

'Steadfast' township trustee retires

By Gary Budzak - December 26, 2025



GALENA — "Do you have anything else?" asked longtime Harlem Township Trustee Dave Jackson an hour into last week's meeting on Dec. 17.

"We certainly do," said Fire Chief Thomas O'Brien. "Will you come on up here?"

"What's going on, dude?" Jackson said, leaving his chair to join O'Brien in front of the audience.

"And then if I can get any current or former employees, trustees or anything to come up here and join us as well, please," O'Brien said.

Jackson's wife, Belinda, took his arm, and more than a dozen current and former staff members stood alongside Jackson as O'Brien read.

"In recognition for 28 years of dedicated service as a Harlem Township trustee, your steadfast leadership, integrity, and commitment have made a lasting impact on the community you have always served," O'Brien said. "With deepest appreciation from past and present residents and employees."

"Thank you all," Jackson said simply, as he received a plaque, and all applauded.

O'Brien also gave Jackson a Harlem Township t-shirt.

"While you're gone, so you don't forget where you came from, with your name on it, too. Thank you," O'Brien said, as he shook Jackson's hand. Cake was mentioned while the crowd broke up and returned to their seats.

"All right, let's try this again," Jackson said, with his usual calm demeanor.

"While Dave is retiring from his Trustee career, we're very grateful that he's agreed to continue to be a subject matter expert for the Township, sharing his important institutional knowledge," the township posted on Facebook.

