

The September 9, 2025 meeting of St. Albans Township was called to order by Chairman, Bruce Lane.

All trustees and fiscal officer were present.

The minutes of the August 12, 2025 public hearing were approved.

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The fiscal officer read fund balances to date.

Todd Poole said the phone system upgrades are in progress at the firehouse and should be up and running at this time next week.

The OPWC Jug Street guard rail project is being delayed for legal reasons. The engineer is pausing to get information from the prosecutor.

Todd talked about moving forward with a new records retention schedule and what we need to do in order to get rid of records.

The Parks district grant is also being delayed due to not passing inspection of the building code.

Woody Fox gave the August Zoning report and said he asked the zoning commission to look over and revise the zoning and re-zoning applications. The ones we are currently using are outdated.

Dave Sapp asked about the guard rail on Mojean Way and Todd responded that he has gotten no word on that but the liason for the OPWC is in the audience and can touch on it later in the meeting.

Mike Theisen gave the August Fire and EMS reports and said they are still working on staffing.

Randal Almendinger made a motion to move public comments to the end of the meeting.

2nd by Jean Morrison. Roll call: Bruce Lane -yes, Jean Morrison -yes, Randal Almendinger -yes. Motion carried.

Bruce Lane made a motion to hold our annual records retention meeting October 14 2025 at 6:45 P.M. at the Firestation Community Room.

2nd by Jean Morrison. Roll call: Jean Morrison -yes, Randal Almendinger -yes, Bruce Lane -yes. Motion carried.

#9/9/25 A Bruce Lane made a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (entire resolution is on file).

2nd by Randal Almendinger. Roll call: Bruce Lane -yes, Randal Almendinger -yes, Jean Morrison -yes. Resolution passed.

Pursuant to R.C. 709.45(C) the trustees merger position statements are as follows:

Bruce Lane Thanks citizens for voting in the merger commission, thanks to the merger commission for their work. I ask that everyone reads the conditions and statements on the merger website and understand what it means, its very important. There has been an announcement of a mega project at Beech and Mink and there

will be 1500 homes, he thinks. 2 test wells will be drilled -1 on the Geiger property at the edge of town and the other one just below the township in Granville Township. This is an indication of how close we are to serious issues.

If we are not looking at whats coming or could be coming we are doing a dis-service to our community. A merger is the best chance for this community to retain it's rural nature and to take advantage of the home rule to help control development and make it somewhere we can be proud of living for the next 15-20 years.

Randal Almendinger grew up in Monroe Township and loves the township way of life. The encroachment is not going to be coming this way as quickly as we anticipated and if we implement JEDD's in the right locations and use other zoning tools we can stop them from coming our way. He has sat on the board for 14 years and is 100% for the township, always has been. We can use JEDD's NCA's, the future land use map and comp plan to protect us. Definitely don't want to see a merger.

Jean Morrison did help start the merger idea in the beginning and got some information. Money wise there are ways to do it differently. It is harder for us to be taken away if we merge. I am not absolutely positive of that now. Took a trip around Intel and its getting closer and closer and I don't want that here. I'm still up in the air. They've worked hard and figured out the money and I've been to a lot and a lot of their meetings, and I'm not going to say I'm for this or for that, I'm sorry but I'm still up in the air.

The fiscal officer asked about the results from the attorney from the August meeting that Todd Poole was supposed to get an opinion from Peter Griggs on paying the invoice submitted by the merger commission for mailers.

Trustees waived their attorney/client privilege so Todd could discuss.

Any costs incurred after the statutory end of the merger commission cannot legally be paid. Invoices for mailers, advertising and informational campaigns. There's nothing in the revised code that says that's prescribed. It is not recommended to pay the Minuteman Press invoice because there's nothing in the law that governs that.

The fiscal officer added that the mailers didn't get mailed out until August 13th.

Joe Hickey of Jersey Mill, said there is a big log in Pioneer Cemetery that needs to be removed. Dave Sapp will take care of it. And Joe said there is noise from Kurtz Bros between 2-3 in the morning, sounds like hammering. Woody Fox responded that falls under a noise ordinance and he would need to contact the Licking County Sherriff.

Mike Washington, of Stones Throw, speaking of accountability and leadership and the lack of support and direction they have received from trustee Bruce Lane. Speaking as a concerned resident, not as an opponent and believes we deserve

better. On 2 separate occasions July 9th and May 14th Mr. Lane was publicly asked why he had spent nearly \$16,000.00 in township funds on private discussions with a law firm specializing in water and sewer despite the fact that the township does not have jurisdiction over these matters. Details have yet to be provided. This lack of transparency is deeply concerning especially now that the JAG plan has been reviewed and found to be incomplete in 9 of 10 areas many pointing to the inability to manage water and sewer in un-incorporated areas, like St. Albans Township. A group that has been proven to be a financial nightmare for Johnstown and Granville now seeks to control us as well. Asked that the attorney /client privilege be released and let the residents know what their money has been spent on. You have constantly acknowledged that our community faces development pressure yet for the last 2 years I have asked you to attend the OTA winter conference which offers invaluable education on tools to manage this very pressure and you have not attended. How can we trust that you are preparing us for the future when you fail to utilize resources available to you. This lack of support for our township has been consistent, you voted to approve a merger commission extension and have yet to publicly state that the proposed merger is a bad deal for the residents who you are meant to represent. The community needs a leader who will stand up for our interests. We also have no JEDD's, TIF's or NCA's in place, all tools which could help us manage this growth despite you serving as the chairperson for 2 sessions now. The evidence of your email correspondence from 2022 supporting a merger with Alexandria only adds to residents lack of trust. This township deserves better. We need to be pro-active not re-active. It is time for smart leadership to move St. Albans Township forward in the fight against unwanted and unplanned commercial growth. I urge you to re-consider why you are running for trustee. Residents need and deserve a representative who will fight for us.

Tad VanNess, Morse Rd. Here to speak to the residents of St. Albans Township. It has been more than evident that Trustee Lane has acted without having the best interest of the township in mind. Hard earned almost \$16,000.00 of taxpayer money spent on attorney fees is completely wasted now, water and sewer issues that we never had any jurisdiction of. Mr. Lane inserted himself in the JAG issues and at the township's expense. Mike Washington, as a member of the Zoning board and Tad himself as a member of the Comp plan and future land use map committee have been more effective as citizens then trustee Lane's entire tenure as trustee. It can only be imagined what they could get done as trustees. As proof positive the land deal with the former Legend Lane golf course fell through. It's certain that their efforts of the new stringent zoning code and the PD's on the comp plan had profound impact on that issue. We have better tools in our toolbox as a township than being taken over by a municipality. We talk about non-annexation but the fact of the matter is that we are being annexed by the village of Alexandria.

Mitch Peters, S. Liberty Street, village resident. Thanked everyone on the merger commission because he, like them, felt in the beginning that was the way to stop it, but not he does not feel that way now. Feels the township has made great strides in the new zoning and the future land use map of controlling any issues that we could possibly have in the future. Our neighbors, Pataskala -they don't want to annex, Johnstown- still has to get through Monroe Township and they don't have a whole lot of money and Granville- doesn't want to grow, they want to stay a village. There's really no pressure right now, the whole Intel thing has kinda died out. There is other stuff going in but in Jersey Township. He hopes after the election we can work together because between the village and the township we can make it so nobody can get in and it stays St. Albans Township and the Village of Alexandria. Kevin Anderson trying to build a garage but only has an acre. He has been told even if he spends the \$1000.00 he would not be granted a permit.

Woody Fox said he advised him not to spend the \$1000.00 because he didn't think it would be approved and he was worried he would lose his \$1000.00. Setbacks were discussed and Woody said while he does uphold them, he doesn't agree with them and feel that they need to be re-visited by trustees and based on lot size.

Mr. Anderson is going to go ahead and apply for a variance.

Jeff Mitchell said he brought up the issue of re-vising the setbacks from 50 ft. to the Zoning Commission and they said no.

Rob Platte, liason for OPWC spoke re: the guardrail on MoJean Lane saying that one was listed as a contingency project and they have not awarded contingency projects yet. Those are awarded after the 1st round projects are done and based on the money that is left from those, from projects that were over asked or didn't need the money. He is seeing a lot of money come back around this time and His opinion is we are sitting well to get that project, he just can't tell us when it will be awarded.

Rob Platte, a Pataskala resident/former Lima Township resident.

Thanked trustee Almendinger for his comments and a township trustee should be 100% behind their township residents and supporting their township otherwise you shouldn't be a trustee, so he's done a great service.

Mrs. Morrison theres a lot of information out there and unfortunately a lot of mis-information.

Trustee Lane, I've heard your sob story many many times of what townships can and can't do and really its just an example that you have no idea of what your doing. Merger commission put conditions together and their not worth the paper they are written on. If the new government is successful you can go through and have a charter for the new village and set new ordinances, they do not have to adhere to those conditions. He gave an example of how it happened to him with the

Lima township/Pataskala merger. He owns 11 contiguous acres with woods behind him and is not allowed to discharge a gun because a municipal government is allowed to set those limitations just like the new village could, so the merger commission or someone is lying saying that won't happen here. The mega project that was referenced between Mink and Beech, he's going to say someone has no idea what they are talking about. Have you reached out to either Jersey Township or the City of New Albany, because if Facebook is being used to get information that should not be the case. He is unaware of any mega project or 1500 homes and he would think he would be aware that. He asks the question why is he even running for election, he should have just quit. If you can't sit there and support your residents in your township why did you even submit a petition to run for re-election. If your preference is for this to be taken over by a municipality then why even serve as a trustee? You should quit before you walk out the door tonight. He wanted to talk about lies that are on Facebook from the pro-merger effort but his speaking time was up.

Stephanie Taylor, S. Liberty Street, village resident. A member of the merger commission. We worked hard and have been called many things, liars, putting out misleading information. We aren't. I am a registered nurse not a politician. I did not join the merger commission to lie, I believe it's the right way to go, some of you believe it's not the right way to go. It's a democracy. We brought this to a vote and township residents voted also that they wanted a merger commission to do this so to stand here and say that Bruce Lane has not done his job and has not represented the township is absurd. What about all the people who voted for a merger commission, what about them, they don't deserve his representation, they absolutely do. So we are a community facing astronomical growth, I don't know about these mega projects. Are you driving out to Jersey Township, are you looking around. I drove around to Mink, Beech and Morse and there huge tent like structures, massive going on for miles and miles. It's right at our back door and we're sitting in this community and not even looking at what's right next door to us. And maybe for township's there are some safeguards but we're also saying there's this other option. Look at it, I agree with Bruce go look at the merger commission if you think they are all complete crap you are entitled to that opinion. But we have got to work together in this community, that is one thing that is certain no matter we're going to have to work together to overcome what's coming at us you can see it all around us. 7 miles from us houses on Miller Rd. are being destroyed and structures put up, this is what's coming for us. So read the merger conditions and see what you think. As far as guns go do you think your going to be able to shoot your guns on 11 acres if there's warehouses and big energy companies that are coming. No and no one can make you that guarantee but neither can the township because of the things that are coming. One of the things I brought to the

commission was how can we maintain the rural character because I moved here for it. I am committed to a rural area, a rural community. Lets work together and lets applaud Bruce Lane and the other trustees for working for all of us. I am baffled by the argument that because he thinks the merger might be the way to go that he's not representing the township, the township that voted for a merger commission. Dean Schiller, Johnstown Alexandria Rd., wants to remind Trustee Almendinger that in 2022 he made a statement to the Newark Advocate. We submitted this petition not because we are convinced that a merger is the best thing for our community but because those pushing for a merger without first doing their due diligence left our community with no other option. Trustee Almendinger was part of the merger commission in 2022 our fiscal officer was part of it, Joe Gergley was part of it. We did a records request to the BOE, so if Randy is all for being a township trustee except for this statement and I would like to address the receipt for the mailing that was done by the merger commission. That receipt was not public knowledge whatsoever. It was shared with the fiscal officer that receipt for re-imbursement. She then shared it with Mr. Platte and then Mr. Platte used it in the last meeting as a resident of Pataskala to come against the township. That was not in any of the records I checked the records request. There was not a request from Mr. Platte to the township as a resident of Pataskala and that record was shared by Mrs. Reeves to Mr. Platte Jersey township administrator and he used that for his personal use.

Bridgett Reeves responded that it is a public record and can be shared. It was asked over a phone call so there is no public record to share.

Meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL MEETING

The September 30th 2025 special meeting of St. Albans Township. Trustees Bruce Lane and Randal Almendinger were present. Absent is Jean Morrison and Bridgett Reeves.

The purpose of this special meeting is a change order for the fire engine. Mike Theisen presented a sheet of changes and deletions with 3 major changes:

Engine change to X12

Custom pump module

Lighting system

Total changes = \$95,365.83

Some of the pricing is current pricing adjustments. Truck was originally \$876K, still going to be sub 1 million on the truck. Today's pricing on that truck is around \$1.4. Still a year or so out on getting the truck.

Bruce Lane made a motion to approve the change order for the Sutphen Engine as presented.

2nd by Randal Almendinger. Roll call: Bruce Lane- yes, Randal Almendinger -yes. Motion carried.

Bruce Lane made a motion to adjourn the special meeting. 2nd by Randal Almendinger.

Meeting adjourned.