

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Thursday, February 19, 2026 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 from the Monday, February 9, 2026 regular meeting.

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

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

26-40 Motion to advance \$75,000 to the Police Fund from the General Fund until permanent budget is approved effective 2/17/26.

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

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

26-41 Motion to pass the permanent budget for 2026:

2026 Permanent Appropriations Budget

Fund	Amount
Police	\$2,853,176.00
Fire	\$2,259,821.00
General	\$2,456,699.00
Road and Bridge	\$1,460,099.00
Ambulance/EMS	\$1,094,425.00
Gas Tax	\$344,419.00
BP Cemetery	\$322,453.00
BPC Trust/Endowment	\$264,000.00
Motor Vehicle	\$156,000.00
Lighting Assessments	\$135,735.00
OPWC Capital Imp.	\$112,222.74
CH Cemetery	\$25,000.00
Drug Law Enforcement	\$17,500.00

Total Appropriations \$11,501,549.74

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

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

Trustee Clebone remarks: "We are passing for expediency's sake, however there could be some amendments."

26-42 Motion to pass the following resolution for NOPEC Grant acceptance in the amount of \$26,784:

2026 NEC GRANT

NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2026 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Liberty, Trumbull County, Ohio (the "GRANTEE") is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC") and is eligible for one or more NOPEC Energized Community Grant(s) for 2026 ("NEC Grant(s)") as provided for in the NEC Grant Program guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the GRANTEE wishes to enter into a Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. in substantially the form presented to this Board of Trustees to receive one or more NEC Grant(s); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF Liberty TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF Trumbull, AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. This Board of Trustees of the GRANTEE (the "Board") finds and determines that it

is in the best interest of the GRANTEE to enter into the Grant Agreement to accept the NEC Grant(s) for 2026, and authorizes the Fiscal Officer to execute the Grant Agreement to accept the NEC Grant(s) funds.

SECTION 2. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the GRANTEE; wherefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the President of the Board of Trustees of the GRANTEE.

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

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

26-43 Motion to approve the new pricing/Fee schedule for both Churchill and Belmont Park cemeteries as attached to the agenda. Passed with amendments to add an * as shown as: * NO HOLIDAY or SUNDAY INTERMENTS and again add an * as shown:*LIST OF HOLIDAYS.

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

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

26-44 Motion to submit the Geauga Trumbull Scrap Tire Grant application and to set September 19th and 20th 2026 as collection dates.

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

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

26-45 Motion to award Foust Construction, Inc. (low bidder) for the Belmont Avenue Sidewalks Phase 1 project at \$238,649.49. The other two bidders were Parella Pannunzio at \$299,289.00 and Daniel A. Terreri & Sons, Inc. at \$299,894.00.

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

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

26-46 Motion to offer the position of Reserve Police Officer to Officer Nicholas Timko effective 2-19-26. This is a volunteer position with no pay or benefits. Officer Timko retired from the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office with a rank of Lieutenant. Welcome!

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

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

26-47 Motion to authorize the purchase of a Stryker System with plate for the Fire Department at \$70,238.78. Trustee Cizmar: This way all three ambulances will have the same equipment.

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

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

26-48 Motion to hire Anthony Jackman as a part time basic EMT at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, no benefits pending successful pre-employment drug testing and background checks. First day worked is his hire date.

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

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

Road Department Wayne Hickman was absent but Martha gave a copy of his written report to the Board of Trustees. They agreed to meet with the LTBA on Thursday to discuss the on-going work at Center Park which could impact some of the upcoming baseball season.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald said the new squad is in service now that the radio was installed. He discovered the Cot and Cot Mount were not covered under our insurance. He spoke with our agent and the equipment is now insured. Due to the sub-zero temperatures an ice jam developed at the Logan Station. As it then thawed, he said, water began to pour onto the electric box. CR Electric was called to fix the issue temporarily. However, the problem will need to be corrected later this year. The Chief and Trustee Cizmar discussed selling 10 old radios no longer in service at the next auction. They also discussed keeping the existing Styker hardware in the old ambulance. It would be too costly to remove

and re-install it in another unit. Trustee Cizmar added, all three ambulances will have the same equipment.

Police Chief Ray Buhala notified the Board that the maintenance garage door is malfunctioning and needs addressed. He asked them to consider a fire and smoke alarm in the garage as well. Everyone agreed to install the alarm. He reported that Joel Davis is moving forward with the new website for Liberty Township (Libertytc.oh.gov).

Zoning Inspector Melissa Ritchie met with the Board of Appeals yesterday, the owner of Liberty Plaza and a representative OakMount Education. OakMount is a career tech school who works with business in the community to develop individuals who can join the workforce. The school will be located at the Liberty Plaza near Five Below. Parking will be at the back of the building. Classes would start at (7 a.m. to noon and noon – 4 p.m.). Melissa asked the Board to review the fee schedule she hopes to upgrade (last upgrade was 2015). The Board will review and asked her to visit Trumbull County's building site to compare fee schedules. Prior to this meeting, Melissa discussed option with our Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman at the end of Northlawn where an access road exists. The property was purchased and the owners would like to build their permanent residence on the property. Currently there is a guard rail at the access point of the property. Melissa discussed options with the Board. They propose whatever the Road Superintendent recommends should be presented to the owners, including but not limited to a T turnaround or a cul-de-sac.

Trustee Arnie Clebone briefly spoke about the plans for a celebration at Churchill Park on July 18th to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Anyone interested in having a booth or wishes to be involved can contact him.

Motion to adjourn at 9:12 a.m. Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

Next business meeting is Monday March 9, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY
FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON