

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Reports:

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly presented the Cash Summary Report reviewing the funds as of today. He spoke on percentages of revenues and expenditures, confirming all the funds are as expected for this time of year. Matt said we collected most of revenue for 2024. In the coming year, he expects around \$150,000 from the Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (ASPP), which allows public ambulance providers supplemental payments paid by the federal government. Mr. Connelly said the 2-year audit is finally complete and mentioned one material weakness and one noncompliance, both of which have since been corrected. Matt plans to start budgeting for 2025 with assistance from Trustee Clebone. Mr. Connelly is working with our IT specialist and has applied for two tech grants to allow the township to use .gov at the end of our email and cyber services to help protect the township from fraud. The employees have all completed the mandatory fraud training he reported.

Administrator Mrs. Martha Weirick said the Geauga Trumbull Scrap Tire Grant Program was a success and thanked the Road Department employees for their help. She reminded everyone of the Open House and Neighborhood Trick or Treat hours (see below for date and hours).

Fire Chief Doug Theobald was absent.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report. The Chief read a letter from a mother whose son's car was vandalized while at work. She thanked Officer Colin Traves and Sergeant James Marco for their hard work, quick response, and the recovery of the stolen items. "Thank you LPD! You saved the day!" Chief Meloro praised the three Chaplains for their immeasurable help over the years. The three churches will host a multitude of families on November 9th with a Thanksgiving Dinner.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman reminded the Board there is a pre-construction meeting with all parties involved for the 2024 Paving Program, held at the County. Wayne hopes to have all the groundwork completed this year and paving sometime in the early spring. The 2025 Paving Program is moving forward and looking favorable for some State funding. He added, there may be some detours in the coming months, around the Townsend Storm Water CDGB project at Logan Avenue. The project should be complete before year's end. Wayne spoke to an agent from the GPD Group about their proposal for Center Park upgrades. Wayne expects something soon from GPD. The township crack seal program is on-going, he stated, and the road department is preparing for the next season. As always, the crew is constantly repairing ditches and culverts. Wayne was interested in the status of the Refuse property request and the property behind the Road Department.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his report mentioning the \$105,000 permit fees collected so far this year.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Friday, October 4, 2024 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 2024 in the amount of \$569,701.62 warrants #26417 through #26470 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and any Then and Now Certificates for the month of September 2024.

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

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

24-114 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.:
3031 Green Acres	12-517800

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.

24-115 Motion to remove Joseph Page, effective 6/29/24 and Marquan Stevenson, effective 11/25/23 from the part time fire department roster after numerous non-responsive communications.

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

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

A citizen asked the Trustees for an update on the status of the fire hydrants he mentioned at the last meeting. The Administrator said the Fire Chief had notified her he had addressed those concerns with the other communities. He also thanked the Board of Trustees for the removal of the burned structure on Fifth Avenue.

A group of residents from the Liberty Senior Loft apartment addressed their concerns. Trustee Clebone volunteered to reach out to one of the stakeholders to make them aware of their complaints. Mr. Clebone said someone would be in touch with them.

Another resident spoke about Directional Homes Diners Club program for older citizens and hoped that more restaurants along Belmont Avenue would participate.

Trustee Devon Stanley met with the townships cemetery sexton who reported he is almost complete with recording records on to the township crypt keeper program.

Trustee Arnie Clebone invited everyone to a Build a Better Belmont event scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th at the Bull & Bear.

Trustee Greg Cizmar wanted to thank the Landbank and the TNP Group for their help in scheduling the removal of Motel 30 sometime in 2025. Greg attending an Eastgate meeting. He reported the impound lot has been cleaned up and vegetation removed. He held a successful auction and is almost ready to hold another one. Due to bad weather, the cemetery landscaping has been delayed.

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 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 Friday, October 25, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Neighborhood Trick or Treat is October 31st from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Open house at the Administration Building – meet our safety forces: October 31st from 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON