

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

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly was absent, but his financial report was presented to the Board and read by Administrator Weirick.

Correspondence: Mr. Devon Stanley read letters received from Trumbull County Auditor Mary Yoder and Trumbull County Engineer David DeChristofaro regarding the transfer of Belmont Park Cemetery to Liberty Township. They both agreed to grant a variance to allow the transfer to go forward without a survey.

Reports:

Administrator Martha Weirick welcomed Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie-Murphy. Mrs. Weirick wanted to thank the Road Superintendent and the Road Department Employees for the successful scrap tire event. There was a record amount of tire collected, and thanked Trumbull/Geauga Solid Waste for the Grant. We held our annual employee drug free workplace seminar, she said. Martha remarked on the beautiful TownePlace Marriott Suites she had an opportunity to visit, adding an official ribbon cutting event will be coming in a few weeks. Last, she reminded everyone of the October 31st Police and Fire Open House from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. and neighborhood trick or treat starts at 5:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. on the same day.

Fire Department Chief Doug Theobald was absent and did not submit a report.

Police Department Acting Chief Ray Behala presented his report. He added our officers will continue to have a presence in neighborhoods and at the school for traffic control and exposure. Trustee Greg Cizmar thanked the patrol for being more visible in the neighborhoods.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman was absent but provided his report that Mr. Stanley read.

Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie-Murphy presented her report and introduced herself to those in attendance mentioning her years of experience as a zoning inspector. She has been studying the township codes and is looking forward to working with the Board of Trustees, the Zoning Commission, and Appeals Board. She would like to hold quarterly meetings with the Zoning Commission and has already had several meetings with the Zoning Appeals Board.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 & September 18, 2025 Regular meeting.

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 September 2025 in the amount of \$636,298.32 warrants #27165 through #27225 inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

25-132 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENTS BY FINANCIAL TRANSACTION DEVICES BY TOWNSHIP OFFICES

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §503.55 authorizes Townships to accept payments of Township fees and expenses by financial transaction devices (credit and debit cards); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that accepting payments to Liberty Township ("Township") by financial transaction devices will increase the efficiency of Township operations and benefit Township residents; and,

WHEREAS the Township Fiscal Officer has solicited proposals in compliance with R.C. §503.55 from

financial institutions and has recommended that the Board of Trustees accept the proposal of Indeflex to provide processing of payments by financial transaction devices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township:

Section 1. The Liberty Township Fiscal Office and Police Department are authorized to accept payments via financial transaction devices. Payments shall be accepted only using the payment process of the Wells Fargo bank, N.A., Concord, CA.

Section 2. Liberty Township will accept payments by financial transaction device for cemetery purchases, zoning fees, police department fees, fees for public records, and any other township fees and expenses.

Section 3. The specific financial transaction devices that Liberty Township will accept are credit cards and debit cards.

Section 4. Anyone electing to pay a Liberty Township fee by financial transaction device will be required to pay a four percent (4%) surcharge/convenience fee on the transaction. This fee is nonrefundable.

Section 5. Any person making any payment by financial transaction device to a Township office shall be relieved from liability for the underlying obligation only to the extent that the Township realizes final payment of the underlying obligation in cash or its equivalent. If final payment is not made by the financial transaction device issuer or other guarantor of payment in the transaction, the underlying obligation shall survive, and the Township shall retain all remedies for enforcement that would have applied if the transaction had not occurred.

Section 6. If anyone makes a payment by financial transaction device and the payment is returned or dishonored for any reason, the person must pay a dishonored payment fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) in addition to any fee imposed by any bank and all legal fees and other expenses incurred by the Township in collecting the returned or dishonored payment. This fee is in addition to any other available civil or criminal penalties.

Section 7. A copy of this Resolution shall be posted on the township website, the Township Fiscal office, and the Township Police Department, wherever payments by financial transaction device are accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of the Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in open meetings of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in formal actions were taken in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including, but not limited to, ORC Section 121.22.

This Resolution shall take effect at the earliest time allowed by law.

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

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

Public Comments:

A resident asked why St. Marks Church on Logan, stopped cutting the open field they previously maintained. Trustee Clebone thanked her for bringing it to their attention.

A resident continued his dialogue with the Board regarding the Gas Station on Tibbetts-Wick Road. Trustee Stanley responded that he had spoken to the owner of the property on several occasions. During those informal conversations with the property owner, Mr. Stanley relayed the complaints, such as general appearance of the structure and what steps the owner can take to make those improvements. The owner indicated he was coming into town to address those issues. Trustee Clebone was hopeful the owner would make repairs of the structure's shortfalls. The resident reported there was a large piece of furniture recently dumped on the property, and he would follow up on the progress at the next meeting.

A resident addressed the Board about strengthening zoning resolutions. For example trash cans left at the edge of the road for days after the trash was collected. Trustee Cizmar agrees some of the zoning regulations need strengthening and some he feels should be lessened. Greg also added that House bill 315 recently passed has left more questions than answers on how to process zoning violations. Trustee Clebone feels it is paramount we work on those matters. He would like to see empty homes be registered including contact information, phone numbers and even lock boxes. He added, some homeowners cannot afford to maintain their homes, and we should try to find ways to help them. Arnie expressed his concerns about the vacant properties along Belmont Avenue as they set the tone for the surrounding community.

Arnie concluded, there is a difference between zoning codes & property maintenance, and he would like to see us get Melissa some additional help.

A resident addressed the Board about the car lot at 304 and Belmont Avenue. The back part of the property is terrible and unsightly. Trustee Cizmar said they have repeatedly been cited, clean up the property, then the violations reappear.

Another resident also spoke about zones near her home with industrial equipment, old campers and junk cars scattered around their property. She gave Melissa permission to go onto her property to photograph the alleged violations.

No Trustees' remarks.

Motion to adjourn into executive session at 6:41 p.m. to consider the appointment, promotion, and or compensation of public employees.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session at 7:45 p.m. No decisions were made.

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

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:46 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting October 23, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Kids come in costume to the Police and Fire Open House at the Township Administration Building on Oct. 31st from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Trick or Treat is October 31st from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

October 5th – 11th is National Fire Prevention Week