requested by: Mayor Schneider

A Resolution Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2025 Energized Community Grant Funds

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Mr. Bryan read the Resolution by title. Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Haramis to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The three-

reading rule was suspended. Mr. Najeway made a motion to adopt the Resolution that was seconded by Mr. Steidl. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The legislation was adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

PayByPhone Process Functionality

The Mayor discussed unresolved issues with the Pay-by-Phone parking system. While some improvements have been made, further evaluation with staff working alongside Mr. Slocum is planned to determine if the current system can be improved or if alternatives are needed. The Mayor shared a story about its use in Pennsylvania, where enforcement officers used handheld devices to issue printed tickets. He suggested exploring similar functionality for the Village.

Mr. Najeway revisited previous discussions about a new sign in front of Village Hall. He stated he should have an updated design ready for the June 10 Council Meeting. He also asked for clarification about how residents are informed about Certificate of Appropriateness requirements for homes in the Historic Overlay District. Mr. Canda confirmed that the Planning Commission handles such matters and that the Zoning Code outlines when certificates are required. Mr. Najeway shared his experience researching the historic status of his home, working with zoning officials, the Summit County Historical Society, and referencing various historical plaques and records, noting some inconsistencies in Village historic maps over time. Mr. Bryan noted that the Village National Historic District is different and larger than the Village Historic Overlay District.

Mr. Najeway announced that the Conservancy for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park requested the opportunity to present updated conceptual plans for the former golf course property to the Village. After discussion, it was agreed to hold a meeting for that purpose on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Mr. Bryan clarified that it would be considered a Special Council Meeting and that the Planning Commission Members would be invited. It was agreed that the event would be shared in Your Community News. Mr. Slocum emphasized that it should be a joint Planning and Council meeting that would allow Planning Commission members to deliberate the options among themselves. He believed that Planning members being invited to an official Council meeting was not the same thing and did not constitute an official Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Bryan disagreed saying that it was an open meeting. Mr. Najeway confirmed the Conservancy may host its own separate public forum in the future, but this initial meeting would be for the Village's benefit. A motion to schedule a Special Council Meeting on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall for the purpose of allowing the Conservancy and Park to present its current conceptual plans for the old golf course property was made by Mr. Najeway and seconded by Mr. Haramis. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum, yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved.

Amy Frank-Hensley inquired about the status of the installation of the new street signs. Mr. Najeway reported that road crews had begun reviewing locations, but progress was delayed

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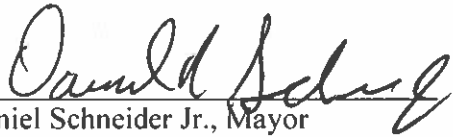
while awaiting feedback from Summit County to ensure the placement of the new signs would not interfere with the upcoming Summit Connects Project work. The project, part of a broader Summit County initiative connecting all 31 municipalities with fiber cable lines, includes underground utility installation and a critical emergency communications node at Village Hall. The Mayor has been pressing for timely sign installation but also wants to avoid conflicts with future utility installations, particularly around N. Locust Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY) None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Najeway made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Schneider to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Councilperson Schneider, yes; Mr. Slocum,

yes; Mr. Haramis, yes; Mr. Steidl, yes; Mr. Rosales, yes; Mr. Najeway, yes. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Daniel Schneider Jr., Mayor

6-10-25
Date


Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer

6/10/2025