

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnie Clebone and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly reviewed the cash summary at the end of January at \$5,966,162.46. Matt said he's working on the bank reconciliation and has distributed all the W2's and 1099's. Matt attended the OTA conference this year. He prepared the permanent budget but the trustees have not had a chance to review. He is hoping to place it on the next meeting. Matt will be meeting with the AOS next week to come out of Fiscal Caution. We are in the process of negotiating the contract with the Fire Union. The township received the NOPEC Energized Grant amounting to \$26,784.00. The township also received a cyber security grant to upgrade our equipment and follow HB96. Matt is reviewing expenses, as good stewards of township tax dollars in hopes of saving where we can.

Administrator Martha Weirick reminded the Board on March 19<sup>th</sup> Liberty Township will provide the space to host the Trumbull Township Association's monthly business meeting and will need some door prizes. She also mentioned booking the bands for this season's Music in the Park concerts.

Fire Department Chief Doug Theobald said Ford recalled the new defective ambulance. We should receive our new ambulance very soon. He will be hosting a medic refresher course later this month, covering new requirements. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of four trainings for "out of hospital care." Also the air base has a maze for external training in confined spaces with equipment. He said the new alarm system for both stations will meet the requirements. Chief thanked the road department for the massive undertaking in keeping the township roads and lots clear of snow. He noted there are a lot of water main breaks because of the arctic cold snap we are experiencing. They have had a high volume of calls. He is hoping in March to recognize our firefighters.

Police Department Chief Ray Buhala reviewed his report containing the performance overview of 1395 calls, 95 traffic stops and 47 recorded arrests.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman said the road crew has been busily clearing roadways, despite the manpower challenges. But our guys kept the roads clear with our limited resources. He commended his five guys for the time they put in. Now, he said, pothole season is around the corner due to the freeze, thaw, & refreeze of road surfaces. The Center Park project started today beginning with tree line and ditching work.

Zoning Inspector Melissa Richie reported she had a few permits this month, including an in the ground pool and a new home permit. She has a scheduled Zoning Appeals Board meeting for a conditional use permit and a public Zoning Meeting. Melissa is working with our police to issue the citations of those who are still in violation but are not in compliance. She attended the OTA conference where she came back with tools and knowledge that she plans on implementing.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, January 12, 2026 Organization/Regular meeting, the Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and the Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> special meetings.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of January 2026 in the amount of \$968670.86 warrants #27416 through #27462 inclusive.

Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and any Then and Now Certificates for the month of January 2026.

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

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

26-35 Motion to amend motion 25-108 establishing the 9501 Cemetery Endowment Fund (Belmont Park Cemetery) to read:

Motion to establish the 4951 Permanent Cemetery Endowment Fund (Belmont Park Cemetery) pursuant to the Revised Code 517.15, to appropriate the sum of \$241,832.28 to the Fund for money received from Farmers Bank Trust Account for the Belmont Park Cemetery & request an amended certificate from the County.

This amendment is necessary as the Auditor has advised that the funds should be a Permanent Fund and not an Investment Trust Fund.

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

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

Discussion: Law Director Cherry Poteet was asked to explain. She said the money was initially placed in the 9501 Endowment Fund erroneously and was advised by the Auditor to establish the correct 4951

Permanent Cemetery Fund.

26-36 Motion to adopt a resolution to transfer \$125,000.00 from the 4951 Permanent Cemetery Endowment Fund (Belmont Park Cemetery) to the 2042 Belmont Park Cemetery Fund to maintain, improve and beautify the Belmont Park Cemetery. The Board of Trustees determines by unanimous consent that the board is unable to maintain, improve, and beautify the Belmont Park Cemetery using only the income from the fund.

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

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

Discussion: Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly said this resolution must be a unanimous vote for payroll and much needed repairs at Belmont Cemetery.

26-37 Motion to adopt a resolution to transfer \$89,000 from the 2042 Belmont Park Cemetery Fund to repay the General Fund the advance that was authorized by Resolution Number 25-110 in the amount of \$89,000.

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

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

Discussion: Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly said he was advised by the Auditor, we had 12 months to return the transfer.

26-38 No objection to the renewal of a liquor license for The King's Group and Resources Corp. DBA Mantra Restaurant on 4042 Belmont Ave.

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

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

26-39 Motion to authorize the Trumbull County Engineers to advertise for bids for the Liberty Township 2026 OPWC project.

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

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

Trustees' remarks:

Trustee Devon Stanley thanked and congratulated the departments for working so well with each other.

Trustee Arnie Clebone commended the Road Department for their hard work, keeping the roads clear and safe for our residents and safety forces. Arnie attended the OTA conference. He attended a seminar discussing the possibility of eliminating property taxes. The requirements are to acquire 418,000 signatures over 44 Ohio counties. Should it happen either this year or next, it would immediately generate a negative impact on townships who rely on property tax for police protection, fire protection, and road maintenance. In addition, income tax would immediately be raised to 15% and sales tax to 15-18%. He was encouraged to explain the negative impact on townships who would lose control should it pass. Arnie invited interested parties to attend the Historical Meeting scheduled for February 14, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. here at the administration hearing room to discuss the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of independence and our desire to promote the Seceders Cemetery and those remains and stories of many of the township's earliest settlers from the revolutionary times. Lastly, he too thanked the departments for working so well together.

Motion to adjourn into executive session to consider the employment and compensation of public employees at 6:29 p.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from the executive session and end meeting at 7:31 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting is Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

---

MATTHEW CONNELLY  
FISCAL OFFICER

---

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON