

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, October 5, 2026 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 presented the monthly financial report and reviewed the fund summary, noting that current fund balances remain stable when compared to the previous year. He stated that upon receipt of the second-half property tax settlement, overall revenue and expenditures are projected to align closely with last year's figures. Fiscal Officer Connelly reminded attendees of the three upcoming levies on the November ballot. All three measures are renewals and will not introduce any new taxes. Budget meetings for fiscal year 2027 will begin in the coming weeks with Department Heads and the Board of Trustees. The Fiscal Office recently received and is processing a large public records request from the Police Union ahead of upcoming contract negotiations. Fiscal Officer Connelly noted the Governor's recent announcement of a 90-day reduction in the state gas tax to combat rising fuel costs. While this temporarily impacts direct local revenue, the State has confirmed it will fully subsidize the deficit using the State General Fund. Assistant Fiscal Officer Denise Leone is settling well into her role managing day-to-day office operations. Additionally, both Mr. Connelly and Ms. Leone are currently undergoing training to adapt to the new reporting format introduced by the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund.

Administrator Martha Weirick reminded attendees that the Matter of Balance classes are being held at the Administration Building, hosted by the Girard Liberty Multigenerational Center. Additionally, neighborhood Trick-or-Treat will take place on Saturday, October 31st, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Prior to the trick-or-treating, an open house for township children will be held at the Administration Building from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fire Department Chief Doug Theobald was absent. (Submitted his report)
Police Department Chief Ray Buhala was absent. (Submitted his report)
Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman was absent. (Submitted his report)
Zoning Inspector Ms. Melissa Ritchie presented her Report

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, September 24, 2026 Regular meeting.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of September 2026 in the amount of \$710,355.58 warrants #27936 through #28021 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 of September 2026.

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

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

Citizens may speak on any matter:

A township resident addressed the Board of Trustees to raise several community concerns. The resident reported deplorable conditions at the trailer park located across from the Administration Building. A discussion ensued among the Board of Trustees, Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie, and the resident. Zoning Inspector Ritchie noted that she has had numerous conversations and is actively working with the new property owner. The owner indicated plans to erect a fence in front of the trailer to screen the yard decor (which some may perceive as junk). Inspector Ritchie explained that the township lacks legal jurisdiction over trailer parks, as the Department of Commerce holds that authority. She noted that the township law director has already had multiple conversations with the Department regarding this matter. The resident expressed grievances regarding the property that sits at the corner of 304 and Belmont, stating that tires are blocking all drive approaches, auto parts and debris are left along the back of the property, and the grass is now waste-high. Inspector Ritchie explained that the property has been sold. She noted that the new owners intentionally placed the tires to prevent patrons of Shakers from parking on their private property and leaving behind beer cans and bottles. The resident noted that a memorial stone in Churchill Park is currently leaning over. Trustee Cizmar stated he would personally inspect the memorial stone tomorrow. The resident complained that a fire hydrant at Churchill Park is facing the wrong direction, suggesting that loosening a few screws would rectify the problem.

A resident who actively collects roadside litter within Liberty Township raised concerns regarding an increasing number of residents leaving trash cans at the curb long after collection days, rather than storing them behind their homes. Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie reported on recent discussions with Trustee Arnie Clebone regarding potential regulatory solutions. Trustee Clebone expressed interest in incorporating corrective language into the property maintenance code, zoning code, or via a home rule

resolution. Inspector Ritchie noted that she previously presented this issue to the Zoning Commissioners, who declined to pursue a code amendment at that time. Trustee Clebone requested that Inspector Ritchie bring the matter back before the Board of Zoning Commissioners for further evaluation.

A resident had concerns along Belmont Ave. He mentioned high grass and a section of Green Acres Drive that the pavement is failing.

Trustees' remarks. Trustee Arnie Clebone re-visited his concerns about his suggestions regarding several Zoning amendments for the Board to consider. He suggested that the definition should be expanded to clarify that a Gas Station And Convenience Store could not be a Truck Stop, and overnight truck parking was not permitted. Arnie expressed zoning concerns regarding potential applicants who might seek to establish a standalone gas station without an attached convenience store. He noted that such a use might inadvertently be classified under general retail regulations rather than requiring a conditional use permit. Additionally, Arnie requested a terminology change within the text, recommending that the term "automobile" be replaced with "vehicle" throughout the gas station and convenience store definitions. He suggested that Melissa present these recommendations to the Zoning Commission for further review.

Motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting is Thursday October 22, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Police and Fire Open House at the administration building for township children Saturday, October 31st from 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.. Neighborhood Trick or Treat is Saturday, October 31st from 5 – 7 p.m.