

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly presented his report to the Board. Matthew reviewed the townships cash financial statement. Matthew also explained how property taxes are divided with approximately 50% going to the Liberty Local Schools, 30% to Township Police, Fire and Road Levies, and the 20% balance going to County Senior Services, County Childrens Services, & other Trumbull County miscellaneous services. The Fire Department was awarded the Safety Intervention Grant from BWC in the amount of \$23,428.22 to purchase lift chair(s). Mr. Connelly is working with the Fire Department to complete the Ambulance Ground Data Collection required by Medicare/Medicaid. By completing the report in-house, we will save approximately \$35,000.00.

Reports:

Administrator Mrs. Martha Weirick thanked those who helped at the Health Fair event and the Easter Bunny Event this year. Both events were well attended. The Liberty Community and Historical Club will be meeting April 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the administration building. Guest speaker is Marshia Levy who will give a presentation on the Mansions in Liberty Township. The newly constructed Liberty Senior Lofts is hosting an open house on April 11th from noon- 5 p.m. for those interested. The Township Annual Litter Cleanup Event is April 20th. Interested parties can come to the admin building at 11:00 a.m. to pick up supplies. Music In Churchill Park dates have been set for this season. Bring your lawn chairs!

June 13th Jim Moran Liberty Lesson Center 7:00 p.m.

July 18th Cin City and the Saints 7:00 p.m.

August 8th The Dixie Dandies 6:30 p.m.

All events will be posted on the website.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald was absent. Captain Al Rivalsky presented the report reviewing stats including 198 EMS calls.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report. Chief Meloro reminded everyone of Sheppard of the Valleys Resource Fair on April 10th. He will be speaking on crimes against senior citizens.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman presented his report including switching from winter to spring mode. Because of the recent excessive amounts of rain the township received, our guys are cleaning out ditches, catch basins, and pipework to keep the water flowing. Wayne reminded everyone to maintain their ditches. Street sweeping has begun, unfortunately one of the sweepers in the shop. He is preparing the parks and bathrooms for the upcoming season. You will notice the orange signs being erected along East Liberty Street for a county paving project. Also RT Vernal will be starting the preliminary work for the second half 2023 Paving Program.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his report. He asked those residents who live near vacant homes to let him know if the grass needs addressing.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 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 March 2024 in the amount of \$574,614.71 warrants #25979 through #26073 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 March.

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

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

24-28 Motion to enter into an agreement with Groover Roofing & Siding for labor and materials to remove and replace the roof on Salt Dome Barn at the Road Department. The total cost is \$27,680.00.

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

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

24-29 Moton to enter into an agreement with Perfect Color to replace new sheeting, replace handrailing,

install new wood trim & supports, caulk, mask and apply 2 coats of Sherwin Williams paint at a cost of \$10,374.65 for all supplies, labor, materials and paint, for the Churchill Cemetery Building Exterior.

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

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

24-30 Motion to increase the part time firefighter Basic EMT rate to \$20.00 per hour and increase the part time Firefighter Paramedic rate to \$22.00 per hour.

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

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

24-31 Motion to accept the resignation of Firefighter Nick Foard effective April 8, 2024. Good luck!

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

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

24-32 Motion to hire Jonathan Moore as a probationary full time firefighter pending pre-employment drug testing and background check, according to the agreement between the Board of Liberty Township Trustees and the IAFF at a rate of \$18.00 per hour. The first day worked will be his hire date.

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

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

Discussion: Trustee Cizmar stated Mr. Moore is coming to Liberty for the structure and scheduling.

24-33 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2024

WHEREAS, LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY (hereinafter referred to as the “Political Subdivision”) hereby submits this written agreement to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) annual road salt bid in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 5513.01(B) and hereby agrees to all of the following terms and conditions in its participation of the ODOT road salt contract:

- a. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions established by ODOT in the road salt contract and acknowledges that upon award of the contract by the Director of ODOT it shall be bound by all such terms and conditions included in the contract; and
- b. The Political Subdivision hereby acknowledges that upon the Director of ODOT’s signing of the road salt contract, it shall effectively form a contract between the awarded salt supplier and the Political Subdivision; and
- c. The Political Subdivision agrees to be solely responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the ODOT road salt contract and agrees that each party hereto shall be responsible for liability associated with that party’s own errors, actions, and failures to act.
- d. The Political Subdivision’s electronic order for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) will be the amount the Political Subdivision agrees to purchase from its awarded salt supplier at the delivered bid price per ton awarded by the Director of ODOT; and
- e. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to purchase a minimum of 90% of its electronically submitted salt quantities from its awarded salt supplier during the contract’s effective period; and
- f. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to place orders with and directly pay the awarded salt supplier on a net 30 basis for all road salt it receives pursuant to ODOT salt contract; and
- g. The Political Subdivision acknowledges that should it wish to rescind this participation agreement it will do so by written, emailed request by no later than Friday, May 3rd, by 5:00 p.m. The written, emailed request to rescind this participation agreement must be received by the ODOT Office of Contract Sales, Purchasing Section email: Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov by the deadline. The Department, upon receipt, will respond that it has received the request and that it has effectively removed the Political Subdivision’s participation request. Furthermore, it is the sole responsibility of the Political Subdivision to ensure ODOT has received this participation agreement as well as the receipt of any request to rescind this participation agreement. The Department shall not be held responsible or liable for failure to receive a Political Subdivision’s participation agreement and/or a Political Subdivision’s request to rescind its participation agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the following authorized person(s) that this participation agreement for the ODOT road salt contract is hereby approved, funding has been authorized, and the Political Subdivision agrees to the above terms and conditions regarding participation on the ODOT salt contract:

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

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

Citizen Comments:

Liberty residents expressed concerns regarding the recent postings on the Fire Department Union Facebook page. Although exceeding the bargaining agreement minimum manpower of three full-time firefighters per shift, because of absenteeism, employee resignations, and paid time off, the Belmont Station has experienced closures. A resident compared the Facebook posts as “fear mongering.” She asked why it was a problem to have just one station – lots of places have just one fire station. The Trustees invited Captain Lucarell to be the spokesman for the Fire Department, because the Fire Chief was absent. Captain Lucarell stated the station was not centrally located, like Hubbard’s station, and takes longer to reach the northern part of the Township. A resident stated when the Union posts when Station 34 is closed, people thought that there is no fire or EMS coverage in the entire township. It was made clear there is always at least one station open. Several residents pointed out the lack of communication between the officials and the fire department. The discussion progressed between the Board, Captain Lucarell and some residents. The Trustees assured those in attendance they are doing everything in their power to maintain staffing and hire every person the fire chief has recommended. The Chief was not made aware of the Belmont Station closing, nor were the Trustees or Administrator notified. It was only after reading about it on Facebook were they made aware. The union admitted the shortfalls between the firefighters and the Fire Chief communications. Trustee Cizmar called out the union “calling him a liar” about knowing whenever the station is closed. As stated earlier, the Chief did not notify the trustees of the closing. The Trustees were equally surprised when Captain Rivalsky announced another firefight quit on Friday. They said the Chief was aware, but the Trustees only found out at the evening meeting. Also, another resident objected to the Fire Chief’s leadership and said he “needs to be replaced.” At which time, Trustee Cizmar agreed with that resident. A firefighter who resigned stated that the township needs to pay the firefighters more, increase staffing and buy more equipment. Another resident stated that this township has lots of older residents who cannot afford increased taxes.

Zoning concerns were raised by a resident regarding a vacant home in foreclosure next to his property. The owner is now deceased, explained the zoning inspector, so there is no one to cite. Trustee Clebone wanted to revisit a letter he suggested months ago requesting the Zoning Board to improve on existing property maintenance codes. Trustee Stanley felt it would be in the township’s best interest to provide specific code changes (perhaps by reviewing Boardman Townships codes) with his fellow Board members, rather than ask the Zoning Board to offer general suggestions.

Another citizen asked the status of fire hydrants inspections. Trustee Cizmar spoke to the newly appointed safety service director for the City of Girard, who assured Greg the inspections will be done. The City of Youngstown has and will continue to inspect their hydrants.

A resident needed help and guidance on how to start programs for recovering drug addicts, veterans and the needy. Trustee Clebone and Police Chief Meloro gave him some suggestions as to who to contact. The discussion continued with the Fire Department personnel in attendance and the Board of Trustees. The Union implied they would send a letter to the Trustees requesting a labor management meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting Friday, April 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON