

Minutes
Clay Township & Clay Fire Territory
January 05, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Clay Fire Territory
18355 Auten Road
South Bend, IN 46637

Purpose: Meeting to appoint Board Positions and Fire Commission seats for the 2026 calendar year.

- ❖ **Call To Order:**
- ❖ **In Attendance** – Sean O'Brien, Michelle Shaw, Robbie Thomas, Josh Gobel, Jaren Kilian & George ann Ewald
- ❖ **Township Business**
 - **Election of Board & Fiscal Officers for the 2026 Calendar Year**
 - **President:** Michelle Shaw nominated Robbie Thomas
Josh Gobel 2nd
All In Favor
 - **Secretary:** Josh Gobel nominated Michelle Shaw
Robbie Thomas 2nd
All In Favor
 - **Other:** Josh Gobel
 - **Set 2026 Board Meetings: (required to meet 4 times per year)**
 - January 22, 2026 – Annual Report Meeting All Units
 - August 27, 2026 – 2027 Budget Public Hearing
 - September 24, 2026 – 2027 Budget Adoption
 - December 10, 2026 – End of Year Business
 - Additional meetings will be properly noticed & posted per requirements
- ❖ **Fire Department Business:**
 - **Appointment of Fire Commissioner seats for Clay Township- Trustee O'Brien**
 - **2026 Seat 1:** Sean O'Brien, Trustee
 - **2026 Seat 2:** Michelle Shaw nominated
Robbie Thomas 2nd
All In Favor
- ❖ **PUBLIC Comment**-Individuals wishing to speak will state their name, address, phone number(s) and topic. **Remarks are limited to two minutes**, and groups should appoint a single spokesperson.
 - None
- ❖ **Set next meeting:** January 22, 2026 - Annual Report Meeting – All Participating Units 5:30

Adjourn: 5:50 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Clay Township
Clay Fire Territory
January 22, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Clay Fire Station 22
18355 Auten Road Classroom B
South Bend, IN 46637

Purpose: Review and acceptance of the 2025 Annual Financial Report of Clay Fire Territory and Clay Civil Township and any other matters that may legally come before this board.

- ❖ **Call To Order: 5:33**
- ❖ **Sign In Sheet Completed**
- ❖ **Welcome Participating Units – Introduction of Members in Attendance**
Sean O'Brien, Georgeann Ewald, Derrik DeCraene, Robbie Thomas, Michelle Shaw, Josh Gobel, Julie Mudrovich, Mike Shalk, Curt Lynn, Karen Vargo, Robert Fox, Wade Stoller, Geri Oppenheim, Matthew Dhoore, Jennifer Robinson & Rudy Monterosa
- ❖ **Clay Fire Territory 2025 Annual Financial Report Presentation – Chief Jaren Kilian**
 - Chief gave thorough financial presentation and discussed successful programs such as Address Sign Program, Kid's fire camp, etc. He also discussed the toll that HB 1233 and SB 270 have had on non-municipal fire departments across the state.
 - **Questions from Participating Units**
 - Rudy asked Chief how many calls to Michigan (Chief will get data)
 - Chief praised previous Chief Timm Schabbel and Niles Chief for their success in getting state approval to cross state lines and assistant each other due to the location of state boarder.
 - Question from Rudy Monterosa-asking if we will need a new EMS truck, Chief replied yes when number of calls are increased and area. Which includes 20 miles on toll road.
 - **Brief Recess to allow Participating Units to Call to Order to vote**
 - **Reconvene 6:18**
 - **Record of Vote of Participating Units**
 - **German Township** voted aye
 - **Harris Township** voted aye
 - **Indian Village** voted aye
 - **Town of Roseland** voted aye
 - **2 Minute Recess**
- ❖ **Reconvene 6:18 PM**
- ❖ **Minutes from previous meeting review-Approved all in favor**
- ❖ **Township Business**

- **Financials - George ann Ewald - Director of Finance & HR**
 - **December 2025 – Interest Earned \$ 58,363.10**
Approved all in favor
- **Presentation of the 2025 Annual Financial Report – George ann Ewald**
 - **Motion to Accept 2025 Annual Financial Report in Whole – Robbie Thomas**
 - **2nd – Michelle Shaw**
 - **Carried**

❖ **Old Business-No**

❖ **New Business**

Stone Buster Memorial

Chief discussed the expansion of fire territory in 2027 which will include 7 units after adding Penn & Osceola. Clay Fire will remain the unit provided. Sean expressed thanks to the board. Chief gave meeting date, time and location for expansion of fire territory.

Meeting location: Moose Family Center in Mishawaka

Feb. 16th at 5:30 pm

March 9th 4pm & 6 pm

March 24th at 5:30 pm for Adoption

George discussed House Bill 1315 & SB 270:

- **HB 1315 is currently in Ways & Means, this bill removes redundancy in Township Government, by arbitrarily eliminating smaller townships**
- **Senate Bill 270 which uses performance metrics instead of population. The ITA is in favor of SB 270 and helped author it. Senate Bill 270 preserves Township Government, while House bill 270 erodes it. George will be sending link to join Friday discussions on bills at 10:00 am**

❖ **PUBLIC Comment-None**

- ❖ **Set next meeting: February 16th 5:30 PM- This will be a Fire Territory Merger Meeting**

Adjourn 7:31 PM

CERTIFICATION

State of Indiana

SS:

St. Joseph County

I, Sean O'Brien, Trustee of CLAY TOWNSHIP, St. Joseph County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report contains the information required by Indiana code 36-6-4-13, and is, true and correct; that the amounts with which I am charged in this report are all of the amounts received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the amounts stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. A complete abstract that contains the statements required under Indiana Code 36-6-4-13(a)(5) and (a)(6) is available for inspection in the county auditor's office.

I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Sean O'Brien (sign)
CLAY TOWNSHIP Trustee

Telephone: 574-277-4452

Date this report was to be published: _____

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of CLAY TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 22nd day of January, 2026.

Michael J. [Signature] (sign)
Township Board Chairman

OPTION 1

This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 22 day of January, 2026.

Township Board:
Michael J. [Signature] (sign)
Robert [Signature] (sign)

(sign)

OPTION 2

This report was received, accepted, and approved except for the following part(s) _____ by the following Township Board Member(s) at its annual meeting, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

(sign)

(sign)

(sign)

Only include option 1 or option 2 above in your advertising, not both.
Use option 1 where the Township Board approves the annual report.
Use option 2 where a member or all members of the Township Board disapprove(s)
part or all of the annual report.