

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly presented his report. He referred to the Cash Summary by Fund, which was printed and available, noting we received more income this year than we spent. He is confident this trend will continue through the remainder of the year. He noted the bank statements are balanced as of 11/30/24. Matt completed a very time-consuming project requested by the County, regarding Liberty Township's lighting districts and lighting assessments. He indicated the cost of electricity will be increasing around 30% in the coming year. He is working on yearend closures and preparing for 2025. Matthew is waiting for a reimbursement from BWC for our participation in several programs, including the Drug Free Workplace Program. Matt wanted to make note of Liberty Township being a good neighbor with other communities and our willingness to provide mutual aid and support. He added, it's better to do the right thing for all concerned and shines a positive light on Liberty Township and our Safety Forces.

#### **Reports:**

Administrator Mrs. Martha Weirick presented her report. Martha met the township's risk management agent annual review last week. Although we are doing everything we can to avoid any liability claims, they discussed any uncertainties that could become a liability. The agent will send her full report, which Martha will share with the Trustees and Department Heads. She was pleased to announce the Tree Lighting and Santa's arrival last Saturday was well attended. We wanted to thank the Liberty Schools Choir for their participation, making the event even more special. Martha also reported on the pedestrian safety study the trustees had initiated many years ago after a tragic pedestrian accident. Early today, she along with the Road Superintendent, Zoning Director, Police Chief, Trustee Greg Cizmar, & Trustee Arnie Clebone met with ODOT and Engineering Officials via a web conference. After some discussion, there was feedback on the proposed improvements, as well as questions regarding the application and how it will be funded. Once we get the final proposal from ODOT, the township will offer a letter of support before the grant application is submitted by ODOT sometime in January.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald reported its grant season. He is applying for Federal, State, and Local Grants including grants for portable radios to improve communication. He noted that some of the current existing radios will be phased out and no longer be supported by updated technology. He plans to seek out equipment grants as well as a BWC grant. Training throughout last year was extensive, including the two State Fire Marshall training events and the Gary Sinise training. Doug is applying for another Gary Sinise grant for heavy rescue training, since interstate 80 and Rt 11 are located in Liberty Township. He will invite surrounding Fire Departments so everyone can train on highway & heavy rescue. They are on par for runs similar to last year, he concluded.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report. Toby wanted to go on the record thanking the Fire Department when he called for help last week. His wife was rushed to the hospital and he personally wanted to thank Captain Chuck Wise and Firefighter Jake Jaynes for their lifesaving help.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman reminded the Board of some unsettled matters, including ponds near Greenbrier, the land behind the road department, and the refuge property. He was happy to report the long overdue Townsend CDBG project is complete. The 2024 Road Program will continue through the winter months. For now, we will concentrate on storm pipes and catch basins in preparation for asphalt in 2025. The 2025 Road Program funding is favorable. The County underestimated the amount of infrastructure needed, including storm pipes and catch basins. Therefore the township will be financially responsible for some of the drainage pipework. Frederick Street CDB Grant funding unfortunately will not be offered by the State this year. The next time we can apply for the grant is June of 2025. If our application is accepted in 2025, we estimate the cost for the project at around \$266,000. He noted the Revolving Road Funds (RLF) has been depleted, therefore the township will be required to match 10% of the grant. As far as the Center Park Project, he said, both quotes received from the two engineering companies came in a lot higher than we want to spend. Wayne suggested we piecemeal the project ourselves. He will work on an outline and once he creates the outline, the Board can meet with Wayne sometime in January to review and move forward. Wayne received several requests to vacate some paper streets. He said Greg also received a request to vacate a paper street. This will be something we will pursue in January. Lastly, Wayne reported this is snowplow season and asked for leaves to be removed from ditches and move cars off the roads, so our guys can safely maintain the roads.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his report. Jim said the person who was updating our township map at the county had resigned. The county is currently trying to continue his

work and asked if we would allow them to change the coloring to today's standards. Once it's updated by the county, we will need to adopt the map officially.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, November 12, 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 November 2024 in the amount of \$738,514.61 warrants #26539 through #26604 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 November 2024.

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

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

24-126 Motion to increase appropriations in Police Salaries line item by \$180,000.00.

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

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

24-127 Motion to adopt the following temporary budget for the year 2025.

GENERAL FUND	\$1,341,980.00
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FUND	\$125,000.00
GASOLINE TAX FUND	\$198,909.50
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$793,976.50
CEMETERY FUND	\$12,375.00
LIGHTING ASSESSMENT FUND	\$65,387.50
POLICE DISTRICT FUND	\$1,582,475.00
FIRE DISTRICT FUND	\$1,177,787.50
DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND	\$8,000.00
<u>AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUND</u>	<u>\$384,350.00</u>
	\$5,690,241.00

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

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

24-128 Motion to increase the appropriations in the General Fund Tow Yard Transfers – 1000-910-910-1341 by \$2,000.00 to transfer the last month's Tow Yard fees to the Police Fund.

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

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

24-129 Motion to increase appropriations in the ARP Funds, line item 2273-230-700-1321 for \$16,265.03 to pay for the 2023 Road paving project final bill and remainder to the 2024 Road Paving project.

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

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

A Citizen wished to thank the Fire Department crew who came to her house when her husband suffered an episode and needed transportation to the hospital. She said they were very efficient and thankful they were so helpful.

A Citizen asked about an abandoned utility box at the corner of Logan and 304. Trustee Clebone said coincidentally he was going to give an update this evening.

A Citizen said the pole at Logan and 304 was damaged. He watched as AT&T workers moved the wires from the damaged pole to the new pole but left without removing the damaged pole. He provided Trustee Cizmar with the pole #'s so Greg could follow up with his AT&T contact.

Trustees' remarks: Trustee Arnie Clebone spoke more on the abandoned utility box at the corner of Logan and 304. He has been in contact for months between the utility companies each saying it did not belong to them. As it turned out it belongs to Spectrum. Arnie is working with specific individuals currently, who reassure him that it will be removed if it's no longer working. Arnie spoke on the Safety Study which will coincide with the sidewalk project.

Trustee Greg Cizmar thanked everyone for a positive year. Roads are being paved and maintained, he said, and he hopes to see more people at events like Music in the Park this summer.

Trustee Devon Stanley also thanked everyone for a great year. Trustee Stanley responded to Wayne's questions on the ponds, the property behind the road department and the refuge property. He noted what has transpired so far and what remains to be done for each of those projects. Devon visited the Rehab Center's Open House and said it is an outstanding, beautiful facility. We are pleased they chose to bring this amazing hospital to Liberty Township. He reported the hotel is moving along nicely. He was delighted we were able to find the right person to work in the Zoning Department. After last month's complaint about Belmont Pines, Devon said he called on three separate occasions to speak with the CEO of Belmont Pines, but have not been successful, nor has he, or the police chief, received a return phone call. He thanked Tim Monroe who stepped down as our cemetery sexton. Tim has worked for Liberty Township for more than 40 years and is willing to continue to help out this winter on a volunteer basis. Devon is happy to report he has an open line of communication with Klines Farm representatives and understands thirty more homes are in the plans to be built. In addition, he is pleased to announce more than 80% of our roads have been paved.

Motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting Friday, December 20, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Organizational meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Check [www.libertytwp.com](http://www.libertytwp.com) website for any changes in meetings.

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MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

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GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON