

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. with the following members in attendance Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnie Clebone & Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Motion to approve the minutes for the October 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

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

Discussion: Acting Police Chief Ray Buhala reminded everyone of the October 31st open hours at the Administration Building. The Police will be going to this Friday's Trunk or Treat at the School. Our School Resource Officer addressed the fifth and 6th graders on cyberbullying and the use of cell phones. Liberty Police Officers continue to patrol our neighborhoods to curb speeders and aggressive driving.

Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman updated the Board on various projects including the Belmont Sidewalk Project, the Center Park Project, the 2025 OPWC Road Project, and the 2026 OPWC Project. In addition, he informed the Board that Belmont Park Cemetery did not have the required back flow preventor, so he had one installed. He updated the Board on both the Embridge and Lumos projects, and unfortunately they are cutting up roads. Lyden Oil installed the tanks at both the road and fire departments which are working well. Our road crew continues to work on pothole patching, street sweeping and drainage matters, he concluded. Administrator Martha Weirick thanked both Wayne and Greg for their assistance with a fire hydrant matter at the corner of Tibbetts-Wick and Belmont Avenue.

Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie-Murphy has made some adjustments to the zoning office. She has taken one standardized zoning application and created specific versions for residents to use to simplify and streamline the permitting process. She feels this approach is more transparent and accessible to the public. She has met with both the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Zoning Commission has agreed to meet starting December 10th at 6:00 p.m. and every other month following. She will post those dates on the township website. Melissa would like the Trustees to appoint Jim Severa and Tim Staley as the Zoning Commission Board alternates. Lastly, Melissa has seen positive results from residents receiving violation notices.

Fire Captain Phil Lucarell said the fire calls are up 130 from last year. They plan to attend the school Trunk or Treat this Friday, as well as attend the open house and neighborhood trick or treat. He reached out to local care facilities to re-educate the need for ambulance services for emergencies vs transporting a non-emergencies from the care facility. He also discussed multiple calls for lift assists at the care facilities. Their justification has been to avoid a workers compensation claim from their employees who could get injured. Captain Lucarell spoke of a damaged fire hydrant owned by Niles Water towards the bottom of Tibbetts-Wick.

Motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:30 a.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, or promotion of a public employee, and conference with attorney to discuss negotiations.

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

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

Mr. Stanley left the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

25-132 Motion to authorize the purchase of a 2025 Medix Metro Express 157 Ambulance from PennOhio at a cost of \$174,95.00 Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second. Mr. Clebone.

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

Motion to adjourn executive session and resume regular session at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

25-133 Motion to appoint Ray Buhala as Police Chief and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding pay and benefits effective 1/1/26.

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

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

25-134 Motion to promote Police Officer Robert Altier to Detective Sergeant effective 10-23-25. Congratulations! Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second. Mr. Clebone.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:35 a.m.

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

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

Next meeting is Monday, November 10, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Open House at the Administration Building. Bring your children in costume to meet our safety forces and receive some treats – October 31st from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

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

MATTHEW CONNELLY
FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON