

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. with the following members in attendance Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnie Clebone & Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

26-103 Motion to accept the retirement of Fiscal Officer's Assistant Teena Wylie effective July 31, 2026. Happy relaxing!

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

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

26-104 Motion to accept the resignation of Police Officer Jennifer Hightower effective June 16, 2026. Good luck in your future endeavors.

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

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

26-105 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.:
982 Chrysann	12-410075
216 Catherine	12-680800
3749 Staunton	12-679650
236 Laurel	12-277920
Academy Dr	12-054200
1520 Gypsy Ln	12-546200

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. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

26-106 Motion to increase appropriations by \$154,905.51 in the General Fund/Belmont Sidewalk Project (line 1000-760-730-1353) which is the money received from WRTA reimbursement grant.

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

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

26-107 Motion to pass the following Mitigation Plan Adoption Resolution

A Resolution of the Liberty Township Board of Trustees adopting Trumbull County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

WHEREAS, the Liberty Township Board of Trustees recognizes the threat that natural and other hazards pose to people and property within Trumbull County; and

WHEREAS, Trumbull County has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as Trumbull County 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan as of June 2026 in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Trumbull County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in

Trumbull County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREA, adoption by the Liberty Township Board of Trustees demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Trumbull County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LIBERTY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code, the Liberty Township Board of Trustees adopts the Trumbull County 2026 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

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

26-108 Motion to purchase Connect Spreader Package (Jaws of Life) total cost \$37,647.23 (not include shipping/handling charges) from MES Fire Equipment.

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

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

** see discussion below

26-109 Motion to purchase 2 Hurst/Lukas Strong Arm LE100 with Batteries and Chargers at a cost of \$16,920.24 (not including shipping/handling charges) from MES Fire Equipment pending verification the funds will come from the OPIOD settlement. The units will be stored with the Fire Department but will be utilized by both the Police and Fire Departments.

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

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

** see discussion below

26-110 Motion to increase wages for the Seasonal Park Department Employees effective June 7, 2026:

Jeff Pezzuto to \$15.50 per hour, Vince Pezzuto to \$13.00, and Lucas Pezzuto to \$12.00 per hour.

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

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

26-111 Motion to work with Law Director Cherry Poteet to negotiate the purchase of 5.2 acres next to and behind the Road Department.

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

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

Discussion:

Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie reported that multiple violation letters were recently issued. To date, 17 homeowners have resolved their issues and achieved compliance. Additionally, Melissa noted that multiple new permits have been issued. Trustees Arnie Clebone, Trustee Greg Cizmar and Trustee Devon Stanley discussed the financial impact and costs associated with managing vacant lots throughout the township. Specific affected properties on county roads include Logan Way at Colonial, Redfern, and Twin Oaks. Inspector Ritchie spoke with a county representative regarding Churchill Park. The county is currently investigating having the zoning inspector officially assign an address to the park.

Fire Department Captain Phil Lucarell reported that the department surpassed the 1,800-call mark for the year after responding to 160 calls for service during the recent period. **Captain Lucarell presented the Board of Trustees with replacement options for the current Jaws of Life apparatus, along with a specialized battering device capable of breaching steel doors. Following a discussion between the Board, Captain Lucarell, and Police Chief Ray Buhala, it was noted that both departments share an operational need for these devices. The Board conditionally approved the purchases, provided they qualify for opioid settlement funding. Additionally, Captain Lucarell announced that several more personnel have successfully enrolled in medic school. Lastly Firefighter Ken Jones recently certified as a trainer and recruiter will take over training at

the station.

Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman provided a comprehensive progress report to the Board of Trustees this week, highlighting key developments in local infrastructure, grant compliance, and township property. Sidewalk work at the intersection of State Route 304 and State Route 193 is moving forward with a revised strategy. While the connection between the two sidewalks was briefly paused following feedback from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Wayne is actively working towards resolving the matter. A productive Teams meeting was held earlier this week between ODOT, GPD Engineering, and Liberty Township. Additional designs are now being prepared for ODOT approval, and officials note that the AT&T Vault will likely not need to be relocated. The Center Park Project is now 95% complete. Crews are currently installing the final catch basins throughout the fields. The township is awaiting a quote from Austintown Fence with plans to reuse some existing fencing to manage costs. Additionally, commemorative plaques for the Go Green Grant will be ordered shortly. In further park news, Superintendent Hickman met with an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) representative for an in-person audit of the Churchill Park Little Squaw Creek Grant Project. Phase I and Phase II of this project were completed several years ago, and the routine state audit went smoothly. The representative reported no issues and will deliver a final report to the township next month. The Board also addressed two property matters. First, following an inquiry from a local business owner looking to buy a small section of the Belmont Park Cemetery land adjacent to their property. A Board member will be contacting the buyer to solicit a formal offer. Second, trustees revisited the purchase of 5.2 acres next to the Road Department property near the 711 connector. Following successful discussions with the landowner, the township is moving forward with the acquisition under Resolution 26-111. Wayne expressed his sincere appreciation to Trustee Cizmar, Travis from Econo Lawn, and the additional lawn company for their assistance with cemetery maintenance during a challenging period marked by multiple burials and an exceptionally wet spring. Their collective efforts, Wayne added, successfully reduced a significant portion of the mowing backlog. While Wayne noted his gratitude for the contributions of the recently hired part-time employee, Liam, he emphasized the need for a third full-time staff member dedicated to the cemetery.

Mr. Stanley left the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Trustee Clebone asked if the seasonal park employees could assist on July 18th for the Liberty Township's 250th Celebration at Churchill Park. Wayne would ask them if they're available.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:10 a.m.

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

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

Next meeting July 13, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Music in Churchill Park July 16th 7:00 p.m. Blue Siren Band

Liberty Township's 250th Celebration at Churchill Park July 18th from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY
FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON