



512 E. Main Street
Mahomet, IL 61853

Mahomet Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2026

7:00 PM

Mahomet Township Office

512 E. Main St., Mahomet IL 61853

Call to Order: Bobby called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT:

- Bobby LaRoe, Township Supervisor
- Aaron Wheeler, Trustee
- Matt Howard, Trustee
- Lindsay Brotherson, Assessor
- Jackson Craig, Road Commissioner
- Jordan King, Cemetery Sexton
- Mike Kraft, Township Attorney
- Rebecca Heid, Clerk

Public Comments:

John Bambenek: Has a “beef” about the budget. There appears to be an excess accounting of funds out of line. Road District, Administration \$56,000 in salaries. \$25,000 to Social Security. Generally Social security is 6.2%. Employees pay into the IMRF so they don’t pay social security. Why is this in the budget for paying into social security? Legal is \$150,000 for next year. Mostly for FOIA request. Why is the lawyer doing the FOIA since the clerk should be? There are legal bills for stupid reasons, and it continues. Litigation is continuing with the state’s attorney office. Levy question, will you continue to ask for levy for the future Shively project? Will it happen next year or for the next 10 years from now? He will be challenging the levy and asking for 8-year refund.

He suggested that the trustees hold the money in escrow if money goes there. You should zero out the line items.

Chris Dirks: Brought a concern about a huge clutch of trees that are blocking the view at his driveway on Division. They need to be cut down. He had the state look at it as he was told it belonged to the state, but the state has declared that it belongs to the Township.

Jackson stated he will check it.

Cameron Wygant: Lots of stuff posted on Facebook. Stuff about road district needing to reimburse the township for IMRF. He wants to know more about the \$200,000 overlooked from previous administration. Why has it taken so long to find it? Why was it not taken care of before? Also, the board should remember they are elected officials and under scrutiny. Part of the job is to answer to the public and they are allowed to make comments.

Delmer Castor: I want to complement the road district commissioner. He did a great job this winter taking care of the roads. They look great. Looking at bills. Where did all the money come from? The spending is ridiculous.

Chad Coit: I second that the road district is doing an awesome job.

Bill Shriver: Trustee at the Village of Mahomet, sent a letter addressing concerns being raised from a recent commentary piece in the News-Gazette regarding the past Mahomet Township Road District levies. He presented a table listing data from tax year 2024 for each township in the county. He noted that Mahomet is the only township road district that levies more to its (unshared) joint bridge account than it levies to the road & bridge account that it shares with municipalities. Its unshared levy is 109% of its shared levy. The average among all townships in the County, excluding Mahomet, is an unshared levy equal to 10.4% of the applicable shared levy. If Mahomet Township had allocated its levies based on that average, an additional \$139,000 (approximately) would have been levied into the shared road and bridge fund for 2024 (of which some portion would have gone to the Village of Mahomet). In terms of total dollars, the Mahomet Township joint bridge levy (not shared with the Village) is \$169,848.48 – that is higher than the joint bridge levies in the next nine highest townships combined. He noted that Mahomet Township's road levies look dramatically different from those of other townships in Champaign County. He ask, for the benefit of the Village and the taxpayers, that soon, and prior to the next tax levy, that the board issue a clear and detailed written explanation of the manner in which the Mahomet Township Road District allocates its tax levies.

New Business:

a. Approval of Tentative Township Budget for FY 2026/2027

Aaron: Legal went down \$50,000?

Bobby: We put everything online to eliminate spending on attorneys. Be more transparent.

Motion was made by Aaron and seconded by Hanna

Roll call: Aaron – yes; Matt – yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby – yes

Motion passed.

b. Review and Tentative Approval: Mahomet Township Road District Tentative Budget Ordinance 1-26/27 for FY 2026/2027

No questions.

Bobby: We will leave this up for 30 days.

Motion was made by Bobby, seconded by Matt

Roll call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby - yes

Motion Passed

c. Review and Tentative Approval: Mahomet Township Road District Budget Amendment Ordinance 4-25/26

Bobby: Any questions?

Matt: Why did the legal fees move up?

Jackson: They had to

Matt: Did you bid work?

Jackson: Major work; lawyer work, payroll, solar farms still looking to come out there. Inherited some legal debt from FOIAs.

Matt: What percentage of FOIAs do you do instead of lawyers? 50%, 25%?

Jackson: I couldn't give you that percentage. As much as we can do, we do.

Matt: Bridge fund and joint fund?

Jackson: That is for the oldest bridge in the township. Longest bridge. Built in '58.

Put in \$275,000 but that will not cover it. The money is only for the project, not using it for any other things. County inspects every year. It's the oldest bridge.

Matt: Are you going to do this every year? For 8 or 9 years?

Jackson: Would like to.

Hanna: Do you have to get approval on the joint project?

Jackson: If they tell us what needs done, we go from there.

Matt: Is this fund money the same that was taken out of in the past?

Jackson: Chose not to do it.

Matt: Choosing not to do it or not doing it?

Jackson: Not doing it.

Trying to save money. Take \$427,000 into the account and not do much right now. Save money for when the need eventually comes. It's the right thing to do.

Motion was made by Matt, seconded by Hanna

Roll call: Aaron – yes; Matt – yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby – yes
Motion passed

d. **Approval of Tentative Road District budget for FY 2026/2027**

Bobby: Any questions?

Aaron: Yes. Discussed the need to make changes to accommodate the changing accounting needs. Appreciates the open mindedness of the road district commissioner to work on this. Inquired about the \$125,000 list under vehicle. Will they be looking at getting a new vehicle?

Jackson: Yes will try to. It is a tentative budget.

Aaron: Inquired about the \$25,000 interest on road fund. Where did it come from?

Jackson: Current money from interest earned from account sitting.

Motion was made by Aaron and seconded by Matt

Roll call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby - yes

Motion Passed

e. **Designation of FOIA Officer – Designate Rebecca Heid as the Mahomet Township FOIA Officer**

Motion was made by Matt and seconded by Aaron

Roll Call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby - yes

Motion Passed

f. **Resolution 2026-03: Township Purchasing Standard Operating Procedure**

This was adopted by TOI

Motion was made by Aaron and seconded by Bobby

Roll Call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby - yes

Motion Passed

g. **Review Mileage – IRS 2026.72.5 cents per mile reimbursement**

Motion was made by Matt and seconded by Hanna

Roll call: Aaron – yes; Matt – yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby – yes

Motion passed

Approve Bills:

a. **Road District**

Motion was made by Matt and seconded by Hanna

Roll Call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna – yes; Bobby - yes

Motion Passed

b. **Town & Cemetery**

Motion was made by Aaron and seconded by Hanna

Roll call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna - yes; Bobby - yes

Motion Passed

Approve Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting January 14, 2026

Motion was made by Aaron, seconded by Hanna
Roll call: Aaroun - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna - yes; Bobby - yes
Motion Passed

Highway Commissioner Report:

It was a good month. Jackson is very proud of his crew and thinks they did an excellent job during the last snow we had. The roads were cleared fast and efficiently. They have all learned a lot this winter. He had to close one road because of snow blowing and thought it was the best action at the time for safety. During the current break they are using the opportunity to make repairs to signs and replace items that might have been accidentally hit while plowing snow. Cleaning up ditches. They haven't had winged ditches in 3 years. All in all, very good month.

Cemetery Report:

It's been quiet this month. No burials or sales. Crew is working on their licensing to stay compliant. They are also doing cleanup. Picking up sticks and clearing debris from plots.

Supervisor Report:

Still working on audit. It should be ready in two weeks. Jackson has been very helpful and working with the supervisor on items needed.

Assessor Report:

Nothing new to report

Board Comments:

Matt acknowledged that Jackson and the road district were doing a good job on the roads during the last snow. He also mentioned how well the cemetery is looking.

Aaron mentioned an item in the board packet. The surprising cost associated with lawyer fees. The reason for one of the fees was because a previous board member did not complete their OMA training and was out of compliance. Asked if this was accurate.

Bobby acknowledged that it was accurate. He had it broken down from bills we had from FOIAs and fuel use. \$25,000 was used right at the start of his assuming office. He was new and wanted to get legal counsel to stay compliant. He stated that the FOIA cost was their biggest cost but that should be coming down.

Meeting Adjourns:

Motion was made by Matt and seconded by Hanna

Roll call: Aaron - yes; Matt - yes; Hanna - yes; Bobby - yes

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm