

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Organization/Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone and Mr. Devon Stanley presiding. Mr. Gregory Cizmar was absent.

22-01 Motion to appoint Devan Stanley as Chairperson for 2022.
Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Stanley.
Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Motion carried.

22-02 Motion to appoint Greg Cizmar as Vice Chairperson for 2022.
Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Clebone.
Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

22-03 Motion to adjourn the Reorganizational Meeting and begin the Regular Meeting.
Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Clebone.
Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report – Mrs. Martha Weirick welcomed the Fire Chief and Road Superintendent.
Fire Department – Chief Douglas Theobald reported the statistics for the last year. Chief congratulated a full time EMT firefighter who passed his paramedic exam. This will help the department immensely. Chief also reported he is contacting current part time firefighters to confirm their commitment to the Liberty Fire Department. Last, the Fire Department held a food drive at Walmart and collected a large amount of food and cash to be distributed to Food Banks.
Police Department – Chief Toby Meloro talked of the 2021 Annual Police Report and compared the last several years statistics. He praised his dedicated officers on their excellent law enforcement maintaining the highest of standards and reinforced his community-oriented philosophy.
Road Department – Mr. DeWayne Hickman stated the Road Department is geared and prepared for snow and ice control. In addition last week, the crew worked on a catch basin at Northlawn and Catherine which failed, causing a section of the roadway to ice over. Wayne mentioned the mound of road street sweeping debris at the Road Department which needs addressed. Although we are adhering to the EPA standards for storing the waste, we need to come up with a solution to dispose of it according to EPA standards. The Board asked Wayne to research and report back.
Zoning Department – Mr. Jim Rodway was absent.

22-04 Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021 and the December 27, 2021 Special Meetings.
Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second: Mr. Stanley.
Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Motion carried.

22-05 Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of December 2021 in the amount of \$1,122,712.01 and warrants #23224 through #23409 inclusive and Then and Now purchase orders.
Motion: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Clebone.
Roll Call: Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

22-06 Motion that the Board of Liberty Township Trustees shall conduct its meetings in full compliance with the Ohio Sunshine Law and accordingly establishes the following rules for the scheduling and notice of all meetings:

REGULAR MEETINGS – The Board of Trustees will hold Regular monthly evening meetings the 2nd Monday of every month, at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 10, 2022 except for Monday, October 10, 2022 Columbus Day, which will be moved to Tuesday October 11, 2022. Starting January 26, 2022 the Board will also hold regular weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. (except those weeks a Monday evening meeting is held). **NO REGULAR MEETINGS IN AUGUST.** All meetings will be held at the Township administration building. Notice of the Regular Meetings or changes shall be posted on the Township website. The Township will provide notice of changes to the meeting date or times to the Vindicator, Warren Tribune and any other media that requests the same at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, except in an emergency in which case the notices shall be given as soon as practicable.

SPECIAL MEETINGS – Notice of special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be given by posting notice of the meeting on the Township website. Notice of all special meetings shall be given to the Vindicator, Warren Tribune Chronicle and any other newspaper or media that requests the same at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, except in an emergency in which case the notices shall be given as soon as practicable. Additionally, the Township will provide advance notice of regular or special meetings to anyone who provides the Township with postage pre-paid, self-addressed postcards or email address.

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

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

22-07 Motion to set the salaries for the Trustees of Liberty Township for 2022 at the maximum compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §505.24(C) Compensation of Trustees, to be paid in equal monthly payments.

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

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

22-08 Motion to set the salary for the Fiscal Officer of Liberty Township for 2022 at the maximum compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §507.09 Compensation of Fiscal Officer, to be paid in equal monthly payments.

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

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

22-09 Motion to renew the appointment of Cherry Lynne Poteet as Township Law Director pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 504.15 and increase the monthly contract rate to \$3,800 per month, effective January 1, 2022.

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

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

22-10 Motion to authorize membership for the Trustees and Fiscal Officer in the Ohio Township Association, and attendance at the OTA annual Winter Conference in Columbus, and to pay the dues or expenses from the General Fund pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §505.241.

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

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

22-11 Motion to appoint Brian Wolf to a five (5) year term on the Liberty Township Zoning Board of Appeals, term commencing January 1st, 2022 and term ending December 31st, 2026.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

22-12 Motion to set the compensation for the members of the Township Zoning Commission at \$20 per meeting and Zoning Board of Appeals at \$45 per meeting for 2022, which is the current rate, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §519.13.

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

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

22-13 Motion to set the 2022 mileage reimbursement rate for authorized travel by township officials and employees outside of Liberty Township at \$0.58.5 cents per mile which is the maximum rate per mile permitted by the IRS for 2022.

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

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

22-14 Motion to acknowledge and authorize township officers and full-time employees and their respective immediate dependents who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement are entitled to the same rights and coverage under any and all health care insurance policies and programs currently in effect or subsequently procured by the Township in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §505.60 et seq. and to set health insurance premium co-payments for the non-bargaining unit employees rate of fifteen percent (15%) of the monthly premium costs of their enrollment in the township Health Insurance Benefit Program.

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

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

22-15 Motion to approve an annual conversion plan pursuant to Section 145.01 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code 145-1-26 for Liberty Township for the conversion of vacation time that is accrued, but not used, during the calendar year, defined as January 1 to December 31, 2022. These earnings are earnable salary on which employee and employer contributions shall be remitted to OPERS. See File for complete conversion plan.

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

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

22-16 Motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to prepare and use super blanket certificates for the 2022 fiscal year for the statutorily permitted purposes of: the services of an accountant, architect, attorney at law, physician, professional engineer, construction project manager, consultant, surveyor, or appraiser; fuel oil, gasoline, food items, roadway materials and utilities; purchases exempt from competitive bidding under O.R.C. 125.04 and any other specific expenditure that is a recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. Each super blanket certificate must identify the specific line-item appropriation account to which it applies, and an itemized statement of obligations incurred, and expenditures made under each super blanket certificate shall be maintained by the Fiscal Officer. Each super blanket certificate shall be in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 with the exception of the hospitalization super blanket certificate which shall be in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

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

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

22-17 Motion to request from the Trumbull County Auditor advances on Real Estate Property Taxes, Personal Property Taxes and Estate Taxes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §321.34.

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

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

22-18 Motion to authorize payment of expenses for township officials and employees to attend meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences, schools, training or conventions for fiscal year 2022, after a formal request has been processed and approved.

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

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

22-19 Motion to authorize the expenditure of township general funds for public community functions to organizations that serve a community purpose and are non-profit under IRS Code 501(c)(3), upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

Motion passed or failed.

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

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

22-20 Resolution of intent to sell unneeded, obsolete or unfit for use personal property by internet auction for the calendar year 2022.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TO CONDUCT INTERNET AUCTIONS FOR THE SALE OF UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT PERSONAL PROPERTY OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, Section 505.10 of the Ohio Revised Code permits a board of township trustees to sell personal property, including motor vehicles, road machinery, equipment, tools, or supplies, which is not needed for public use, or is obsolete, or is unfit for the use for which it was acquired; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Township Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio has determined that an internet auction is a cost-effective method of disposing of such property; and,

WHEREAS, Section 505.10(D) of the Ohio Revised Code permits a board of township trustees to sell such property by internet auction after adopting a resolution expressing its intent to do so;

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

Section 1: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.10(D), the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township hereby expresses its intent to sell personal property, including motor vehicles, road machinery, equipment, tools, or supplies, which is not needed for public use, or is obsolete, or is unfit for the use for which it was acquired, by internet auction in 2022.

Section 2: The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township hereby will conduct internet auctions through GovDeals, Inc., 100 Capitol Commerce Boulevard, Suite 110, Montgomery, Alabama, 36117.

Section 3: Such internet auctions shall be conducted according to the requirements of R.C. 505.10(D) under the following general terms and conditions:

All property will be offered for sale to the public on the www.govdeals.com website for a minimum of ten (10) days, including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays;

The Township reserves the right to establish a minimum price for any item and to establish other terms and conditions of sale, including but not limited to requirements for pick-up or delivery;

Township property auctioned via internet auction shall be sold to the highest qualified bidder at the conclusion of the auction;

The highest qualified bidder shall be required to pay in full for the property at the auctioned price plus the stated buyer's premium and all applicable taxes within five business days from the conclusion of the sale, and to comply with any other conditions or terms of sale;

All property is offered for sale "As-Is Where-Is" with Liberty Township making NO warranty, guarantee or representation of any kind, express or implied as to the condition of such property;

All vehicles will be sold with a Salvage Title; and

The Board of Township Trustees, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio reserves the right to reject any bids and to withdraw from sale any items listed on its internet auction.

Section 4: In the event that the Township reclaims the auctioned property as a result of the highest qualified bidder's failure to comply with the terms and conditions stated above or in the event that there are no bidders for the auctioned property who meet the terms and conditions established for the auction, the Township reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to re-auction the property or to dispose of the property without auction, as permitted by R.C. 505.10(B).

Section 5: That after adoption of this Resolution, the Fiscal Officer shall publish, in a newspaper of general circulation in the township, notice of Liberty Township's intent to sell unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use township personal property by internet auction. The notice shall include a summary of the information provided in this resolution. Information regarding the internet auction shall be published on the Township website and posted at the Township office.

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

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

22-21 Motion to allocate and authorize the Fiscal Officer to transfer each month immediately upon receipt, all funds received as reimbursement for police overtime, plus fifty percent of the remaining funds received by Liberty Township from the Traffic Camera Program, to the Police Fund.

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

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

22-22 Motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to move money within a fund from one line item to another in cases where funds must be made available before the next trustees meeting. Trustee Clebone desires the fiscal officer to inform the Board of the transaction(s) the following meeting.

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

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

22-23 No objection to a liquor permit for Nablus Town, Inc DBA Knafa Restaurant, 3129 Belmont Ave., Liberty Township Ohio 44505

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

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

22-24 Motion to hire the following part time firefighters, to work no more than 1500 hours per year, pending satisfactory pre-employment drug test and background check. They will receive no benefits and first day worked is their hire date:

Mason Pierpont, Paramedic, Canton, OH at \$16.00 per hour.

Marquan Stevenson, Basic EMT, Youngstown, OH -\$14 per hour.

Michael Brandt, Paramedic, Ashtabula, OH -\$16 per hour.

Robert Shape, Basic EMT, Warren, OH -\$14 per hour.

Toby Mizway, Basic EMT, Cortland, OH - \$14 per hour.

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

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

22-25 Motion to adopt the following Resolution:

A Resolution establishing the American Rescue Plan Local Fund, allocating ARP funds received to revenue loss, and electing the Standard Allowance as defined by the Final Rule, to be used for government services.

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARP”), a \$1.9 trillion economic COVID-19 stimulus package, was signed into law on March 11, 2021 to provide monetary relief to address the continued impact of COVID- 19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses; and

WHEREAS Liberty Township is a recipient of ARP funding as a non-entitlement unit of local government; and

WHEREAS the Final Rule issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on January 7, 2022 provides that recipients including the Township can elect to use a Standard Allowance for revenue loss of up to ten million dollars, allowing the funds to be used for the provision of government services.

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

SECTION 1. The Board hereby establishes the ARP Local Fund, to account for revenues and expenditures related to the funds received by the Township through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

SECTION 2. The Board hereby allocates all funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which have not been previously allocated by the Board to revenue loss and elects the Standard Allowance as defined by the Final Rule. All ARP funds received not previously allocated by the Board will be expended for the provision of government services consistent with the requirements of the ARP and other applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

SECTION 3. The Township Fiscal Officer is hereby instructed and authorized to take the actions necessary to implement this Resolution and file the required reports of the ARP Funds received and expended.

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

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

22-26 After discussion, motion to creating a Special Reserve Fund under 5705.13 (B) to accumulate resources for payment of accumulated sick leave and vacation leave for officers who will be retiring, and capital project funds under 5705.13(C) for purchase of motor vehicles or other capital projects in the future.

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

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

Public Comment: A resident reported East Ohio Gas Company graded, seeded and put down straw in a area around her neighborhood.

Trustee Remarks: Trustee Stanley reported the flag across from Katies Korner had been taken down. Trustee Clebone received notice from Eastgate, Liberty Township was successful in obtaining the \$400,000 WRTA Transportation Grant. Arnie thanked Eastgate Civil Engineer Mirta Reyes and Administrator Martha Weirick for their help in the grant preparation and submission.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

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

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

MATT CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

DEVON STANLEY, CHAIRPERSON