

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Reports:

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly's presented the financial report reviewing the cash report with a balance of \$4,759,269.77. Matt was notified our by-annual audit has begun and is currently gathering the information requested. The township received the amended certificate from the county, establishing the 2024 budget. We received the NOPEC grant reimbursement for the HVAC upgrade at the Logan Fire Station. We have an additional \$50,000 available from the reimbursable NOPEC Grant to be used for energy saving upgrades. Matt will be working with the Fire Department to collect and submit data for the upcoming Medicare Ground Ambulance Survey (GADCS) due in May.

Administrator Mrs. Martha Weirick presented her report. She thanked Police Assistant Marcy Haney and Administrative Assistant Maureen Schrecengost for representing the Liberty Senior Watch at Churchill Methodist Health Fair. The community litter cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th. Plans are in the making for the summer concert series held at Churchill Park. The Easter Bunny will arrive at the L.Y.R.I.C. (former high school gym) on Saturday, March 30th from 10 – noon. This is a co-sponsored event between Liberty Township and Liberty Chaplains.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald submitted the joint grant application for air packs and masks. Still waiting for answers from other applied grants for various equipment. The staff completed medical refresher courses. The Chief hopes to begin maze, crawl and fire simulator exercises this spring. Also, he plans other training.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his written report.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman stated the pre-construction meeting is set for March 26th for the 2023 2nd Paving Program with RT Vernal the successful bidder. Wayne is finalizing a contract with a crack seal company to seal a number of roads. Our township crew will also crack seal additional roads in hopes of preserving the roads. The salt storage barn roof needs and has gathered quotes. Because the baseball season starts in March, Wayne will open the bathrooms and bring the seasonal park employees back around March 18th. Once the weather cooperates, he will have both street sweepers out to sweep all township roads.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his written report. Jim mentioned the groundbreaking ceremony at the Marriot Suites sight on Motor Inn Drive.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2024 Regular meeting.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of February 2024 in the amount of \$581,238.59 warrants #25905 through #25978 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and the Then and Now Certificates for the month of February 2024

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

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

24-36 Motion to accept the resignation of Firefighter Mike Carson as a full-time firefighter effective March 16, 2024. He will continue on as a part time firefighter with the township.

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

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

24-27 Motion to pass the Permanent Budget for 2024 (see addendum file for full details).

Fund Account Name	Total Appropriation dollars
Police Dept.	\$3,592,483.00
General Fund	\$3,003,267.00
Fire Dept.	\$2,346,440.00
Road and Bridge	\$1,370,724.00
Ambulance and EMS	\$626,025.00
American Rescue Plan	\$610,839.00
Gasoline Tax	\$284,919.00
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$200,000.00
Lighting	\$130,600.00
Cemetery	\$26,500.00
Drug Law Enforcement	\$26,000.00
Total	\$12,217,797.00

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

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

A Citizen addressed his concerns regarding firefighter's post on Facebook that the Belmont Fire Station temporarily closed due to staff shortages. The resident expressed his anger at the social media post. He believed its purpose was to instill fear, especially for his elderly neighbors. Trustee Devon Stanley said the township strives to maintain 5 firefighters, 3 at Logan Station and 2 at Belmont Station. However, if there is an occasional call off and the department is unable fill the position with a full or part time firefighter, we move the 2nd man to the Logan Station. Trustee Stanley said we plan to go into executive session at the end of this meeting to discuss possible discipline action against public employees as the Board was never notified the station was closed.

A resident brought up fire hydrants in the township. He had concerns that they were not being maintained properly. He encouraged the Board to make every effort to request they be maintained by the communities who own and maintain them. Trustee Stanley let the resident know we have communicated to those cities who maintain the hydrants.

Motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss the discipline of public employees at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session at 7:19 p.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

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

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

Next evening business meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Please check township websites for meeting updates or cancellations www.libertytp.com

The Board is cancelling the Friday, March 22, 2024 and Friday, March 29, 2024 8:30 a.m. meetings because of scheduling conflicts.

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON