

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, September 8, 2025 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 reviewed the Cash Summary of Funds and working on reconciling July & August bank statements. Mr. Connelly mentioned the Belmont Park Cemetery takeover is coming along and that the Admin staff, Road Dept and our Attorney have played integral roles in this transition. Matthew reported the Township was audited by Budget Management for grant funds received and passed the Audit. He concluded his report by stating that we did not get a Cemetery grant applied for, Budgeting process for 2026 is beginning over the next month and that he has made application for unclaimed funds from the State.

Reports:

Administrator. Martha Weirick was out of the office and had no report.

Fire Department Chief Doug Theobald stated that this is Grant season and is starting it off by applying for a Marc's Radio Grant as well as a \$14K Grant for Hoods and gloves. The new rehab hospital inspection is underway. He completed the inspection of the new Hotel and it is good as of 9/8/25. Doug also shared a story about one of our firefighters/paramedics reviving a man back to life and that an award is coming for that and when received he'll present it at a future meeting. He concluded his report stating they continue to have above average runs.

Police Department Captain Ray Buhala presented his report and added that his officers are spending a lot of their time and effort watching for speeders in the residential neighborhoods around the township of the 80 they have pulled over, 48 were residents and their focus is on emphasizing to residents the importance of not speeding.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman reported that the 2025 OPWC road project is completed. Wayne said a big thank you to all in the township for support in all of the projects being done right now. He is seeking quotes for the Center Park drainage project. The Belmont Ave sidewalk project is done from Churchill Rd to Giant Eagle. He addressed the utility projects going on in the township at the same time from Lumos fiber and Enbridge gas line and equipment replacement. He asked that the Trustees start thinking about the new gas tanks from Lyden Oil for Road, BPC and Fire Dept. Crack sealing is completed, GT Crack Sealing did 4 miles of road. He concluded that the road crew are busy with catch basins, ditch cleanouts, pot hole patching and other road work.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway left his report with the Trustees before retiring on August 31, 2025.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, July 24, 2025 Regular meeting and the August 15, 2025 Special meeting.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of July in the amount of \$1,086,792.94 warrants #27035 through #27099 inclusive and the month of August 2025 in the amount of \$753,134.98 warrants #27100 through #27164 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and any Then and Now Certificates for the months of July and August 2025.

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

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

25-117 Motion to accept the amount and rates as determined by the Trumbull County Budget Commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certify them to the County Auditor.

See addendum file for a copy of the acceptance certificate.

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

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

25-118 Motion to hire Ashlei Angell as a Part-Time Firefighter Paramedic at a rate of \$21.00 per hour no benefits pending pre-employment drug testing and successful background check.

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

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

25-119 Motion to accept the resignation of Part-Time Firefighter Jeff Morgan effective 9/9/25.

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

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

25-120 Motion the hire Joshua Alessi Part-Time Firefighter Basic EMT at \$20.00 per hour effective 8/26/25 no benefits.

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

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

25-121 RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 505.86 TO REQUIRE OWNER OF PROPERTY AT 632 UNDERWOOD DRIVE TO DEMOLISH STRUCTURE WHICH IS UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §505.86 authorizes a Board of Trustees to declare structures within the Township to be a nuisance by reason of being insecure, unsafe, structurally defective, or unfit for human habitation, and to provide for the abatement of said nuisance by repair or demolition and removal of said structures; and

WHEREAS, the Trumbull County Board of Health, at their meeting on August 20, 2025, declared the structure on the property located at 632 Underwood Drive, Girard, Ohio 44420, Liberty Township, (“the Property”) to be Unfit for Human Habitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio as follows:

Section 1: The Structure on the Property is hereby determined to be a nuisance and a threat to the public health and safety as unfit for human habitation and must be demolished and removed.

Section 2: Notice shall be given to the owner(s) of the Property and any lienholders (Parties in Interest) by certified mail or as otherwise provided in R.C. 505.86, of the Township’s declaration of nuisance and demand to abate said nuisance by demolition, and of their right to request a hearing.

Section 3: If the Property Owner or other Party in Interest fails to request a hearing before the Board within twenty days or provide for the demolition said structure within thirty days of issuing notice, the Board authorizes the Township Administrator to enter into contracts with private contractors or the Trumbull County Land Bank for the demolition of the structures on the Property.

Section 4. The total costs incurred for the demolition and removal of the structure and abatement of the nuisance, including all associated site restoration work, and the costs incurred in providing notice may be certified to the county Auditor who shall place the costs upon the tax duplicate to be a lien upon such lands from and after the date of entry.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

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

25-122 Motion to offer the position of Reserve Police Officer to Officer Dominic J. Rozzo effective 9/8/25. This is a volunteer position with no pay or benefits.

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

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

25-123 RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 505.86 TO REQUIRE OWNER OF PROPERTY AT 1182 CHURCHILL HUBBARD ROAD TO DEMOLISH TRAILER WHICH IS UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §505.86 authorizes a Board of Trustees to declare structures within the Township to be a nuisance by reason of being insecure, unsafe, structurally defective, or unfit for human habitation, and to provide for the abatement of said nuisance by repair or demolition and removal of said structures; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Fire Chief has inspected the trailer and other structures at 1182 Churchill Hubbard Road Liberty, Ohio 44505, Liberty Township, (“the Property”) which were damaged by fire and has declared them to be insecure, unsafe, and structurally defective.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio as follows:

Section 1: The Trailer and other structures on the Property damaged by fire are hereby determined to be a nuisance and a threat to the public health and safety as unfit for human habitation and must be demolished and removed.

Section 2: Notice shall be given to the owner(s) of the Property and any lienholders (Parties in Interest) by certified mail or as otherwise provided in R.C. 505.86, of the Township’s declaration of nuisance and demand to abate said nuisance by demolition, and of their right to request a hearing.

Section 3: If the Property Owner or other Party in Interest fails to request a hearing before the Board within twenty days or provide for the demolition said structures within thirty days of issuing notice, the Board authorizes the Township Administrator to enter into contracts with private contractors or the Trumbull County Land Bank for the demolition of the structures on the Property.

Section 4. The total costs incurred for the demolition and removal of the structures and abatement of the nuisance, including all associated site restoration work, and the costs incurred in providing notice may be certified to the county Auditor who shall place the costs upon the tax duplicate to be a lien upon such lands from and after the date of entry.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

25-124 Motion to extend agreement with Republic Services for residential solid waste collections through 9/30/2027.
Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Clebone.
Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Stanley Yes. Motion carried

A resident, Dominic from E. Montrose was concerned about the house across the street from him that had the fireworks explosion 2 months ago and it is not torn down yet and asked how much longer before it is because it’s a liability and someone could get hurt.

Another resident, Steve Stoyak, asked the trustees what is the update on the abandoned gas station on Tibbetts Wick Road, handed out a packet of information for the trustees to review and would like them to adopt a new resolution to the zoning code for absentee property owners.

Another resident, Ron Wilson, 283 Potters circle, was concerned about his road not being paved, area flooding and states construction is preventing and contributing to this. He said the homeowners Association isn’t doing anything because the President of it is the Builder He has contacted the Ohio EPA, Trumbull County Soil & Water Conservation district and others about this and wants the Township to do something about it. Wayne responded to the resident that he has as much as we can at this time.

Trustees’ remarks: None

Motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of a public employee at 6:53 p.m.
Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Cizmar.
Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley Yes. Motion carried

Motion to adjourn from executive session at 7:40 p.m. and resume the regular session.
Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Cizmar.
Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried

25-125 Motion to hire Melissa Murphy as a Full-Time Zoning Inspector/Cemetery Clerk at an annual salary of \$49,920.00 with benefits as set in the memorandum of benefits pending pre-employment drug testing and successful background check effective 9/22/25.
Motion: Mr. Cizmar, Second: Mr. Stanley.
Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried

25-126 Motion to appoint Martha Weirick as interim Zoning Inspector effective immediately for purposes of issuing permits until the new Zoning Inspector is officially able to start her position.
Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second. Mr. Cizmar.
Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.
Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Cizmar.
Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried

Matthew Connelly

Fiscal Officer

Greg Cizmar, Trustee

Next business meeting September 18, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.