

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on April 5, 2021 at 6:30pm with a full board present in the Champion high School Community Room.

**The November and December 2020 and January 2021 minutes were approved.** The February 2021 minutes were not yet approved as Trustee Bugos wanted to review a wording change he had requested.

**The Board acknowledged receipt of the financial statements.**

**C2021-47** Trustee Bugos made a motion to rehire Earl Huff and Jacob Burnfield at their previous \$12.00 and \$10.00 pay rates, respectively as part time as needed help in the cemetery, pending preemployment drug screens. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board reviewed quotes for the parking lot paving of Champion Presbyterian Church and the Fire Station front pad. There were questions about the Miller Yount bid on the Fire Station pad, which was significantly deeper mill out than the others. Miller Yount was the best bid for the CPC, but not for the fire station due to the deeper mill out. Working Foreman Davis left the meeting to get in touch with Miller Yount. Upon his return, he was able to say that Miller Yount would meet Chief Hickey and Working Foreman Davis onsite to discuss, but if the Board only wanted the lower depth, as demonstrated by the other bids, then he would be able to significantly lower his bid. The item was tabled with the Board directing the Fiscal Officer to communicate with CPC about the joint project.

**F2021-48** Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the resignation of Firefighter reserve, Greg Pankuch member since 2015 and thank him for his years of service. Mr. Pankuch has a full-time position in Garfield and another position with another department, limiting his availability so he has not been able to work for the last few months. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**F2021-49** Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Fire Chief Hickey to increase EMS rates to match those already in effect at several other townships within Trumbull County effective 4/2/2021. **Templeton requested an amendment to the motion** to make it active on 4/9/2021 as that will be the next time the insurance pulls a batch, and it will not be retroactive to a date when the patient has already been transported... **Motion Amendment accepted unanimously. Templeton seconded**, requesting that Chief Hickey keep the Board informed about when other townships raised those rates and are planning to do so again so that revenues can stay in line within the county. The Board also ensured that these were rates being billed to insurance companies and that there would be no change to resident out of pocket rates. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**Z2021-50** Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Zoning Inspector Fonce to declare 287 Center St East in violation of ORC Section 505.86. Templeton seconded after much discussion about that property and another property in question. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the donation to the fire department from Dan Letson in memory of J Arden Emerine in the amount of \$250.00 and thank him for the donation. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Announcement: Township Clean up Day is April 24, 2021, 8am-2pm.

Announcement: Mosquito Spraying is set for June 7 and July 5; alternate rain dates are 6/8 and 7/6

**P2021-51** Trustee Bugos made a motion to authorize a township representative to purchase a vehicle from the state surplus program for the police department at a rate not to exceed \$4,700.00 Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**P2021-52** Trustee Templeton made a motion to set the day rate at \$150.00 for township representative and former mechanic, Joseph Meikle to travel to Columbus with another employee to examine a state surplus vehicle for possible purchase. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board set a workshop date on April 12 for 6pm to meet with Baker, Bednar, Snyder and the Police and Fire Chiefs.

The Board set a Healthcare Cost Containment Committee meeting for April 19, 2021 at 6:30pm. The Fiscal Officer will see if the Community Room is available for that date.

Reservations were requested for the Trumbull Township Association dinner at DiVieste's April 15 at 6pm. Individuals will pay for their own meals. Three: Davis, Hatt and Emerine. Hickey has already RSVP'd.

Old Business:

There is no update on the skating rink.

The Board received a legal opinion on the old Speedway, but no one could remember requesting the legal opinion recently.

The Warren Diesel permit is still up in the air. The Zoning Inspector refuses to deal with Mr. McFalls. One legal opinion says he does not need a fence. Mr. McFalls has not followed up since being told that, so just hold on to the check and wait for further inquiry.

The Trumbull County Highway Engineer has requested that the Board release the OPWC funds for the 2020 Bridge project. They feel that the outstanding work is forthcoming and was originally completed. The Township has recourse against the maintenance bond should Shelly and Sands not follow up. The Board voted unanimously to sign and send the final documentation to have OPWC release the funds.

**F2021-53** Fire Escrow Loss Prevention Resolution, see attached.

The Board again addressed direct deposit. Audit Committee member Dick Berry was present and volunteered to meet with the Bank and Fiscal Officer to see how direct deposit will be affected during the merger. Mr. Berry has several years of experience as a banking professional.

The Fiscal Officer requested whether the extension of the pandemic would affect the use of digital signatures on checks past original authorizing date of April 1, 2021. Trustee Bugos is comfortable with the reporting structure as it is and would be interested in continuing them as long as necessary.

Trustee Emerine would like to start getting back to normal and does not want to have his signature used on anything but payroll checks after May 1, 2021. Trustee Templeton never uses digital signatures so had no opinion on the matter.

Correspondence:

Fiscal Officer Hatt already reviewed most of the correspondence through old business. Fiscal Officer Hatt will be out of the office several dates in April, so the department heads will need to contact a trustee and may obtain a credit card from Chief Hickey or Trustee Bugos if needed.

New Business:

Congratulations on the retirement of Dave Marshall and welcome to Vinnie Chiochetti, who will begin a new business in Marshall's old location.

CDC Guidelines for opening the Administration offices was discussed. Current CDC guidelines appear to have reduced from 6' to 3.5', but Chief Hickey and Working Foreman Davis were requested to go together to measure 6' apart from the Fiscal Officer's desk to the table for residents to conduct business, to ensure that the Zoning Inspector and the Fiscal Officer could work simultaneously in the same office safely following the guidelines. Trustee Emerine expressed his frustration that he was getting phone calls that the Zoning Inspector was unavailable for business during business hours and that he wanted to have her stop working remotely once the office was measured. Trustee Templeton concurred. Trustee Bugos believe there should be a meeting with the Zoning inspector to ensure she was comfortable with the measures installed in the office. Trustee Emerine stated that had she not taken vacation after requesting a meeting with the Board, they would be having that very meeting now. He also expressed frustration at the lack of ability to have a conversation with the Zoning Inspector that did not end with her saying that she was not comfortable talking to anyone except her legal counsel since her legal counsel was not her employer, the Board was. The Fire Chief and the Working Foreman agreed to complete the inspection the following day.

Department Heads gave their respective reports.

The Zoning Inspector was on vacation.

Working Foreman Davis had a meeting set for April 8 at 6pm to discuss the fencing around the CPC cemetery and Trustee Bugos was going to reach out to his contacts to see about a boy scout eagle project being set up to rebuild the fence. There is much question over whether or not the church formally abandoned the cemetery into the township's care or not.

Woodford's Roll off was the cheapest quote on the cleanup day and the Board will ride with the Mosquito guy if none of the employees can.

Police Chief White reported that he had put Sgt. Goldner in charge of assigning training modules to the officers, including himself. They started with Civil Rights, such as harassment and had various other modules assigned. The goal was to do about 5 hours per month and the officers would eventually be able to do them in their cars.

Public Comment:

Jack Besse, 381 Durst Drive, had nothing but praise for the road department and Working Foreman Davis about a problem he has had in the right of way for years.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met on April 12, 2021 at 6pm in the garage at the Township Administration Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Police Chief White expressed his displeasure at a portion of the police contract that had recently been pointed out to him by the union representative. He was concerned that it would hinder the ability of the Board to complete a potential contract for police services.

Trustee Bugos introduced Andy Bednar from Baker Bednar Associates, the architect completing the Land Use Plan for the Township.

Andy Bednar displayed his progress and his observations on the interaction with the community members surrounding the movement of soccer and the old middle school property on Alva Ave.

The Board addressed many obstacles, concerns, etc. about the many aspects of the Land use Plan: soccer, the 60 acres, grant dollars., a new safety/security building, utilities, etc.

Relocating soccer to the Alva Ave property owned by the school would cost about \$350,000 and that would not include restrooms.

A preliminary overview of the Champion township 60 Acres:

Phase I- \$470,000

Consisting of: moving the utilities, moving soccer, new entrance and one parking lot

Phase II- \$360,000

Consisting of: restrooms, amphitheater, pavilion

Phase III- \$220,000

Consisting of: Boardwalk and trail

Phase IV- \$50,000

Consisting of: overflow parking lot

Trustee Bugos requested that BBS give a quote for the following:

Not moving the Cemetery entrance, a lower value trail, separating labor from materials in case our workers could perform any phase of the work.

Trustee Emerine feels that the Alva property has no value for the township as it reduces what the CAC currently has and does not fulfill the requests of CYSL, so there is no point in exploring that further.

A preliminary overview of the Safety Security building project

Phase I- \$3.8-4,000,000

Consisting of Stormwater drainage, the fire/administration portion and parking/paving

Phase II & III- \$5-6 million

Police station, etc.—was not broken out completely as this is still in process.

Mr. Bednar addressed concerns that the Board had about the project and whether an area could be included for the needs of SCOPE and other organizations, such as the USPS which may provide rental services to the Township to assist with the cost.

Regarding an appraisal on the Central Property: there are 2 parcels, one is 6.87 acres and the other is 3.13 acres.

The Board discussed matching funds for grants and other monies that may come in to assist, such as designating the FEMA reimbursements towards the capital improvements.

Trustee Templeton is interested in core samples.

Mr. Bednar was excused from the meeting.

Fire Chief Hickey requested the process that the Board would like to follow for the full-time new hire that is impending in the department. Emerine said would like to interview but will follow Chief Hickey’s recommendation. Bugos indicated he would like to hire from within reserves if there is anyone interested. Chief Hickey would like to stick with internal candidates for now.

The Board requested an update on the FEMA PA Grant. Trustee Templeton stated that he had not seen the documentation and had previously asked for it. Fiscal Officer Hatt will provide.

The Board agreed to request a meeting with the school board.

Further discussion was held on the architectural drawings.

Trustee Bugos excused himself.

Trustee Emerine and Trustee Templeton continued to discuss the Land Use Plan and how they were more interested in going straight to the Safety/Security Building on the 60 acres and selling the Central Property than they were on developing a park. They were concerned with the fact that no grant money has come in yet. Fiscal Officer Hatt reminded them that the grants were still being written and they take time...and a plan.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Special session on April 19, 2021 at 6:00pm in the High School Community Room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township.

Members from the healthcare committee were present to discuss quotes received from other vendors. None of the quotes beat the current renewal at over 19%.

The Board chose to take no action on healthcare at this time as the plan would automatically renew and if other quotes came in, the Board could act later.

Trustee Templeton requested that BE Solutions be allowed to quote. The Board felt that was appropriate, so if they came in lower, they could still be approved since the Board had not taken any action to renew.

Trustee Emerine questions Trustee Templeton on why he waited they waited so long to request to quote. Trustee Templeton said he would have them get in touch with the Fiscal Officer to transfer FormFire.

The Healthcare Committee was dismissed, if desired (Criddle, Lowery, Bland)

The AFSCME Union members were curious as to why the Board had not set up negotiations when the contract was going to expire in 11 days. The Board indicated that Ms. Bindas had not yet reached out to set dates.

Trustee Bugos requested approval to renew the website and the Fiscal Officer’s email. Trustee Emerine concurred. Trustee Templeton had no response to the request.

Working Foreman Davis discussed an issue with a cross pipe on Glendola and Copeland.

The Board was requested to continue to address concerns of Charlie on Rellim/Stewart about a tree/ditch issue that has come apparent since the removal of a tree for the OPWC Bridge project.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer