

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Fiscal Office Matthew Connelly was absent but provided a written financial report to the Board. The May bank reconciliation is complete. Matthew is working on the 2026 Alternate Tax Budget which is due by July 25<sup>th</sup> to the County. He said there are a few grant applications outstanding we are applying for and receiving. The new ambulance was purchased without financing because of an insurance claim and our own budgeting funds from the Ambulance/EMS fund. Our property & Casualty Insurance increased, he added, from the previous year. Lastly we are being audited by the State of Ohio for the Ambulance ARP Grant received in 2023 and 2024.

### **Reports:**

Administrator Martha Weirick reported Trustee Arnie Clebone, Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman and she attended the annual Eastgate Regional conference. The guest speaker discussed the housing shortage throughout the region and offered some ways to improve the shortages. Martha reminded everyone Music in Churchill Park starts Thursday with the Youngstown Vegas Band performing.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald reported graphics are currently being put on the new squad. Chief Theobald discussed the home explosion that occurred this weekend. At the time of the explosion, a lieutenant was at the local Walmart a short distance away, heard the explosion and was first to arrive. He found multiple victims with life threatening injuries. At the same time a call came to the station of a house fire, but quickly it was discovered that the house on E. Montrose had exploded with multiple victims. Along with our safety forces, Girard, Hubbard, Howland, Weathersfield, the Air Base, the Youngstown Bomb Squad, ATF and the State Fire Marshal all provided aid. Nearby homes were evacuated for a period. Paramedics were able to provide aid, LPD officers were able to secure the scene, and roads were barricaded by the Liberty Road Department. A search began in case any victims remained in the structure, until the State Fire Marshal deemed the home not safe. Later, it was determined no one else was in the structure. Evidence was collected by agents from the ATF, Bomb Squad, and State Fire Marshal. It appears occupants were possibly manufacturing homemade fireworks. The blast blew out the front, side and back of the structure. One of the victims has since passed away, with two remaining in critical condition. The Trumbull County Building Inspector and State Fire Marshal have declared the structure unsafe due to structural defects.

Police Chief Toby Meloro asked if anyone had questions regarding his written report. Chief Meloro wanted to thank the neighboring communities who offered mutual aid, as well as the other agencies who helped during this weekend's disaster, including the State Fire Marshal, the Youngstown Bomb Squad, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives. "It was good to see so many organizations come together and collaborate making our jobs easier during this difficult crisis."

Trustee Clebone added to those in attendance. "If you see something, say something."

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman briefly reviewed current projects. The Center Park Project is moving forward with plans being drafted. Currently, he said, both parks are open. The road crew is busy with drainage issues, as well as all aspects of maintaining township roads.

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

### **New Business:**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, May 22, 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 May 2025 in the amount of \$634,758.45 warrants #26931 through #26977 inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

25-84 Motion to hire Christian Timm-Smith as a part time Firefighter/EMT at \$20.00 per hour pending successful pre-employment drug testing and background check. First day he works will be his hire date.

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

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

25-85 Motion to reimburse South Ogden Plaza, LLC \$5,000.00 for their insurance deductible for the damage to the Harbor Freight building, upon receipt of an executed Release of claims.

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

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

25-86 Motion to rescind motion 25-82 to hire Austin Carr as a full-time Probationary Patrol Officer. He chose a position closer to his home.

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

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

25-87 Motion to hire Judd Radovic as a full-time probationary Firefighter/EMT effective July 1, 2025 per the terms of the agreement between the IAFF and Board of Liberty Township Trustees.

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

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

25-88 Motion to pass the following resolution:

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, on behalf of Liberty Township, is the owner of two vacant parcels of land on Churchill Road, Permanent Parcel Nos. 21-063870, and 21-063880 totaling approximately 1.83 acres, (hereinafter the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to R. C. 505.10(A)(6) the Township agrees to sell, and Reel Holdings, LLC, the neighboring property owner, has agreed to purchase the Property for the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00) with the buyer to pay all costs of the sale, including a survey if required; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that it is in the best interests of the Township and its residents to sell the Property to Reel Holdings, LLC, the neighboring property owner, to be used for soccer fields;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board agrees to sell, and Reel Holdings, LLC agrees to purchase the Property and pay Liberty Township the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00) in accordance with the Purchase and Sale Agreement. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Greg Cizmar, is hereby authorized to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement and the Quit-Claim Deed, on behalf of Liberty Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in such formal action

were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption

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

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

Law Director Cherry Poteet explained 2 of the lots are being sold according to the county auditors value. The other 2 lots will be leased for 15 years with two 5-year option to renewals.

25-89 Motion to enter into a Lease with Reel Holdings LLC, pursuant to R.C. 505.11. The Lease shall be for fifteen years with two five-year renewals, to lease two vacant parcels of land on Churchill Road, Permanent Parcel Nos. 12-063890 (3.62 acres) and 12-063860 (0.987 acres). The purchaser will construct soccer fields and a walking path on the property, which can be used by the public on the terms set forth in the Lease. The Board hereby authorizes the Chairman, Greg Cizmar, to sign the Lease on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

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

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

25-90 Motion to enter into a contract with Environmental Design Group for a not to exceed amount of \$29,453.00 for inspection work for construction of the sidewalk on Belmont Avenue, to be constructed with the WRTA Grant, and to authorize Trustee Cizmar to execute the Contract.

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

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

25-91 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.:
Academy Dr	12-054200
206 Potters Cr	12-742520
2120 Arms Dr	12-130150
985 Tibbetts Wick Rd	12-702135

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. Stanley. Second: Mr. Cizmar.

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

Citizen remarks: A resident continued his discussion with the Board regarding a property located at 985 Tibbetts-Wick Road, once a gas station and currently owned by private individuals who have plans to upgrade the property sometime in the future. Although the structure is sound and not eligible for demolition, the trustees will consider adding the property to the grass/weed abatement. In addition, Law Director Cherry Poteet suggested the zoning inspector send an enforcement letter requiring the owners paint the exterior, replace or repair the decorative facade where multiple panels are missing, and the replacement of the windows rather than boarding up under Property Maintenance Codes.

The same resident commended the Road Department for their efforts to crack seal roads, street sweep the roads, and maintain the grass and weeds along the right of ways.

A resident complained about various areas on Belmont Avenue, including the abandoned gas station, the vacant building - formerly a Subway, and trash. She wanted to bring to the Board's, a home on Fifth Avenue, where trash is everywhere and has a fenced in drive. She objected to a home on the corner of Breeze Knoll and Ravine, where multiple cars park in the drive and on the road making it difficult to see to turn onto Ravine. Lastly, she reported she had called the administration building back in May, where she reported hearing three large booms and had asked the person she spoke to report her concerns to the police.

A resident spoke to the Road Superintendent about repairs to a drain in the front of his property.

Trustee Arnie Clebone reported a successful Bike Belmont. He was pleased to see how well the local businesses supported the event. He received good news that the grant he submitted several years ago may bring in some ARPA funds. He thanked Mr. Stoyak who worked hard to locate the owners of the Tibbetts-Wick property discussed earlier and his efforts to bring his concerns to the Board.

Trustee Devon Stanley asked the Board to considering hiring a Cemetery Sexton, should we find it necessary.

Trustee Greg Cizmar said we had another successful auction. He met several contractors regarding cement around the gazebo. He also said he met with our insurance company, to review all township buildings.

Motion to adjourn into an executive session to meet with counsel to discuss pending litigation, to consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, demotion, promotion or compensation of a public employee at 7:07 p.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session at 8:41 p.m. and resume regular meeting.

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

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

Motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

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

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

---

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

---

GREG CIZMAR, TRUSTEE

Next business meeting (WEDNESDAY) June 18, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. (Meeting moved to Wednesday because of the Juneteenth holiday).

Music In Churchill Park June 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Youngstown Vegas Band