

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on September 13, 2020 at 6:030p.m. for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order, with a full board present.

The Board observed a moment of silence for those affected by the tragedy of 9-11-2001.

Steve Paplas, Trumbull County Engineer's office, requested to speak prior to the commencement of business on the agenda for the purpose of reminding the township of all the services that Champion takes advantage of that the County offers and the importance of working together. Trustee Emerine thanked him for making these services available to us and then called him out for his involvement in the House Bill 168 meetings that had taken place that Champion had been excluded from participation. Mr. Paplas defended himself saying that the HB 168 dollars were for cities and that the townships were brought in on the Township Stimulus bill meeting. Trustee Bugos made it clear that while we appreciated his work on the Township Stimulus Bill, many townships were blindsided by the presentations at the meeting that very clearly looked one sided and that it was apparent that Liberty, Weathersfield and Howland were included and were not municipalities. Mr. Paplas and Trustee Emerine had further words about not fighting and getting along and Mr. Paplas left. Trustee Emerine informed the residents present about the timeline of events, Mrs. Christ piped in with criticisms about how trustees need to do a better job of looking for meetings at the county and Trustee Emerine explained that the meetings were not advertised the same clear cut way our meetings are.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the minutes for July and August. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The trustees acknowledged the receipt of the financial reports for August.

The trustees set a date for Trick or Treat as October 30, from 6-7:30pm.

F2021-82 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Chief Hickey for the purchase of 9 sets of boots at a cost of \$ 340.00 (\$ 3,060.00 for all 9 sets) from Warren Fire. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

F2021-83 Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Act Grant EMW-2020-FG-10224 totaling \$37,900.00. This grant will be used to purchase a Physio Life Pak 15 cardiac monitor and a 5-year service and maintenance agreement on the unit. The breakdown of the grant is as follows: Federal Funds Provided: \$ 36,095.24 Local Funds: \$ 1,804.76. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-84 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Fiscal Officer Hatt to pass the 2022 fiscal year rate resolution to total 14.4mills, \$2,196,840.00 - outside millage as voted, inside millage amounts: 1.70 Road and Bridge, .15 County Health, .65 General Fund, and forward to the County Auditor and Budget Commission. (see full resolution attached) Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

ARP2021-85 Trustee Bugos made a motion to increase the revenue budget by \$474,469.93 in fund 2273-ARP-Fiscal Recovery fund. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2021-86 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the AFSCME Union Contract. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton abstain because he had not reviewed it yet.

A motion to alter the revenue budget for the Zoning fund was tabled at this time as the trustees had just received the reports showing the changes the Fiscal Officer was requesting.

(Motions 87 and 88 were numbered in last month due to poor handwriting. They were not altered because they had already been submitted to legal counsel for submission to other agencies.)

SPA2021-89 Trustee Bugos made a motion to make a supplemental appropriation to Capital Outlay in the Special Assessments fund for the addition of a street light not to exceed \$4,000. The cost will be spread out over the lighting district and collected by the Trumbull County Treasurer as per the ORC

process. Ohio Edison will complete the final engineering and work. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Announcement: Reminder to all employees and visitors within the Township buildings that there is a state law against smoking in government buildings or near any ingress or egress from said buildings, as well as ensuring no ashtrays within said buildings. Refer to ORC 3794, which includes new additions to the statute effective 9/30/2021.

PrimePay has announced a rate increase effective 10/01/2021 for all services. The Fiscal officer is recommending that we look in to a new TPA for our plan as this provider has not been a good choice. Now that we do not have the FSA requirement, our options are not limited. The Fiscal Officer did not know if the contract allowed mid-year changes, so the trustees will review. Trustee Templeton was confused about why the township was looking for a new TPA when we had FormFire ready to submit to the brokers and three brokers had their own in-house TPAs. The trustees indicated they were ready to release the FormFire out to get new quotes and requested Benefits Administrator Hatt to forward it to the other brokers.

The Township healthcare was discussed about losing a higher rate because we had lost a couple of employees. Trustee Templeton has questions on whether or not based on the guidelines our zoning boards are 099 or W-2 employees. They have been 1099 for quite some time, but other townships have paid their employees. Trustee Templeton was going to check with legal counsel on the proper way because that adds 10 people to our roster. Due to the potential savings of \$40,000.00 that we may be missing out on, Trustee Emerine indicated that he would be willing to hire a couple of playground custodians to clean up a few hours a year if the boards were not W-2 employees.

The trustee set a workshop pertaining to a joint project with Southington, Warren Township, and Braceville Township on Anderson Anthony Road project for September 22, 2021 at 6pm, based on dates from Southington and previously cleared with the other township chairman. Other items may be addressed in the workshop. It was mentioned that there may be a need to discuss waterline money with Bristol Township Trustees.

G2021-90 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the addendum to the Land Use Plan submitted by Baker, Bednar, Snyder. Trustee Bugos gave a brief overview of the process that the Township had gone through in order to have the Land Use plan completed. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton abstain as he had not reviewed the Land Use Plan, although he had indicated that he did receive it in his email.

Trustee Bugos reminded the other employees that the Township had purchased a secure email for the departments and trustees, and it was imperative to use this account rather than personal email accounts due to cybersecurity concerns, including recent hacks. He asked who was not using the township email. Chief White and Zoning Inspector Fonce indicated they were not. Trustee Templeton indicated that he has been able to access it since Bugos gave him instruction. Trustee Bugos said he would wait until next month to make a motion that this be the exclusive email for use by the township employees. He requested that all communications be sent to his township email.

Reports by Department Heads:

Fire Chief Hickey gave his report. At the conclusion, Trustee Emerine read aloud his retirement letter, effective September 30, 2021 at 4:00pm. Trustee Bugos offered many kind words as Emerine was emotionally overtaken.

F2021-91 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the insistence of Chairman Emerine and the request of Fire Chief Hickey to appoint Captain Donald Maffitt as the Interim Fire Chief, beginning at 4:00pm, September 30, 2021. Emerine seconded. Templeton wanted to wait until the board had met with Captain Maffitt to appoint him. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton abstain because he felt it was a knee jerk reaction. Emerine insisted that because there was not another regular meeting scheduled and Captain Maffitt is second in command already, this action would ensure a smooth transition and he had confidence in Maffitt to head the department. Bugos seconded these sentiments.

Police Chief White gave his report and discussed various vehicle issues, including costs have gone up greatly for the surplus vehicles as they are being auctioned off or not sold at all. The Board told him to be diligent on continuing his search. He was looking for some parts for 2013 Ford Crown Victorias. Working Foreman/Cemetery Sexton Davis stated that he has had a resident come forward about helping to square up the footers so that sagging gravestones will not fall and break. The trustees advised to look into the legal matters and the insurance issues on fixing the stones before authorizing the project, but that they are very thankful to him for volunteering and look forward to an answer on this. Davis reported that the Cemetery Grant he had previously applied for was awarded, 50% grant for \$6,475 fence project to go from the Township Administration building parking lot, east on Route 305 to the woods. The information was just received today, so the trustees requested copies of the award letter and the quotes prior to officially accepting the grant. Davis also gave details on the excavator quotes he had received. He did not have copies for the trustees, so those were requested prior to approving a purchase.

Zoning Inspector Fonce gave a very detailed report on her progress on junk vehicle removal within the township, as well as of her attendance at several trainings since the last trustee meeting.

2021-92 Trustee Bugos made a motion to declare ORC 505.87 on the requested properties for high grass. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

2021-93 Trustee Bugos made a motion to declare 505.173 on the attached list of junk motor vehicles in the township. Zoning Inspector Fonce was cautioned to move forward very slowly as this was a new process and we wanted to have all the legal bases covered. Trustee Emerine was concerned about VIN numbers and asked her to contact the Trumbull County Prosecutor's office to see if the vehicles without VINs could be removed legally. He also asked her to simply send notices, and report back to the board prior to spending money on the title searches.

Old business/Correspondence:

Trustee Bugos gave an update on the Refractory Drive (Diversified) property. The land bank and Treasurer of State with the Columbus Land Bank estimated that they will use a Phase I EPA grant for \$250,000 and has requested the township's continued support of the clean up of the property.

The school was recently able to open the joint township-school cross country course project designed by Coach John Haug. Chairman Emerine was in attendance and spoke at the first cross country meet to be hosted there. Trustee Bugos thanked the entire Road Department for their efforts as well as fellow trustees for supporting the project.

F2021-94 Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire Matthew Gebhardt, Firefighter II and EMT Basic, pending preemployment drug screen and background check. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Correspondence:

Fiscal Officer Hatt had correspondence on the State Road Sanitary Sewer Project from the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer's office stating that the project will go to bid potentially with construction starting in early 2022.

Fiscal Officer Hatt had a permit request for a liquor license from Northwoods Gold Course and the trustees requested a hearing be held.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

D. Christ, 400 Lauder, had comments about the trustees renewal of the Medicount contract and Southington agreement. Discussion was held between the trustees, Ms. Christ and the Fire Chief on the topics. Ms. Christ requested to be notified of the Southington meeting. Trustee Emerine informed her that she had received notice of the meeting with Southington on September 22, 2021 at 6pm.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter in to executive session for personnel issues and ongoing litigation. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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

The Trustees requested that Fiscal Officer Hatt update legal counsel on the ongoing litigation as discussed in executive session.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session at Southington Town Hall with a full Board present (Trustee Templeton arrived late) on September 22, 2021 at 6pm. Southington Trustees, Southington Fire Chief Polott, Ed Anthony, Warren Township Trustee, Tom Shay and Jeff Tucker, Braceville Township Fiscal Officer and Trustee, Shawn Davis, Working Foreman, and Randy Smith, Trumbull County Highway Engineer were also in attendance.

Each township spoke on issues surrounding Anderson Anthony and Randy Smith spoke to action his office had taken as well as preliminary cost estimates, etc. surrounding a possible joint project between the present townships on Anderson Anthony Rd (about a 3 mile stretch).

Discussion surrounded whether to pave or chip and seal, whether to break into two or four projects, whether or not Champion and Warren Townships having the Enterprise Zones and Champion having the permissive Motor Vehicle Tax would be mutually benefitting to Southington and Braceville and whether or not there was going to be weight given to joint projects, such as when submitting to OPWC.

Another meeting was set for October 13, at 6pm bac at the Southington Towns Hall to follow up once the ODOT Representatives had answered the questions and the Highway Engineer’s office had completed the engineering studies to nail down costs.

The Southington Township Board addressed whether or not Champion Board was interested in continuing the mutual aid contract for EMS. The Champion Board indicated an interest to continue, but outlined many issues the EMS field is facing as well as issues within the Champion department. Items outlined were the need for a levy due to s large expected shortfall, the difficulty in finding candidates for part time shifts as they had been leaving for full time work, the high call volume, as well as the upcoming departure of Fire Chief John Hickey to the Trumbull County Emergency management Agency, which had just been announced on September 13. Chief Hickey had a passion for helping our neighbors in Southington and did his best to personally ensure there was staffing to help Southington when he could. Southington felt that there needs had been being met to a high standard and were very sad to know of Chief Hickey’s impending departure. Southington Trustees and Fiscal Officer inquired about the differences in salary for the current union negotiations, the cost of one full time employee, the benefits that Champion pays, etc. They genuinely felt that no other department could help them at this point in the game as the same issues that Champion faces are being faced by other departments.

The Boards and Fire Chief discussed the difficulty in separating out calls with so much overlap between the townships to estimate the amount of money that Southington residents’ insurance is contributing, questions within the Meidcount billing contract and other items regarding the billing and servicing of residents in both townships.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion township Board of trustees met in special session September 27, 2021 at 4:15pm (late start) with a full board present at the Champion Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the Township. Cory Wilson, IAFF representative and Attorney Dan Letson were present with members of the fire department for union negotiations.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive session for collective bargaining agreement negotiation. 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.

Trustee Templeton ensured that Fiscal Officer Hatt was aware that Matthew Mines had his anniversary date the next day and went up to full rate. Fiscal OfficerHatt was aware.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion township Board of trustees met in special session September 27, 2021 at 4:15pm (late start) with a full board present at the Champion Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the Township.

Attorney Tonya Rodgers and Architect Andrew Bednar joined the Board for a discussion the use of the American Rescue Plan Funds to better the community.

The Trustees walked Attorney Rodgers through the issues that had been facing the township with the pandemic, worked through how the trustees planned to move forward in the future to obtain a fire department building grant, which was going to require them to be “shovel ready.”

The trustees and Mr. Bednar walked through the Phase I of the Land Use plan and the items that they would pull in from the other phases due to changes in need based on the pandemic.

The trustees envisioned the a plan that included the following items/cost:

Item	Cost
Professional Site Survey	\$ 12,000.00
Wetland Study	\$ 15,000.00
Utilities	\$ 152,000.00
Relocation of Soccer Field	\$ 19,700.00
Concession Stand	\$ 31,000.00
Driveway and Parking Lot	\$ 85,800.00
Credit Use TWP Grindings	\$ (12,500.00)
Green Parking Cost?	
Stormwater Management	\$45,000
Less if green parking lot	
Playground Relo Site Prep	\$ 6,500.00
Equipment Shed	\$ 6,000.00
Restrooms/Grand Pavilion	\$ 155,000.00
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	\$ 515,500.00
Engineering Work	\$ 35,000.00

Attorney Rodgers will review the evidence supporting the expenditures and provide a resolution for the trustees to pass at the November meeting.

The trustees will gather the letters of support and additional data in wiring from the community to provide to Attorney Rodgers.

The Board will also look into the Trumbull County Engineer’s office assisting with in-kind services to help make the project more feasible financially. They will also continue to apply for grants and other types of funding to defray the cost.

The trustees discussed committing anywhere between \$300-350,000 of the fiscal recovery money into the project. Other money that was mentioned besides grants and in-kind services was employee labor, community donations and the park and miscellaneous capital projects funds.

R2021-95 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Working Foreman Davis and Fiscal Officer Hatt in a manner consistent with the AFSCME Union contract to promote Matthew Mines to Truck Driver #2 effective on his anniversary date, having proven his proficiency in the tasks of the job. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes. Templeton believed it was an automatic move written in to the contract language, but Fiscal Officer Hatt requested the motion for audit purposes.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer