

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Gregory Cizmar and Mr. Devon Stanley, presiding.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly presented the Township's financial report. He stated that he is working on the 2024 Budget with the Department heads and Trustees. So far in 2023, interest on deposits has been up, and expenses are less than expected.

Administrator Mrs. Martha Weirick congratulated both Trustee Stanley and Fiscal Officer Connelly on their re-election success. Martha thanked every crafter and volunteer who attended the annual fall festival held last month and commented on another successful Halloween open house event.

Fire Captain Al Rivalsky attended the meeting as Chief Doug Theobald is on vacation. The Fire Department Report was submitted in advance of the meeting.

Police Chief Toby Meloro read correspondence he received from the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office regarding a multijurisdictional undertaking where Liberty Township Police Officer Sean Ryan took the lead. The Prosecutor noted Officer Ryan's professionalism which should be a role model for other officers. Chief Meloro mentioned the Live Like Lindsey coat drive for children. Last, the Chief mentioned he is the longest tenured employee and a lifetime resident of Liberty. "I've never witnessed a better Board of Trustees who put the community first. There has been more growth and progress in Liberty Township these past four years, than he has ever seen."

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman said, "old man winter is here." The Road Department has stopped hot mix projects and is concentrating on drainage & catch basin repairs. They are actively preparing for the winter season. The Salt Barn is full of road salt.

Zoning and Code Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his report.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2023 Regular meeting.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of October 2023 in the amount of \$598,514.54 warrants #25550 through #25646 inclusive.

Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Cizmar.

Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and the Then and Now Certificates for the month of October.

Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Cizmar.

Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Resident comments:

A large group of residents were in attendance to congratulate Trustee Devon Stanely on his reelection.

A resident thanked the fire department for coming to her home after a carbon monoxide alarm went off. They were quick to respond and found no issues.

A few neighbors complained about the condition of a home on Norwick Drive. As in the past, one resident thanked the township for recently cleaning up the property, but it appears the homeowner is collecting junk again. He also said there are fallen trees on the property and the house has peeling paint and moss on the roof. He wanted to know what the Township could do about this. Trustee Clebone reminded everyone of his desire to update the property maintenance codes and hoped a letter could be sent to the Zoning Commission asking for their review and recommendation. A second resident stated she appreciated the clean-up, but the resident is storing new stuff. She also said another house on the street has cars galore. A third resident offered to help clean up the property if he could get permission from the homeowner. Zoning Inspector Jim Rodway stated that the Zoning office has taken the individual to court. Because of his circumstances, he has no ability to pay the fines, therefore the courts will not fine him. A family member living elsewhere pays the taxes on the home, according to a homeowner who lived

across the street, had belonged to their grandmother. Jim has been unsuccessful reaching the family member. Other houses previously brought up at other meetings also have circumstances that prevent enforcement, as one homeowner is deceased and cannot be cited, and the other home is in foreclosure. Trustee Stanley added there are a lot of things in play. However, chronic violators continue to get cited, and either clean up their property or neighbors' complaints force the township to clean it up. Jim Rodway and Trustee Stanley stated they will continue to work towards solving these problems.

A home on W. Liberty Street was declared unfit for habitation by the Board of Health and placed on the demolition list by the Trustees last month. A person who represents the homeowner came to discuss the situation with the Board of Trustees as the homeowner received a letter notifying them of the Board's action. He brought with him a potential buyer of the home. The buyer said that it would take him a long time to get the cleanup done, and he was interested in the garage and the apartment above it, because the house is full of stuff, and it is impossible to tell if it is structurally sound. After some discussion, the Board said to remove the house from the demolition list they would need to see definitive plans and a firm date for renovations.

Ashtabula County Auditor David Thomas introduced himself to the Board and residents. He will be running for the newly redistricted 65th district seat against another other republican, Mike Loychik.

Trustees' remarks. Trustee Arnie Clebone reported on the progress from a grant writer who is attempting to acquire funds to secure a \$400,000 ambulance. It appears foundation contributions could be significant; however, we would need additional contributions from business and individuals as well. Arnie attended a virtual meeting with ODOT officials, an Eastgate Regional representative, engineers from Environmental Design and GPD Group in attendance. The pedestrian safety study, requested by the township in 2019, offered ways to improve safety from State Route 304 to Liberty Street. As the township had also contracted with GPD Group after receiving a grant from WRTA, it was suggested both engineering companies confer, and final suggestions should be sent in within the next 3 weeks. Arnie attended an Eastgate Regional Council meeting where he learned of a possible demand for single households. He announced Marcia Levy will be presenting a slide show of historical homes on November 18th at 1:00 a.m. at the administration building.

Trustee Greg Cizmar asked the Road Superintendent Hickman about the progress of closing both Parks for the winter. Wayne announced as of today, the restrooms have been winterized and closed. Greg also asked how the bathroom renovations were coming at the Road Department. Wayne said the floors have been ripped up and a new drain has been installed. Everything is moving forward.

Trustee Devon Stanley thanked the leadership team for all their hard work. Governing is a team effort, and he thanked every department head, administrator, and law director specifically. "It really takes everyone working together. It is an honor to serve the community."

Motion to adjourn into executive session to consider promotion/employment and or compensation of public employees at 6:51 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to end executive session and resume regular session at 7:22 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Cizmar.

Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

23-149 Motion to promote Firefighter Paramedic Katlyn Mason from part-time to full time probationary status with a Memorandum of Understanding at \$18.00 per hour first date working as full time will be her promotional date.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to end the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Next business meeting is Friday, December 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Please note: Friday, November 24th 8:30 a.m. meeting is cancelled.

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

DEVON STANLEY, CHAIRPERSON