



STATE OF INDIANA

MIKE BRAUN, Governor

PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR
BRITTNEY A. LONG

Statehouse Room 105
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2745
Telephone: (317) 234-0906
Fax: (317) 233-3091
Toll Free: 1-800-228-6013
Email: pac@opac.in.gov
Website: www.IN.gov/pac

October 13, 2026

Re: Complaint 26-FC-191
Alan Williams (Complainant) v.
Wea Township Trustee (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed on April 10, 2026.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on April 16, 2026, requesting a formal response by May 15, 2026. A formal response, submitted by attorney Robert Clutter of Taylor, Minnette, Schneider, & Clutter, P.C., on behalf of Respondent, was received in this office on May 14, 2026.

The complaint alleges that Respondent failed to comply with the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) when it failed to provide a copy of requested documents.

ANALYSIS

The public policy of APRA states that “[p]roviding persons with information is an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of public officials and employees, whose duty it is to provide the information.” IC 5-14-3-1.

Respondent is a public agency for purposes of APRA; and therefore, subject to the requirements. IC 5-14-3-2(q). As a result, unless an exception applies, any person has the right to inspect and copy Respondent’s public records during regular business hours. IC 5-14-3-3(a).

On January 22, 2026, Complainant filed an APRA request with Respondent, requesting:

1. Copies of all proposed and executed itemized department budgets for the fiscal years 2019 through 2026.
2. Copies of all bank account ledgers for fiscal years 2019 through 2026.
3. Copies of all construction, repair, maintenance, or renovation project bids and contracts that exceeded \$10,000 for the fiscal years 2019 through 2026.
4. Copies of the minutes of all board meetings for the fiscal years 2019 through 2026.
5. Copies of the fire department and EMS standard operation procedures for the fiscal years 2019 through 2026.
6. Records of all current and prior Wea Township fire department employee names, dates of employment, dates of termination or resignation, and job titles for fiscal years 2019 through 2026.
7. Records detailing all current township cemeteries.

In its response to the Complainant's request, the Respondent noted that the request encompassed "years of records," and that it did not identify the requested records with reasonable particularity under IC 5-14-3-3(a)(1). This response further stated that it would happily fulfill a revised version of Complainant's APRA request, so long as that request was in compliance with IC 5-14-3-3(a)(1).

On February 12, 2026, Complainant filed a revised APRA request with Respondent. In the revised request, Complainant did not limit the extent of information requested, but did provide specificity as to certain funds and other information requested in the January 22, 2026, request. Complainant additionally requested information related to attorney fees from January 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026. Complainant received an acknowledgement of this request on February 13, 2026.

Complainant sent an email requesting the status of his revised request on March 2, 2026, having not received further communication from Respondent regarding the February 12, 2026, request. Complainant sent a subsequent email requesting a status of his revised request on April 4, 2026, still having not received further communication from Respondent regarding this request. Though Complainant filed other APRA requests, which were discussed and complied with, at no time did Respondent comply with the February 12, 2026, request.

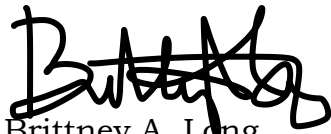
This office has previously encouraged that, when an APRA request is not reasonably particular, the public agency should articulate that issue and work

with the requester to narrow the request. *Opinion of the Public Access Counselor 25-FC-439*. Here, Respondent did not request further narrowing of Complainant's request following the February 12, 2026, request, nor did it articulate that the request was denied due to a lack of reasonable particularity.

Additionally, this office finds that certain portions of Complainant's request, such as his request for the minutes of board meetings from 2019 through 2026, were reasonably particular, and could have been fulfilled while attempting to cure any other issues with reasonable particularity. Accordingly, this office opines that Respondent violated APRA.

CONCLUSION

This office opines that the Respondent violated APRA as alleged in the complaint, when it failed to deny or request further narrowing of Complainant's request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brittney A. Long', with a stylized, cursive script.

Brittney A. Long
Public Access Counselor