

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Meeting by teleconference on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnold Clebone and Mr. Gregory Cizmar, presiding. Mr. Devon Stanley was absent.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we are conducting the Regular Meeting via teleconference.

**In accordance with the instructions issued by Governor DeWine, to limit the risk of community transmission of the virus COVID-19, all members of the public are invited to present their questions or concerns to the Township in writing, by email, or by telephone at any time.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 Regular meeting.

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

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

21-28 Motion to hire part time Firefighter/Paramedic Michael P. Vigorito, Lyndhurst, Ohio at a rate of \$14.00 per hour pending pre-employment drug testing. First day worked is his hire date.

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

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

21-29 Motion to hire part time Firefighter/Basic EMT Justin Neff, Austintown, Ohio at a rate of \$12.00 per hour pending pre-employment drug testing. First day worked is his hire date.

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

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

21-30 Motion to hire Jeffrey Palmer as a full time Probationary Patrolman for the Liberty Township Police Department at a rate of \$20.84 per hour per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between Liberty Township Trustees and the OPBA.

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

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

21-31 Motion to pass the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING PROPERTY TO BE INSECURE, UNSAFE, STRUCTURALLY DEFECTIVE AND/OR UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND ORDERING AND PROVIDING FOR ABATEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF INSECURE AND/OR UNSAFE BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4630 MARCH AVENUE, LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code Section 505.86 authorizes a Board of Trustees to provide for the removal, repair, or securance of buildings or other structures within the Township that have been declared insecure, unsafe, structurally defective, or unfit for human habitation, and to provide for the repair, demolition and removal of said structures; and;

**WHEREAS**, Trumbull County Building Inspector has inspected the property located at 4630 March Avenue, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, and has declared the residential dwelling structure on the property to be a serious hazard that is dangerous to human life; insecure and unsafe due to structural defects with structural deficiency in the roof system and the structure has failed in several locations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, by authority of Section 505.86 of the Ohio Revised Code, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The structures on the property located at 4630 March Avenue, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, Permanent Parcel Nos. 12-099553 and 12-099552, (hereinafter “the Property”) are hereby determined to be unsafe and structurally defective thereby constituting a direct threat to the public health and safety pursuant to Section 505.86 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 2.** The Liberty Township Board of Trustees hereby orders the Property Owner to abate the nuisance by repair or demolition and removal of said structures, pursuant to Section 505.86 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** The Zoning Inspector is hereby instructed to notify the Property owner and all lienholders of record by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the Township's declaration of nuisance and demand to abate said nuisance by repair or demolition, and the right to request a hearing in writing within twenty days after the notice is mailed, pursuant to RC 505.86(B) and(C).

**SECTION 4.** If the Property Owner or Lienholders of record fail to request a hearing before the Board within twenty days or provide for the repair or demolition and removal of said nuisance structures within thirty days of the notice, the Township Administrator is hereby authorized to obtain proposals from contractors and enter into a contract for the repair or demolition and removal of the Structures.

**SECTION 5.** The total cost of the repair or removal of the structures and all associated site restoration work shall be assessed to the owner(s) of record and the Liberty Township Fiscal Officer shall certify the total costs, together with a proper description of the lands, to the county and it or who shall place the costs upon the tax duplicate. The costs are a lien upon such lands from and after the date of entry. The costs shall be collected as other taxes and returned to the township general fund.

**SECTION 7.** That this Board hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of its Committees, if any, which resulted informal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 8.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately, or upon the earliest date as otherwise allowed by law.

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

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

21-32 Motion to pass the following resolution for property nuisance:

**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.:
1710 Lincoln	12-668435; 12-668430; 12-668420; 12-668425

**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.**, and any expenses incurred by the board in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land.

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

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

21-33 Motion to pass the following Resolution requesting the Zoning Commission consider a proposed zone change:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION CONSIDER A CHANGE TO THE ZONING OF A PORTION OF PARCELS 12-239260, 12-393585, 12-260900 TO ELIMINATE THE SPLIT ZONING OF THE PARCELS**

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code Section 519.12 authorizes a Board of Trustees to initiate amendments to the zoning resolution to rezone parcels; and;

**WHEREAS**, parcels 12-239260, 12-393585, 12-260900 in Liberty Township are split in their zoning, with the rear portions of the parcels creating an “island” of residential zoning within a commercially zoned area;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, by authority of Section 519.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Liberty Township Board of Trustees requests that the Liberty Township Zoning Commission review these parcels and consider amending the zoning map to rezone the rear of parcels 12-239260, 12-393585, 12-260900 from residential to commercial zoning, in accordance with the zoning of the adjoining parcels.

**SECTION 2.** The Fiscal officer is requested to certify a copy of this resolution the Zoning Commission, in accordance with Section 519.12 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

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

Guest: Lisa Taddei, Regional External Affairs Consultant for Ohio Edison spoke to Trustees regarding ESIP current street light program vs. pilot program to replace streetlights with LED bulbs. Program replaces old streetlights with 50-watt bulbs at a cost of \$7.49 per light per month compared to \$5.86 per month for standard vapor/amber lights. Lisa asked the Board to consider a 12 light pilot program. Similar programs have started in surrounding communities. Lisa suggested the Board visit an area in Vienna where the program is being tested. The written three options have been provided by Ms. Taddei for the Boards consideration.

Discussion: Chief Toby Meloro thanked the Board for hiring an experienced officer who will bring a lot to department and community.

Trustee Clebone thanked the township’s IT person Joel Davis for his expert help our web page and social media sites. Trustee Clebone also thanked the media for supporting Liberty Businesses.

Trustee Cizmar reported the upgrades at the Fire Station continue and the replacement of some flooring at the Administration Building has also began.

A resident had zoning suggestions.

Tribune/Vindicator reporter expressed an interest in the township’s emergency management and inquired about future beautification plans.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Next meeting Thursday, January 28, 2021 @ 8:30 a.m. via zoom teleconference.

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STEVE SHELTON, FISCAL OFFICER

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GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON