

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Public Hearing on May 3, 2021, at 6:30pm with a full board present in the Champion high School Community Room for hearing an amendment to the Zoning Resolution: Rear Yards with a full board present. (Hearing was started late due to difficulty gaining entry to the building.)

The Fiscal Officer showed proof of publication.

The Chairman read the text of the proposed amendment.

The only public present were two members of the Zoning Commission, John Streitferdt and Dick Berry.

The Chairman called for proponents.

The Chairman called for opponents.

**Z2021-54** Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the amendment to Section 15.2 of the Zoning Resolution: Rear Yards, as proposed. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The hearing was adjourned directly into regular session by the Chairman.

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on May 3, 2021, at 6:40pm with a full board present in the Champion high School Community Room.

**The Board acknowledged receipt of the financial statements for the month of April.**

After discussion, it was determined to set a Healthcare Cost Containment Committee meeting for Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 6:30pm to allow the other brokers to go back and get quotes based on the larger group size that Michelle Crockett of Burnham and Flower realized our group could be quoted in.

Stacey Rozzo, Champion Rotary President, came to present the Board with the logo contest winning entry and gave a small presentation. The contest was run during Covid to give residents a chance to contribute while staying at home. There were six contestants. The winning entry was modified by a group of Rotarians and then run by the Champion Historical Society and other groups. The Rotary is gifting the new logo to the Township because they feel that the Township logo is outdated and the cost of a graphic designer to redo the Township logo would have been very costly.

Trustee Bugos requested accepting the logo be tabled for now. Trustee Templeton also asked to table the logo. Trustee Emerine thanked Stacey Rozzo and the Rotary and said **the item was tabled**.

Discussion was held on the possibility of updating Fire and Police levies. Chief White concurs with the Board that his levy can wait for updating until next year. Chief Hickey will give the Board a presentation on his thoughts on updating the Fire levies at an upcoming meeting. Trustee Templeton brought up issues with overtime in the Fire department. Chief Hickey reminded him that the Board had to fix overtime concerns with the Fire department within the full-time contract during negotiations and that the Fire department in Champion was the fourth busiest with the lowest staff and the lowest levy funding. It was emphasized that all paperwork must be into the Board of Elections by August 4, 2021, after going through several other steps and at least two meetings, including going to the Prosecutor's office and the staff there will be out of the office in June, so time is of the essence.

**Trustee Emerine authorized Trustee Templeton to investigate getting a performance audit done by the state.** Trustee Bugos would like more information prior to proceeding with a performance audit.

Discussion on rejoining the COG was left on the table.

Police Chief White asked that his letter regarding the SRO Contract with the Champion Local School District be acknowledged by each Board member as being read for purposes of the minutes. Chief

White provided this letter to the Board at the last workshop meeting. Chairman Emerine read it aloud. (see attached)

**P2021-55** After much discussion, Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter into a contract for a School Resource Officer with Champion Local Schools for one year with the school paying \$61,000 to the Township for said services. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes. Trustee Templeton wanted to hold off on hiring or promoting an officer into the position until the school board also approved the contract, and he has had a chance to meet and interview the officer. It was decided that the Board would ask Dejan Robinson to meet with them prior to the Healthcare Cost Containment Committee Meeting on May 12.

Items relating to social distancing in the Administration building and opening the offices up to the public were tabled until executive session with Zoning Inspector Fonce at the end of the meeting. Items related to advertising a part time as needed zoning inspector were also tabled until an executive session at the end of the meeting.

The Board expressed a thank you to all the employees and volunteers who worked during the Champion Community Clean Up Day on April 24.

No New Business was announced.

Old Business:

Department Head press releases are ongoing discussions with Trustee Bugos, and he thanks the department heads who have so far participated.

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

The Board is awaiting further information from Debbie Bindas and the Fire Union before setting dates for talks with them. Fiscal Officer Hatt will check in with the Road (Debbie Bindas) and Chief Hickey will ask the Fire Union.

Trustee Bugos discussed the architectural update and the many possibilities under the ORC (zz) that deal with combination levies after his talk with the Prosecutor.

The Board needs an appraisal on the Central Property before anything can be done with the property about the architectural update. Trustee Templeton said he knows an appraiser. No new motion was made as the Board has already had a motion on the books to get it appraised but an appraiser has not been picked yet.

The Roller Rink has had the asbestos abatement study done and demolition is going to proceed soon.

**G2021-56** Trustee Bugos made a motion to begin direct deposit for the Township employees with our current bank, TCF, effective June 1, 2021. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no.

The department heads gave their respective reports.

**R2021-57** Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Working Foreman Davis to approve county estimates for road projects totaling approximately \$75,000 and supplementally appropriate the same. The Board requests that Davis does what he can with our crew so that the projects come in well under budget. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**R2021-58** Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the low bid \$149,911.75 of Ronyak Paving, 14376 N. Cheshire St, Burton, OH 44021 to complete the 2021 OPWC Road Program encompassing Copeland and Gertrude. The township share, ~54%, will be \$80,952.35 from the Road Improvement Levy (2193) and the grant amount will be \$68,959.41 Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**R2021-59** Trustee Bugos made a motion to appropriate \$68,949.41 to the 4401 OPWC fund, representing the grant share of the project. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Zoning Inspector Fonce thanked Chief Hickey, the fire department, and Cemetery Sexton Davis along with Officer Lowery for care and professionalism during a recent family situation. Zoning Inspector Fonce announced she is working closely with the planning commission on a zoning conversion map. She has started the title work on demolition for 287 Center St. East.

Correspondence:

None

Public Comment:

Joseph McFalls, 186 Cleveland Ave what to do about his fence permit application and questions why the zoning inspector can get a shed permit for herself but has not done anything about his permit application since December. The Chairman said that he could not write the permit and that the matter would be addressed with the Zoning Inspector during executive session.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters regarding a return to work with the zoning inspector after over a year on remote work. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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

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 May 13, 2021, at 6:30pm, at the Champion High School Community room for conducting the business of the Township. The Chairman called the meeting to order absent Trustee Bugos who had a prior commitment. (Original meeting date previously announced for May 12 was changed due to a conflict with Trustee Templeton’s schedule.)

Police Chief White and Dejan Robinson of the Champion township Police Department were present. Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter executive session to interview Dejan Robinson for the SRO contract. Templeton seconded. Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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

Chairman Emerine welcomed the Champion Rotary to the meeting. He reviewed the presentation that Ms. Rozzo gave at the previous meeting and apologized that he did not initiate further comment from the other trustees when the logo item was tabled.

**G2021-60** Trustee Templeton made a motion to adopt the gift logo from Champion Rotary as the new township logo. Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Templeton yes. Members of the Rotary were invited to speak at this time. Ms. Rozzo thanked the Board for adopting the logo. Former Trustee Fee spoke on the logos words “faith” meaning faith in each other, faith in our community, faith in areas unrelated to religion. Members of the Rotary expressed how they had been upset because no explanation for the tabling of their gift had been given at the last meeting. They would still like to hear Trustee Bugos thoughts on the logo. Chairman Emerine took responsibility for not asking the other members to expound on their tabling of the matter.

Brokers from BE Solutions, Fred Alberini Insurance Group, Insurance Navigators and Burnham and Flower were present to give their quotes on the health insurance.

- Michelle Crockett of Burnham and Flower had lower numbers and had brought up the idea that the group could be quoted in 51-99 employee groups. She also suggested going back to them as TPA. She also said that TPA Stream, where EOBs flow directly into their system can be implemented by the employees if they are interested. She said on occasion there are hiccups, but generally it goes very smoothly.
- Insurance Navigators had numbers lower than its current quote with Anthem and suggested staying with PrimePay as TPA.
- BE Solutions brought up the idea of going with a MERP plan that moved individuals over to their spouse's plans and thereby eliminated the claims on our plan and in the long term lowered costs. He also had lower numbers than before.
- Alberini Insurance had no numbers because of not having FormFire again, but they still pitched moving the dental to Humana to give better coverage. The Brokers were thanked for their time.
- Employees gave input. The employees expressed that Burnham and Flower had previously had a few issues with claims processing. Employees expressed disappointment that Alberini had nothing new with healthcare. Employees did not think many of them could go to the MERP plan that BE Solutions offered. Employees were encouraged to go home and review the numbers and the Board would call another meeting after there was time given to digest the information.

Personnel healthcare processing concerns were tabled to executive session at the end of the meeting.

Announcement: Date for Road Contract negotiations will be Monday, May 17, 2021, at 6pm. Chief Hickey may be invited if time allows for additional business. Trustee Bugos had previously listed this as a time when he could participate.

The IAFF was present to set a date for negotiations on June 14 at 6pm at the school if it is available. Fiscal Officer Hatt will check with Trustee Bugos to make sure he is available on this date.

**G2021-61** Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources in the amount of \$4,739,110.02 dated March 3, 2021, increasing revenue for the Mosquito Control Grant and correcting a typographical error on the original certificate dated March 3. Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**G2021-62** Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the Mosquito Control Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00. mosquito Spraying dates are 6/7 and 7/5 with alternates of 6/8 and 7/6. Additional sprayings will be addressed if needed later. Each spraying is about \$1800 each. Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Discussion was held on declaring 505.87 on several properties. The Fiscal Officer was directed to ask the Prosecutor if we could mow them ourselves and assess the properties on their tax duplicate rather than paying a contractor.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the personnel matters with the healthcare concerns and the interview for SRO. Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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

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 May 17, 2021, at 6:00pm via teleconference 731-727-0901 for the purpose of conducting the business of the township.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations with the AFSCME Union, Debbie Bindas and Scott Sorber and township Attorney Dan Letson present. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to exit executive session.

Discussion was held on the SRO contract with Champion Local Schools regarding the ambivalence expressed by chief White since the vote.

Fire Chief Hickey gave a presentation on the possible options for a replacement or new levy for the Fire Department. The Board will consider his recommendations and decide prior to the deadline for filing as there is a levy due to be placed on the ballot this fall.

**F2021-63** Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Fire Chief Hickey to hire Joseph Danks, of Painesville, OH, pending preemployment drug screen and background check as a Fire Reserve Basic. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**F2021-64** Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Fire Chief Hickey to hire Cody Bartholomew, of North Bloomfield, OH, pending preemployment drug screen and background check as a Fire Reserve EMT. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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 May 22, 2021, at 8:00am at the Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:10am with a full board present.

The trustees discussed further Chief White’s ambivalence to promote/hire an SRO and the issues that it could cause the department if something happened to an officer and they needed to fill the position. Trustee Templeton was passionate about interviewing additional officers and not just promoting from within and conducting a thorough vetting of candidates. Fiscal Officer Hatt reminded the Board that all volunteers and employees, even subcontractors had to have clearance through the BCII and/or FBI to work in the school. A decision was made to place an advertisement for firefighters and police officers, both full and part time. Trustee Bugos was passionate about promoting from within when our current part timer has experience as an SRO and has been interviewed by the superintendent, as well as having passed the FBI/BCII check.

Trustee Templeton contacted a school board member (unnamed) who said that he would support the township in looking at other officers and interviewing, not just promoting the one we had already.

Trustee Templeton had to leave the meeting but requested that this statement be included in the minutes: Trustee Templeton is a no vote on promoting/hiring Dejan Robinson to the SRO position as he

does not feel that the candidate has been properly vetted before the promotion and that he would like to advertise for other candidates for the position.

Sgt Peterson of Warren Township was consulted on what their township did to hire their SRO. Peterson stated that they put each officer through a thorough hiring process, such as drug screen, lie detector test, psychological exam, and background screening, not just SROs. He believed it to be the standard for many years. The Board agreed that the standards for Champion need updated.

**P2021-65** Trustee Bugos made a motion to promote Dejan Robinson to a full-time officer position contingent upon the approval of the SRO contract by Champion Local School Board and upon his continued qualifications as certified SRO, including the background check, psychological evaluation and drug screen as required by the recommended SRO hiring procedures generally done by the Trumbull County Sheriffs office of all the SROs. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.