

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. with the following members in attendance Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnie Clebone & Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

26-54 Motion to pass a resolution to increase appropriations in the Ohio One Opioid Fund - 2902-230-591-1325 for \$10,000.00. The funds are for the Clarence Smith Memorial Safety & Services Wellness Building for all safety forces in the Mahoning Valley to utilize.

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

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

26-55 Motion to rescind 26-50 to hire Andrew Leshinsky as a part time EMT. He decided not to take the position.

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

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

26-56 Motion to amend the Memorandum of Benefits for Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman pending the terms of the MOU.

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

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

Trustee Cizmar remarked: "you already got your 2 votes, so I guess."

26-57 Motion to return the advances to the General from the Police Fund from 2/19/26 & 3/9/26. The original advances were made from the General fund to the Police fund through resolution 26-40 on 2/19/26 for \$75,000 and on 3/9/26 resolution 26-49 for \$55,000.

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

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

26-58 Motion to accept the resignation of Patrol Officer Ashley Kitchen effective May 31, 2026. We wish the best of luck in the future!

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

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

26-59 Motion to hire Chelsea Harris as a part time Firefighter/Paramedic at \$22.00 per hour, no benefits pending successful pre-employment drug testing and background check. First day worked is her hire date.

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

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

26-60 Motion to hire Anthony Ludlow as a full-time probationary Firefighter/Paramedic at \$21.00 per hour per the terms of the bargaining agreement between the IAFF and the Liberty Board of Trustees pending successful pre-employment drug testing and background check. First day he works is his hire date.

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

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

26-61 Motion to enter into agreements with Stryker for one-year preventative pro-active maintenance totaling \$20,222.00 to cover monitors, cots, cot mounts, batteries and stair chairs.

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

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

After reviewing other providers and recommendations from the Fire Chief and Captain Phil Lucarell, the Board approved to Stryker's agreement.

26-62 Motion to extend Firefighter/EMT Julian Dillard's probationary period six months (September 19, 2026) to complete his paramedic training.

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

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

26-63 Motion to purchase an International 10-ton truck for the Road Department at a total cost of

\$213,932.300. The body package is from Kalida Truck Equipment, Inc. at \$108,800.00 and the cab & chassis are from Rush Truck Centers at \$105,132.00.

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

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

After some discussion it was agreed to purchase one truck at this time and revisit possibly purchasing another at a later date.

Discussion: Two attendees affiliated with Liberty Local Schools approached the Board asking if there was interest in a joint venture sponsoring a school/township calendar of events. They also discussed a joint community newsletter. Trustee Clebone expressed openness for a more active relationship with Liberty Schools. He mentioned the Nations 250th Celebration and our planned event on July 18th at Churchill Park. Mr. Clebone hopes for the school's involvement. Trustee Cizmar mentioned the April 25, 2026 litter clean up event. He would like to see participation from our school groups. Greg added, "Last year, the only school that participated in our annual litter cleanup were students from Hubbard Schools."

Fire Chief Doug Theobald attended the Trumbull County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) meeting last week. He said EMA is accepting public comments on their site regarding the Trumbull County Hazard Mitigation Plan from now through March 30, 2026. He thanked the Police and Road Departments for their assistance at last week's windstorm. They managed a total of 30 calls securing roads of downed wires and trees. In addition to last week's windstorm, he said, the community experienced an impressive snowstorm. "the crews were called to I 80 on three separate occasions regarding vehicle accidents." Lastly, Chief Theobald has been in discussions with YFD Chief Courtney Cox regarding some Mutual Aid options.

Trustee Stanley left the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman thanked the trustees for their continued support. "Work continues at Center Park," adding, "electric lines in two separate areas were accidentally hit." He is obtaining quotes. The Board agreed to capping an unnecessary water line, not used in years. Wayne reminded everyone of the Belmont Sidewalk pre-construction meeting next Wednesday. The Board agreed to extend the sidewalk (the south side of Rt.304) from Shady Road to Belmont Avenue with the remaining WRTA funds. Wayne attended the Trumbull County Engineers annual meeting and reported the bids for the Logan Way upgrade project will be out shortly, with the work completed by late spring. He submitted reimbursement requests to Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Grant for the 2 benches and picnic table. He said, "One bench will be placed at Center Park and one bench and picnic table will be placed at Churchill Park." He mentioned the seasonal park employees will be returning Monday. In addition to park maintenance, he said, they will be picking up litter. Wayne said over the years, his 20-year-old and 18-year-old ten-ton trucks have repair costs in excess of \$60,000 each. He asked the Board to consider purchasing a 2nd 10-ton truck, which takes a year to build. The two remaining Board Members said they would visit his request at a later date. Lastly, he said, the road crew continue pothole patching, catch basins, and all manners of road maintenance.

Captain Mike Shuster reminded the Board of the Police Levy Open House on March 26th to promote the upcoming levy. Representative Dave Thomas will be attending.

Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie has been preparing for the upcoming high grass season and reviewed the procedure with the Board. She spoke with the Board regarding the overstocked used car lots in the township. Unfortunately, our codes do not address the matter, she said.

Trustee Clebone asked if they were State of Ohio violations. She said they are not in violation with the State. Also, Arnie asked the Road Superintendent for a long-term maintenance plan for township Roads.

Administrator Martha Weirick brought up the Ohio Edison/First Energy email informing the Board of the plans to upgrade streetlights and if they wish to offer any changes. All agreed, the 3K amber lights seem to provide a wider illumination than the 4K white lights. Martha also

mentioned to Arnie he should stop at Sweet Memories to see if she'd be interested in a table at the 250th Celebration event.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:40 a.m.

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

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

Next meeting is Monday, April 13, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY
FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON