



## **2025 Summer General Assembly Township Caucus Notes Friday, August 8, 2025**

**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The Township Caucus met on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 152 of Heritage Hall at 158 at the Owens Community College Toledo area campus in Perrysburg, Ohio. Jacob Barnes, director of economic development for Spencer Township and the caucus moderator, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone who was present. Introductions were made around the room, and each attendee reported on what is happening in their township including projects, development, and upcoming events.

### **Caucus members in attendance included:**

Jacob Barnes (Moderator), Director of Economic Development, Township of Spencer  
David Bench, Trustee, Township of Jerusalem  
Michael Hampton, Administrator, Township of Springfield  
Josh Hollinger, Zoning Inspector, Township of Springfield  
E. Mark Hummer, Administrator/Police Chief, Township of Lake  
Robert Lloyd, Trustee, Township of Whiteford  
Michael Moulton, Trustee, Township of Middleton  
Eric Wagner, Zoning Administrator, Township of Monclova  
Jonathon Ziehr, Fire Chief, Township of Springfield

### **Guests in attendance included:**

William Bruck, State Representative, 30<sup>th</sup> District, Michigan House of Representatives  
Paula Hicks-Hudson, State Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District, Ohio House of Representatives  
Sandi Lazette, Sr. Client Solutions Executive, AT&T  
Jake Murawski, OHM Advisors  
Melissa Petrea, Guest, General Public  
Maurren Theresa, Bridge Engineer, Fishbeck

### **TMACOG staff in attendance included:**

Rosanna Hoelzle, Chief of Staff, TMACOG  
Sean Sammon, Transportation Program Manager, TMACOG  
Roger Streiffert, Transportation Planner, TMACOG

**Caucus Overview** – Mr. Barnes gave an overview of the caucus to those new to TMACOG.

### **Discussion of Topics/Issues:**

#### **Topic 1 – Pathways to Public Service**

- TMACOG is working on a Pathways to Public Service event that aims to engage members in outreach and education about the benefits and different career options available in public service.

#### **Topic 2 – Zoning Violation Trends**

- Grass-mowing problems are a common summertime issue for all township representatives.

- Sometimes the county does not cut a wide enough swath on county roads, and the result can be reduced sightlines at intersections.
- Townships often must take on grass maintenance for areas missed by the county or by the state. Sometimes the township can get reimbursed from the county or state for mowing.
- Townships must be persistent in reporting unmowed areas to the county or state.
- Invasive weeds are a problem because they need to reach a certain size before they can be effectively sprayed. Townships are told to not cut them too early, but they can get out of control if not cut or sprayed.
- Uncut weed growth can obscure fire hydrants and tangle fire hoses. Residents are asked to clear weeds from around fire hydrants for their own safety.

### **Topic 3 – Mega Development/Data Centers**

- Middleton Township has a data center currently under construction. Problems include construction noise and light pollution at night. The use of shrouds is helping block some of the construction light.
- The facility “wants to be a good neighbor” and is keeping construction vehicles on state routes and is sweeping the area roads.
- The facility paid for a new water tank, and two school districts will benefit from the increased tax base, even though there is a 75% tax abatement.
- Data centers use a large amount of electricity and water, which can be difficult for rural communities or townships to provide.
- The establishment of a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) can benefit townships when attracting or preparing for mega developments.

### **Topic 4 – Lucas County Permitting Process**

- In general, most of the Lucas County townships report that the permitting process is much better than it was previously.

### **Topic 5 – Lucas County Subdivision Regulations**

- The subdivision regulations have not been updated since 2008.
- The biggest problem is that developers are not maintaining their subdivision sites during construction. The problem seems to be most common with new developers.
- Some sites have had to be declared a nuisance before action was taken.

### **Topic 6 – Housing Market** (not discussed)

### **Topic 7 – Proposal to eliminate property taxes**

- Most of the township representatives said that in general low tax equals high fees, for most all services.
- Lost revenue from the elimination of property tax would have to be made up through higher fees and local taxes or through elimination of services, including EMS.
- Most township residents want city-level services, especially in urban townships. If the main funding source is eliminated, those services are lost.
- The proposal to eliminate property tax was introduced without any thought of how to replace lost revenue.
- A related development is that out-of-state LLCs are purchasing local property and artificially pushing up property values.

### **Topic 8 – Potential effects of tariffs** (not discussed)

### **Other Topics**

- Trash pickup and recycling is a hot topic in the region, including for townships. Currently there appears to be no coordination or consistency in trash pickup.
- Picking up recycling is much more expensive than trash. Recycling needs to be convenient for residents to participate.
- Most trash collection companies must contract with only a few large landfill operators. Stricter federal regulations may be needed for the trash/landfill industry.
- The caucus also briefly discussed regulations for autonomous trucks, and the importance of the proposed U.S. 23 bypass north of Columbus, especially with the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

**What legislative action might be helpful?** Sen. Hicks-Hudson said she plans to testify against the property tax elimination proposal and would like to use some examples of revenue losses brought forth in the caucus meeting. She would also like to establish a Northwest Ohio Caucus to discuss issues, such as the property tax proposal, and to share ideas that would benefit the region.

**Questions for State Lawmakers Panel Discussion** – The caucus chose two potential questions for the legislative panel discussion:

1. The first question centered on property tax discussion in Columbus and the effect on townships.
2. The second question centered on trash collection contracts and if the legislature could incentivize more companies to locate in northwest Ohio.

**New Business/Next Steps** – There was no new business and no public comments.

**Adjourn** – Jacob Barnes thanked everyone for attending the caucus and the session was adjourned.