

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Friday, March 24, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Gregory Cizmar, Mr. Arnold Clebone and Mr. Devon Stanley, presiding.

Mr. Jack Kravitz spoke to the Board of Trustees about a joint partnership with the City of Youngstown to Build a Better Belmont Avenue. The partnership, including Eastgate and the Youngstown Foundation, are working on a bicycle initiative tentatively set for May 21st. The plan is to have bicyclists travel from Churchill Commons Giant Eagle to Charlie Staples in Youngstown. During the 6-mile ride they would stop at designated areas along the route to receive information, evaluate sites and offer both good comments and/or ways to improve. Captain Ray Buhala said the police department would help with the logistics similar to how they assist with the JCC Dash and Splash events.

Fire Captain Bill Opsitnik spoke to the Board about lateral moves and transfers. He suggested ways the Township could attract firefighters with experience. Captain believes firefighters with experience would be beneficial to the department.

NOPEC representative Tony Ramos explained NOPEC will be sending out mailings in the next few weeks. This flyer will inform residents who were enrolled in the Gas and Electric programs through NOPEC they will have the option of continuing or opting out. If they wish to continue, the resident does nothing. Only those who wish to go elsewhere should opt out. Note, those who use the apples-to-apples site to compare gas and electric rates will only find “for profit” rates on this site. To view NOPEC’s gas and electric rates, go to www.nopec.org.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 Regular meeting.

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

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

23-57 Approve permanent appropriations for 2023 (see addendum file for itemized appropriations) and to set the level of control for the General Fund at the line-item basis and all other funds at the department/activity and major object level, and to request an Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources from the Trumbull County Budget Commission:

Total Appropriations	\$13,698,961.25
General Fund	\$3,496,048.00
Police Dept.	\$3,853,950.00
Fire Dept.	\$2,426,153.95
Road and Bridge	\$1,861,554.77
American Rescue Plan	\$946,812.88
Gasoline Tax	\$404,018.52
Ambulance and EMS	\$390,523.13
Lighting	\$130,150.00
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$85,000.00
Drug Law Enforcement	\$82,500.00
Cemetery	\$22,250.00

Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

23-58 Motion to support the Youngstown application to the Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown for funding towards the revitalization the Belmont Avenue Corridor.

Trustee Clebone added this letter is to support the City of Youngstown who will receive the funds.

Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Clebone.

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

23-59 Motion to increase part time seasonal employee Jeff Pezzuto’s hourly rate to \$14.00 per hour.

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

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

23-60 Motion to hire Michael Carson, Akron, Ohio as a part time firefighter/medic at \$18.00 per hour, no benefits, pending pre-employment drug testing. First day worked is his hire date.

Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

23-61 Motion to approve the request per the PUD submitted by Shepherd of the Valley to establish a

memorial garden.

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

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

23-62 Motion to approve updated Cemetery Deed for Churchill Cemetery.

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

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

23-63 Motion to accept the resignation of road worker Robert Pace effective March 31, 2023.

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

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

Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman discussed with Trustee Clebone the March 31st deadline for the CDBG for Fredrick Street. Wayne received a request from Liberty Local Schools asking if the township could salt their parking lot during snow events. Consensus of the Board was due to our limited manpower, they would not be able accommodate their request but would be open to discussing the matter in the future.

Police Captain Ray Buhala asked the Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman to attend a zoom meeting with the Captain regarding the recent grant Liberty Schools received for license plate reading Flock Cameras.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald said all plans have been approved for the Senior Loft Apartments and the Rehab Hospital. Chief reported during the statewide test one of the tornado warning sirens was not operational. He contacted the company to make the repairs.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly has compiled a list of tax abatements and is comparing it with the County's list. The Fiscal Officer plans to meet with the new County Auditor Martha Yoder.

Motion to adjourn into executive session to conference with the township Law Director regarding union negotiations and pending litigation at 9:40 a.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session and end meeting at 10:01 a.m.

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

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

Saturday April 1st Easter Bunny Arrives 10:00 a.m. at Center Park/Administration.

Saturday April 15th Neighborhood Community Clean Up from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting Friday. March 31, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY
FISCAL OFFICER

DEVON STANLEY, CHAIRPERSON