

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Gregory Cizmar and Mr. Devon Stanley, presiding.

Police Chief Toby Meloro introduced & swore in Pastor Wade Hartzell, Shiloh Full Gospel Church, as a Police Chaplain. Chaplain Hartzell joins Pastor Michael Constantino and Paster Patrick Mitchell who provide a multitude of support for the departments and residents. Congratulations and welcome.

Reports:

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly's presented his financial report. He is working on auditor's recommendations, reviewing policies and utilizing tools provided. Matthew and Arnie met with the newly elected County Auditor, Martha Yoder. She and her team were able to answer all their questions. Matthew thanked his assistant Teena Wylie for her help in researching Star Ohio investments. Mr. Connelly said he was approached by the State to consider a no cost performance audit. More information is needed. He spoke to the trustees about his desire to change Third Party Administrator from Tartan to Sedgwick, whom we work with in other areas at more than half the current fees we pay now.

Administrator Mrs. Martha Weirick presented her report. She thanked everyone involved in this year's Community Litter Clean up including Kim Quinlan, the volunteers, Giant Eagle, Republic Services and Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste. Martha wrote to our state and local officials asking for a meeting to present, firsthand, the devastation and lasting damage left behind by those who harvested their timber. Logging is considered agricultural therefore bypasses local authority and the EPA's ability to regulate the waste left behind, once the land is timber harvested. It is the township desires to amend the law for logging in residential areas. Mrs. Weirick thanked Trustee Clebone and Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman for submitting the most recent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Also a huge thank you to Arnie and Wayne for successfully obtaining this year's CDBG for Townsend. Also kudos to Trustee Clebone for his extensive work on the ARP Grant.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald gave his report. Run volume is consistently high. He said there were two structure fires this month – one in Liberty (dryer) and one mutual aid. The Fire Department received a \$2,000 grant from Walmart. Girard, Hubbard and Liberty are the recipients of a federal grant for a Safety Trailer. This was a joint effort by the 3 communities to secure a Safety Trailer to be used to promote fire safety with school children. No word yet when we can expect to receive the trailer. Trustee Clebone introduced a grant writer to the department. She pursues private grants for ambulances, breathing air packs, and other medical supplies. She charges an upfront fee of \$2,000 and a 5% fee if the grant is awarded.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report. The Chief thanked the Trustees for their continued support. Without the current Boards support, he could not have hired 8 additional police officers over the last 5 years. Last Friday, the Police executed a 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Crime Saturation event. There were 61 traffic stops of which to name a few but not limited to: 9 felony arrests, 3 warrants, 8 tows, 4 drug possessions and 4 DUI's. Sheppard of the Valley is hosting an open house from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. on May 24th.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman presented his report. Now that the weather has changed, we are preparing the Parks and Bathrooms Churchill Park bathroom should be ready when the park officially opens Memorial Day weekend. Once the drain work is complete on Naylor Lloyd, paving of the road should begin soon. Residents should notice the county's pipe project commencing from Katies Corners to McKinley Heights. Drivers may want to avoid that area when work begins. 2023 OPWC paving preconstruction meeting has not been determined yet. Residents should notice street sweeping has begun on our roads. The road crew is also working on drainage matters and catch basin repairs.

Zoning and Code Officer Mr. Jim Rodway announced the County foreclosed Hotel 30, the utilities have been turned off and the owner relinquished his license. The Trustees requested the building be secured. The County Land Bank may acquire the land for future development. Jim is receiving complaints about trailer parks which are not regulated by township zoning. Jim filed a complaint with the State Department of Commerce, who regulates trailer parks.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 28,2023 Regular meeting.
Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second. Mr. Clebone.

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of April 2023 in the amount of \$561,568.57, warrants #25018 through #25102 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and any Then and Now Certificates for the month of April 2023.

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

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

23-75 Motion to accept the joint \$90,000 grant with Girard, Hubbard and Liberty for a safety trailer to be used to promote fire safety at the schools. The 10% match will be shared by all 3 communities (\$3,300 ea).

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

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

23-76 No objection for names transfers for El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant LLC, 3632 Belmont Ave, Liberty Twp., Ohio 44505 from Rogelio Delgado Vazquez, Jorge H. Melgoza Perez, & M. Sara Vazquez to Jerica Vazquez, Ediberto Vazquez, & M. Sara Vazquez and request the fiscal officer to execute and submit form to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control.

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

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

23-77 Motion to pass the following resolution for grass abatements:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby determines that the owner's maintenance of vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris upon the following properties constitutes a nuisance:

Address:	Parcel No.:	Address:	Parcel No.
150 Oriole	12-348250	900 Royal Arms	12-157785
615 Santa Monica	12-373275	810 Colonial	12-342780
698 Beverly Hills	12-510550	3001 Biscayne	12-446300 trash too
249 Ventura	12-258900	340 Colonial	12-451950
206 E Liberty	12-423135	2911 Northview & Field	12-105100 & 12727100
557 E Liberty	12-376600	564 Gypsy	12-224152
547 E Liberty	12-238268	2504 Fifth Ave	12-675800
541 E Liberty	12-527600	2510 Fifth Ave	12-285470
4746 Logan Arms	12-139110	3536 Cardinal	12-288000
155 Euclid	12-510130	225 Euclid	12-635750
3027 Goleta	12-385531	1650 Rockwood	12-407420
1708 Keefer	12-553710	3148 Hadley	12-218400
3001 Dade	12-534950	3080 Dade	12-228100
3102 Hadley	12-344080	1620 Rockwood	12-268900

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this Board's intent to provide for the abatement, control, or removal of said vegetation, garbage, refuse or other debris constituting said nuisance be given to all owners of the land and holders of liens of record upon said land in accordance with **Section 505.87 (B) O.R.C.**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon proper notice, and failure of the property owner to abate said nuisance within seven days, the Board of Trustees provide for the abatement, control, or removal of said vegetation, garbage, refuse or other debris constituting said nuisance in accordance with **Section 505.87 (B) O.R.C.**

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

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

23-79 Motion to pass the following resolution for Hotel 30, 1600 Motor Inn Drive :

RESOLUTION DECLARING PROPERTY TO BE INSECURE, UNSAFE, STRUCTURALLY DEFECTIVE AND/OR UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND ORDERING AND PROVIDING BE SECURED FOR ABATEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE UNSAFE BUILDING OR STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT HOTEL 30, 1600 Motor Inn Drive, Parcel 12-698275 , LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO.

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

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

23-80 Motion to authorize Arnie Clebone to submit application to Trumbull County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant for township parks and authorize Trustee Clebone to sign on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

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

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

23-81 Motion to adopt the Liberty Township Investment Policy

1. PURPOSE

It is the policy of Liberty Township to invest public funds in a manner which will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the Township and conforming to all state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds.

2. SCOPE

This policy includes all funds governed by the Township. The Fiscal Officer is authorized to pool cash balances from all funds of the Township for investment purposes, and to adjust the Township investments in accordance with this policy.

3. OBJECTIVES

The following objectives will be applied to the investment of all Township funds:

1. **Safety:** Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the Township shall be undertaken in a manner that ensures the preservation of capital.
2. **Liquidity:** The Township's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the Township to meet all operating requirements which might reasonably be anticipated. Portfolio liquidity is defined as the maturity or ability to sell a security on short notice near the purchase price of the security.
3. **Yield:** The Fiscal Officer will strive to achieve a fair rate of return on the investment portfolio, considering the Township's investment risk constraints.

When investing, the Fiscal Officer shall consider safety, liquidity, and yield, in that order.

4. INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Board of Trustees hereby delegates to the Fiscal Officer management and administrative responsibility for the investment of township funds. The Fiscal Officer shall act in accordance with this policy and all applicable state laws.

5. AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Fiscal Officer will maintain a list of financial institutions authorized to provide investment services. No public deposit shall be made except in a qualified public depository as designated by the Township Board of Trustees. All entities selected to receive Township investments shall be authorized to do business within the State of Ohio and have all required licenses and be in good standing with all government and regulatory bodies which have the authority to regulate the activities of such entity. All investments shall be made only through a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), through a bank, savings bank, or savings and loan association regulated by the superintendent of financial institutions, or through an institution regulated by the comptroller of the currency, federal deposit insurance corporation, or board of governors of the federal reserve system. §135.14(M)(1).

6. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

The Board authorizes the Fiscal Officer to make investments of available monies from the funds of the Township in:

- a) Star Ohio. The State Treasurer Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio) as provided in Ohio Rev. Code §135.45
- b) Other investments as permitted under Ohio Revised Code §135.13, §135.14 and §135.144. Generally, the following obligations are eligible for investment or deposit:

1. United States treasury bills, notes, bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States. Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(B)(1).
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(B)(2).
3. Interim deposits – Deposits of interim monies may be made in certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the deposit date, or savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts in the eligible institutions applying for interim monies as provided in Ohio Rev. Code §135.08. [Ohio Rev. Code §135.13, §135.14(B)(3)]
4. Bonds and other obligations of this state Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(B)(4).
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations of the United States or any federal government agency or instrumentality Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(B)(5).

7. MAXIMUM MATURITIES

To the extent possible, the Township Fiscal Officer shall attempt to match investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Investments must mature within 5 years from the settlement date, unless the investment is matched to a specific obligation or debt of the subdivision, or unless an exception in Ohio Revised Code §135.14 applies. All investments must mature within the time limits prescribed by Ohio Revised Code §135.13 or §135.14.

8. INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

Under no circumstances may Township funds be invested in a derivative as defined by the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(C), or other investments prohibited by law.

The Fiscal Officer will not make investments which they do not reasonably believe can be held until the maturity date, Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(F), or leverage any investment, Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(H). The Fiscal Officer, acting in accord with the law, may withdraw funds from approved public depositories or sell negotiable instruments prior to maturity.

9. COLLATERALIZATION OF DEPOSITS

All deposits of public funds shall be collateralized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §135.18, §135.181, or §135.182. Failure of an institution to abide by any of the provisions of this Chapter is cause for immediate suspension of the institution as a public depository for any Township funds.

10. TRANSACTIONS

Payment for investments shall be made only upon the delivery of securities representing such investments to the Fiscal Officer or qualified trustee. If the securities transferred are not represented by a certificate, payment shall be made only upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian by the Fiscal Officer. Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(M)(2).

No banker, broker, dealer, securities dealer, or other person or entity shall provide services to the Township without first having reviewed, signed, and agreed to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy. Ohio Rev. Code §135.14(O).

11. REPORTING

The Fiscal Officer shall maintain an inventory ledger of all purchases and sales and of all investments acquired. The inventory shall include a description of each investment, including its type, cost, par value, maturity date, settlement date, and coupon date, where applicable. The Fiscal Officer shall provide a report to the Board of Trustees detailing all investments made during the month and the current balance in each investment, which shall be presented as part of the monthly financial report to the Board of Trustees for review and approval.

12. INVESTMENT EARNINGS

The Fiscal Officer shall credit earnings made on the investment of principal to the fund from which the earnings arose, and any remaining investment earnings will be credited to the Township General Fund. Ohio Rev. Code §135.21.

13. PRUDENCE

The standard of prudence to be used shall be the “prudent person” and/or “prudent investor” standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio.

14. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Fiscal Officer and Trustees will refrain from personal or business investment activity that could conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of the Township or which could impair or appear to impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. The Fiscal Officer and the Trustees will disclose any material ownership interest in financial institutions with which the Township conducts business. They will further disclose any personal financial or investment positions that could be related to the performance of the Township investment portfolio. Employees and officers will refrain from undertaking personal investment transactions with the same individual with whom business is conducted on behalf of the Township.

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

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

A resident asked why Ohio Edison did not replace streetlights when they replaced poles after the windstorm. Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly said he would contact Ohio Edison on their behalf. He also asked if the Board was considering adopting something similar to Vienna Township’s adoption to ban solar panels. The Board has not had time to review the new law.

A resident had concerns about new development coming and granting tax abatements. He mentioned other communities who grant tax abatement and their struggles to provide safety services.

A resident spoke about the devastation left behind after timbering on private property. She said a large group of residents are organizing a variety of opinions to pursue. Trustee Devon assured her he plans to visit our representatives in Columbus urging changes in agricultural law, with regards to timbering in residential areas.

Trustees Arnie Clebone spoke about the May 21st Bike Belmont event and urged anyone to join. Arnie thanked Wayne for his help and said the ARP grant application will be submitted this week to seek American Rescue Plan dollars through Trumbull County to upgrade Center Park. He hopes to hold a public hearing in the next few weeks asking for input by residents on crosswalks, enhancements to the entrance of Churchill Park, sidewalks and lighting along Belmont Avenue. He spoke on acquiring help for park plans at Churchill Park.

Trustee Devon Stanley thanked Trustee Clebone for all his efforts submitting grants leveraging our dollars, community improvements and getting things done. He also thanked the Department Heads for their tremendous leadership.

Trustee Greg Cizmar echoed his frustrations and said his hands are tied with regards to timbering.

Motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

DEVON STANLEY, CHAIRPERSON