

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Lumos Representative Stephen Kristan addressed the residents. Lumos will be installing fiber optic cables and connecting boxes underground (in the right of way of residents' yards). Lumos is a broadband (internet) for profit company. Each home should receive a letter from Lumos, as well as a door hanger announcing the installation of the fiber cable and connective boxes. Included in the informational letter, there will be details of the installation and critical phone numbers should residents need to reach the company directly. To learn more about Lumos, go to [lumosfiber.com/FiberForOH](https://lumosfiber.com/FiberForOH)

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly presented his financial report. Matthew reviewed the cash summary by fund, announced the bank reconciliations are up to date, and said he is working with department heads on their budgets. Mr. Connelly will start the Alternative Tax Budget due in July. Lastly, Matthew spoke about the steps he has taken towards fraud protection.

#### **Reports:**

Administrator Martha Weirick said representatives from the AARP Tax Preparation Group thanked the Board of Trustees for the use of the hearing room during tax season. She thanked the Police Chaplains and volunteers who helped at this year's Spring Easter Bunny Event held at the L.Y.R.I.C. building. The first of three Music in Churchill Park concerts starts on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., she said, come rain or shine. Lastly she announced May 4<sup>th</sup> is National Firefighters Day and the week of May 11-17 is National Police week. Martha thanked the men and women of our Police & Fire Departments who work tirelessly to keep our community safe.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald said the run report shows about 150 more runs from previous years. Chief said the new squad should be arriving this month. The ambulance will need to be lettered, striped, and have the cot mounted. He hopes to have it in service sometime in June. He said last week the crew had live burn training at the airbase which helps with ISO ratings. Doug reminded everyone that open burning is prohibited in the State of Ohio except for small campfires with aged wood. Burning yard waste could result in EPA fines, he noted. Chief announced last year that the fiscal officer and he applied for Medicare assets that were not previously being collected. Because of their efforts, we can start collecting around \$150,000 annually this fall.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report to the Board. Chief announced that LPD applied for a grant from the State and will be receiving \$36,960.00 for body worn cameras.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman said the 2024 Road Project is complete except for adjusting manhole covers. Wayne discussed the Belmont Sidewalk Project, which will take place in 3 phases. Phase 1 and Phase 2 should be completed this year. Phase 1A, he said, received unanimous support from the State Review Board and will be sent to the Governor for approval. Wayne hopes the Governor will make the announcement soon, however, that project will not start until next year. The Center Park Project is moving forward, he added. The 2025 Paving Program bids came in with RT Vernal the successful bidder, he mentioned. Lastly, he said our road crew is busy addressing all manners of road work.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway was absent.

#### **New Business:**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, April 24, 2025 Regular meeting.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of April 2025 in the amount of \$677,184.84 warrants #26871 through #26938 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and any Then and Now Certificates for the month April of 2025.

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

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

25-75 No objections to a permit to a liquor permit for Klafters, Inc, DBA Smoker Friendly #2 for retail carry-out sales.

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

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

25-76 Motion to pass the following resolution for grass abatements:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees hereby determines that the owner’s maintenance of vegetation, garbage, refuse and other debris upon the following properties constitutes a nuisance:

Address:	Parcel No.:	Address:	Parcel No.:
1262 Churchill	12-027620	3446 Hadly	12-10490
1156 Townsend	12-517200	3749 Staunton	12-679650
1159 Timber Crest	12-245520	496 Catherine	12-361400
1001 Churchill	12-629500	503 Catherine	12-207450
660 Beverly Hills	12-436535	3861 Northlawn	12-207450
136 Mansell	12-254800	1390 Virginia Tr	12-098630
314 Mansell	12-512700	425 Mansell	12-655100
3190 Fifth	12-306641	2507 Fifth	12-591330
2491 Fifth	12-386255	810 Colonial	12-342780
3085 Biscayne	12-371300	2930 Biscayne	12-224100
1133 Smithsonian	12-159500	3737 Logan Gate	12-533500
4789 March	12-660320	1178 Moorelene	12-710111
547 Liberty	12-238268	497 Liberty	12-146425
900 Royal Arms	12-157785	520 Catherine	12-535100
155 Euclid	12-510130	3014 Northgate	12-418525
3021 Northgate	12-404270	3024 Northgate	12-510875
3026 Northgate	12-532050	3035 Northgate	12-018635
27 Colonial	12-472800	1826 Churchill	12-594500
1714 Churchill	12-549000	1149 Will-O-Wood	12-015255
2510 Fifth	12-285470	241 Mansell	12580602
503 Churchill	12-067745	1146 Townsend	12-538060
837 Pinecrest	12-245050		

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that notice of this Board’s intent to provide for the abatement, control, or removal of said vegetation, garbage, refuse or other debris constituting said nuisance be given to all owners of the land and holders of liens of record upon said land in accordance with **Section 505.87 (B) O.R.C.**; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon proper notice, and failure of the property owner to abate said nuisance within seven days, the Board of Trustees provide for the abatement, control, or removal of said vegetation, garbage, refuse or other debris constituting said nuisance in accordance with **Section 505.87 (B) O.R.C.**

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

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

25-77 Motion to transfer \$15,000 from the 1000 General Fund transfers out into the 2041 Cemetery Fund transfers in and appropriate the funds.

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

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

Citizen remarks:

A citizen described several unsightly yards on Mansell Drive near his residence. At one of the properties, a tree fell onto a fence and is just laying on it. There is an in the ground pool, not used in years, with a ripped tarp. He is concerned a child could fall into the empty pool. He added, overgrown weeds in the flower beds and has left piles of wood on the property. The other home, he said, finally mowed his front yard this week, but the back yard is at least a foot high. Despite conversations he’s had with the homeowner, he said the home’s downspout has unearthed a large sinkhole between his house and the neighbors. His elderly father fell into the hole.

A resident asked for a yield sign for the intersection of Redfern and Whip-O-Will. It’s a confusing curve and drivers who should be yielding are not.

A resident spoke about an abandoned gas station on Tibbetts Wick Road. He thanked Trustee Clebone for helping him locate the owner. An arranged meeting was set up with the owner, but the owner canceled the night before. The resident asked the trustees to consider revisiting property maintenance code upgrades that are enforceable.

Trustees' remarks:

Trustee Arnie Clebone spoke of Build a Better Belmont Bike-A-Thon to be held May 18<sup>th</sup>. Those interested can ride their bicycles from the B&O Station through Youngstown and Liberty Township streets ending at Giant Eagle on Belmont Avenue. Arnie added, refreshments and vendors will be on hand at Giant Eagle. For those more ambitious bikers, they can continue to the Youngstown Airport, ride on the tarmac, and return to the B&O Station. Trustee Clebone said he applied for a congressional grant in hopes of receiving needed matching funds to remove underground tanks at the Belmont Avenue abandoned gas station. Because of the environmental issues it will be a costly undertaking. Arnie is looking for letters of support from anyone. Trustee Clebone thanked Wayne and the road department for all the roadwork. Arnie also thanked the Fire Department for securing additional money from Medicare. Lastly, he thanked Chief Meloro for securing the funds to replace the body cameras.

Trustee Devon Stanley thanked Trustee Clebone for bringing the Lumos representative to the meeting. Mr. Kristan provided vital information. Trustee Stanley suggested with the pending retirement of our Code and Zoning Officer, we may want to consider a citizen form, something simple, that can help with reporting zoning concerns. He also said in the coming weeks he is looking forward to discussing the Belmont Cemetery.

Trustee Greg Cizmar wanted to thank those who donated towards this year's litter clean up, He thanked Giant Eagle for providing refreshments, Mona from Republic Services for providing an additional roll of dumpster, Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste for the litter supplies, and Probation Officer Keith Gunther for providing community service individuals to help out. In addition to his wife, Trish, he wanted to thank Chief Toby Meloro, Trustees Devon Stanley and Arnie Clebone, our seasonal park guys, Fiscal Officer Matthey Connelly and his wife Amy and our own Kim Quinlan! Greg attended the Cottage Grove Ribbon Cutting event, he added. Trustee Cizmar also said he's met with several concrete companies to see what can be done with pavilion at Center Park. He reported he was successful in retrieving our damaged ambulance and recovered an additional \$8,000 from the insurance company. Now, he added, he can get to work replacing the cab and chasses. When it is complete, he said the fire department will have a new ambulance.

Trustee Clebone added his thanks to Trustee Cizmar for his efforts getting back the ambulance.

Motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Build a Better Belmont Bike-A-Thon Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Contact Arnie Clebone for more information...

Music in Churchill Park starts Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. Youngstown Vegas Band Bring your lawn chairs!

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MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

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GREG CIZMAR, TRUSTEE