

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on January 4, 2021 at 6:30pm with a full board present.

Fiscal Officer Hatt called for election of a Chairman. Trustee Templeton nominated Trustee Emerine. Trustee Emerine seconded. Templeton yes, Emerine yes, Bugos abstained.

Fiscal Officer turned the meeting over to the new Chairman.

Election of a vice chairman. Trustee Templeton nominated Trustee Bugos. Trustee Emerine seconded. Templeton yes, Emerine yes, Bugos yes.

G2021-1 Trustee Templeton made the Sunshine Law Motion. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the minutes for October 2020. Trustee Bugos seconded Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Announcement: Public meeting to be held on January 7, at 7pm virtually (727) 731-0901. Scholl will physically host the Board, but this is a Township meeting.

Reminder: Inventories are due to the Fiscal Officer no later than January 18, 2021.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to appoint the Township Records Commission for 2021, comprised of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Fiscal Officer, and the Trumbull County Auditor. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to reappoint Township Legal Counsel, Letson & Swader Co., LPA and Atty. Mark S. Finamore at \$150 and \$100 per hour respectively on an as needed basis. Trustee Templeton objected. Trustee Emerine objected due to Mark Finamore charging a weekend rate. Motion died for lack of second.

G2021-2 Trustee Templeton made a motion to approve membership in the Ohio Township and Trumbull County Associations, and approve attendance of the annual State Association Conferences, County meetings and payment of expenses at these events for Trustees and Fiscal Officer and any department heads or zoning board members who wish to be associate members. Early bird registration by January 8, 2021 for virtual conference is \$65.00. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-3 Trustee Templeton made a motion to establish 2021 mileage reimbursement rate for approved travel expenses of Township Officials and employees. The current 2021 IRS mileage rate is 56 cents per mile (down from 57.5 cents in 2020). Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the 2020 Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources in the amount of \$6,528,355.55 dated December 29, 2020 reflecting updates from the December 22, 2020 meeting. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

A motion to approve a remote work policy that outlines responsibilities for employees who are assigned to a work location other than their normal worksite was tabled would like to review updates by Trustee Templeton as he wanted Trustee Bugos to write it without further input.

F2021-4 Trustee Templeton made a motion to establish a new fund for the 4902- SCBA Grant. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-5 Trustee Bugos made a motion to transfer \$35,000.00 to the Zoning fund and appropriate the same, to cover expenses. This amount will be used to cover salary, benefits, utilities and other statutory obligations of the township. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-6 Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain the services of all part time employees at same rates of pay as last year, includes fire department reserves, part time police officers and fiscal office staff retroactive to January 1, 2021. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes. (Original motion amended from "rehire....retro to 1/1/21.)

F2021-7 Trustee Templeton made a motion to retain Fire Chief John Hickey, retroactive to 1/1/21. Trustee Bugos seconded, Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

P2021-8 Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain services of Chief of Police Jeffery White. Retroactive to 1/1/21. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Z2021-9 Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain services of Zoning Inspector Rhonda Fonce. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the donation of Gerald and Marilyn Kolar to the Police and Fire Departments in the amount of \$200 each, and thank them for their generosity. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$50 from Woodland Meadows residents to the Police Department and \$214 to the Fire Department, and thank them for their generosity . Trustee Templeton2, Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the donation from Gloria Martinek, Prentice Road, in the amount of \$100 and Gloriann Martinek, Louise Ave, of \$50 to the Police Department, and thank them for their generosity., Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

F2021-10 Trustee Bugos made a motion to purchase three sets of turnout gear for the Fire Department to be used as back up when firefighters need to allow their turnout gear to be cleaned and sanitized after responding to an incident during the global pandemic. The gear takes 24 hours to be cleaned, leaving fewer sets of gear for fire responses. Approximate price of the gear is \$2,600 each set. Total cost for three back up sets not to exceed \$7,800.00. This item will be submitted for reimbursement under the FEMA PA Grant as this is to serve in the back up ambulance required due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

P2021-11 Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire Dejan J. Robinson as a part time police officer at \$12.50 per hour, effective no later than January 11, 2021, pending pre-employment drug screen and background check. Mr. Robinson has a full time position with the police department in Roaming Shores, OH. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the donations given *in memory of Brian J. Arndt*, from Leonid Tymkiw, the Browning family and the Criddle-Cykon family in the total amount of \$200 to the fire department, and thank them for their generosity. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the donation of the Stirling family to the fire department in the amount of \$200.00, and thank them for their generosity. Trustee Bugos seconded, Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

F21-12 Trustee Templeton made a motion to purchase a Stryker Stair Chair from Stryker Medical at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00 for use by EMTs to help assist with transport of residents during calls. This item will be submitted for reimbursement under the FEMA PA Grant as this is to serve in the back

up ambulance required due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes. The Board was very cautious with making this expenditure, knowing how fragile the current budget in the fire department has been but hopeful that the FEMA funding will cover the expenditure.

The Board tabled a motion to authorize the purchase of two vehicles (VIN to be determined at time of purchase) when a suitable vehicle inventory becomes available from the State of Ohio Surplus program for the police department, up to \$5,000.00 each. The Township has had success in purchasing vehicles from the State in the past and wishes to have the opportunity to do so in the near future.

The Board tabled a personnel matter until executive session.

R2021-13 Trustee Bugos made a motion to pay the AFSCME Union members an additional five (5) hours of straight time. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Trustee Templeton NO, because he believed this did not need a motion to be paid. Trustee Bugos also believed this, but due to audit concerns by the Fiscal Officer he made a motion.

New Business:

Set a date for the workshop Jan 19 @ 4:00pm with legal counsel if available, police negotiations- Executive Session TBD

Old Business:

The Architect update was that the meeting previously announced will be the first of several community engagement meetings and the architect had completed about 15% of the work requested.

The Board has sought legal counsel for the roller rink demolition. The State Fire Marshall has not yet completed his report as they are awaiting additional information from Mr. Brainard. The Building Department and the Champion Township Fire Department have both declared the building unsafe. The Board is awaiting the official Health Department declaration as well as legal counsel's report.

Chief Hickey to follow up on a quote with the UV light cost for the Township.

Chief White received the Radar units today, looking in to all the features now.

Trustee Templeton left the meeting temporarily.

Zoning report

Trustee Templeton returned

Road/Cemetery Department report

Union requested mechanic's pay for Criddle-no decision made, discuss further in executive session

The Foreman would like to move cemetery records to storage from furnace room.

The Road Department will try to run straight salt or 1:1 mix on Sorber's outskirts routes and would like to try to get the Grater working to cut some berm. The Road Department is looking in to a military program to help with equipment costs

The other department heads gave their respective reports.

Executive Session:

Trustee Templeton made a motion to enter in to executive session for Personnel Matters in several departments. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Zoning Inspector Fonce joined briefly and left.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to exit executive session. Trustee Bugos seconded, Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-15 Trustee Templeton made a motion to reappoint Township Legal Counsel, Letson & Swader Co., LPA and Atty. Mark S. Finamore at \$150 and \$100 per hour respectively on a 24/7/365 as needed basis. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Z2021-16 Trustee Emerine made a motion to carryover Zoning Inspector Fonce’s 80 hours vacation time, a one-time basis due to Covid-19, pending her voluntary use of these hours in increments of no more than sixteen (16) hours at a time. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

The rest of the Board requests that Trustee Bugos address the 186 Cleveland property permit situation with Zoning Inspector Fonce.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees was scheduled to meet on January 7, 2021 at 7pm but no meeting was entered in to due to lack of a quorum being present. Trustee Bugos and Fiscal Officer Hatt were in person and Trustee Bugos provided notes to the board on the Land Use Plan meeting with the school and architect.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on January 13, 2021 at 3:30pm, with a full board present. Atty Letson joined the Board for a conference before the OPBA negotiations with Jeff Perry and Daniel P. Wasko, Jr.

Hearing no further comments, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special emergency session on January 14, 2021 at 12:00pm, absent Trustee Templeton, via teleconference 727-731-0901 for discussion of the OPBA contract. No action taken.

Hearing no further comments, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees was scheduled to meet in special session on January 18, 2021 at 11am for the purpose of meeting with the legal counsel. There was no quorum present, so Fiscal Officer Hatt and Trustee Emerine reviewed the case with legal counsel.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on January 19, 2020 at 4pm for the purpose of conducting the business of the Township. The Chairman called the meeting to order absent Trustee Templeton.

R2021-18 Trustee Bugos made a motion accept the MOU with AFSCME Ohio Council 8 with regard to altering the medical clause of the collective bargaining unit from a percentage of wages to a flat rate for calendar year 2021. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

F2021-19 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the MOU with IAFF with regard to a flat rate medical contribution for calendar year 2021. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

P2021-20 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the OPBA Contract retroactive to May 1, 2020. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

G2021-21 Trustee Bugos made a motion to revoke and/or eliminate the FSA portion of the cafeteria plan for 2021 under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

G2021-22 Trustee Bugos made a motion to increase the HRA portion of the cafeteria plan for 2021 to match the deductible portion of the healthcare plan under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Tabled motions to appoint zoning board members as interviews have yet to be conducted.

Tabled a motion to appoint someone as zoning inspector with regard to any applications received by Mr. McFalls per the authority set forth in R.C. 519.16 due to Rhonda Fonce, Zoning Inspector's, refusal to perform her statutory duties with regard to this resident. There was concern that Atty Letson handles both the owner of the property and the Township as well as Ms. Rodgers dealing with a lawsuit filed by Ms. Fonce against the Township.

G2021-23 Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire Cherry Poteet as legal counsel for her advisement on the Mahan/McFalls permit request as well as Zoning issues which lie on that property at a rate not to exceed \$150.00 per hour. Request that she be able to provide in time for the next trial date for the property. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

F2021-24 Trustee Bugos made a motion to appoint Chief John Hickey and Jason Gray to the Volunteer Fire Dependency Board for the year of 2021. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Discuss mechanic pay for the road crew when filling in while the position is vacant.

P2021-25 Trustee Bugos made a motion to pay Chief White Coronavirus Hazard Pay 80 hours at his regular rate, the same rate at which the patrolman were compensated in passing the OPBA contract. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

P2021-26 Trustee Bugos made a motion to pay Chief White 720 hours sick time at his regular rate of pay normally due upon retirement. There will be no increase paid at a later date on this amount. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Discussion was held on the 2020 OPWC Bridge Rehabilitation Project that has an outstanding balance and there are outstanding issues as well. The board directed Courtney to release the Township share and the board will wait on the OPWC share until completed.

Public Comment:

Via Telephone Message to the Board: Dick Berry, 5171 Calla, asked Fiscal Officer Hatt to express to the Board how much he looked forward to returning in person and how much he missed the meetings.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer