

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Gregory Cizmar and Mr. Devon Stanley, presiding.

Extending our deepest sympathy to Fiscal Officer Matt & Amy Connelly for the loss of their son Adam.

Proclamations presented to Kim Quinlan, Tarrie Hyman, & Phyllis Freeman for their tireless dedicated services to Liberty Township.

Pete Schwiegeraht, Pivotal Senior Housing, spoke on the site challenges within the senior housing complex. Because of environmental challenges at the site, and the increased costs, they are considering a second high rise that would mirror the one already planned rather than cottages for Phase II. If cottages are achievable for Phase II, the number of units will most likely be decreased. Phase III is still in the development stage.

Trustees Arnie Clebone reported on the final stage of the Stream Restoration Grant. Plantings, trees, and some drainage issues are being discussed with Davey Resource Group and the contractor. Trustee Clebone is looking to possibly apply for a Nature Works Grant. Trustee Clebone reviewed the Appalachian Grant with the Board and looking for the Boards support. The eligible funding can be used for planning he said for example, to enhance the Belmont Corridor. There is a higher priority given to those collaborating with another community. Some things to consider, he proposed, would be turning a vacant space into a wellness and training center for safety forces. He will find out more in the coming weeks.

Trustee Greg Cizmar thanked Trumbull County Engineer Randy Smith and those at the Engineers Office for paving Colonial Drive and having Logan Ave striped. Greg also thanked Tight Seal for restoring the block glass and D & R Garage for replacing the door at Churchill Park. He is currently overseeing an auction. A "well done thank you" is also extended to John Kilner, Perfect Color, for his outstanding work at the Maintenance Garage.

Administrator Martha Weirick thanked all those who made the 2022 Halloween Open House a complete success, reminded everyone of the December 3rd Community Holiday Tree Lighting/Santa Celebration, and mentioned the Community and Historical Society Club is always looking for volunteers.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald spoke of the fire at Kravitz Deli on Belmont and thanked the mutual aid stations who helped. Because of the quick response, minimal damage was incurred. The business should be restored quickly. Chief affirmed receiving a \$1,500 Walmart Grant awarded them that will be used for carbon monoxide monitors, and he applied for an \$1,800 no match grant for additional Marcs Radios. The Township ISO rating has much improved and should help the residents with insurance premiums. All inspections have been completed for the new McDonalds, and Chipotle should be finalized in the coming days. Both establishments will be opening soon. The Chief reported on an employee at Classic Optical who was awarded the Red Cross Award for saving the life of a fellow employee.

Police Chief Toby Meloro offered his report of 1197 calls last month, stopped 191 cars, wrote 78 citations, gave 113 warnings, and towed 47 vehicles.

Road Department Mr. Wayne Hickman congratulated Kim Quinlan and the other two ladies for the well-deserved award. Their efforts removing litter from our roadways has made a huge difference in the appearance of the township. Wayne spoke to the contractor about the pending plants, benches, and drainage at Churchill Park to finish up the grant. Wayne was glad to report the 2021 Paving Program is now complete and with the exception of some finish work, the 2022 Paving Program is nearly complete. Crack seal is concluded for this year. The road crew sealed Klines, upper Mansel, Ravine, and Sampson Roads and are now in winter mode. Parks are officially closed.

Zoning Department Mr. Jim Rodway submitted his report and asked the Fire Chief to determine if the home on Lincoln, which caught fire a few weeks ago, is fit for human habitation. He also asked the Police Chief to investigate some possible vandalism.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2022 Regular meeting.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of October 2022 in the amount of \$591,254.49 warrants #24090 through #24534 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 for the month of October (there were no Then and Nows).

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

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

22-158 Motion to approve additional lighting at the Administration/Police/Center Park location and enter into a contract with CR Electric for supplies, installation and materials in an amount estimated at \$7,965.00.

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

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

22-159 Motion to pass the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 505.241 of the Ohio Revised Code grants the authority to a Board of Township Trustees to authorize its elected officers to join an association or nonprofit organization formed for the improvement of township government; and

WHEREAS, Section 505.241 of the Ohio Revised Code further grants the authority to a board of township trustees to appropriate from its general fund an amount sufficient to pay the dues, subscription costs, or membership charges of such association or nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, THE Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (hereinafter referred to as CLOUT), which is part of the Ohio Township Association, qualifies as an association or nonprofit organization formed for the improvement of township government within the meaning of Section 505.241 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, Liberty Township is eligible to be a member of CLOUT based on a budget of \$16,318,705.69 from the certificate of estimated resources dated November 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to participate as members of CLOUT;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED THAT, the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County hereby authorizes Liberty Township to become a member of CLOUT, as part of the Ohio Township Association and to pay the annual CLOUT \$200 membership dues.

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

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

22-160 Motion to pass the following resolution:

TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND REMISSION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township acquired a parcel of real property at the intersection of Tibbitts Wick and Logan Way, Parcel No. 12-765303 for public purposes, as contains part of the road right of way and is needed for road maintenance, and

WHEREAS, the property was listed as no value since it was acquired many years ago, but in the recent review of all properties in the area the parcel was assigned a value of one thousand dollars resulting in taxes due; and

WHEREAS, Real Properly owned by a public entity and used exclusively for a public purpose is exempt from taxation.

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township owns a parcel of real property at the intersection of Tibbitts Wick and Logan Way, Parcel No. 12-765303, of 0.2 acres in size.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5709.08 and 5571.02, the property was acquired for and is being used exclusively for a public purpose, to maintain a township road.

SECTION 3. The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township authorizes and directs the Township Administrator Martha Weirick to execute any documents necessary to apply for Real Property Tax Exemption and Remission of the property as provided by law.

SECTION 4. If any paragraph, provision, or section of this Resolution is held to be invalid by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, then that decision will not affect the validity of the remaining paragraphs, provisions, or sections of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including R.C. §121.22.

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

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

22-161 Motion tabled to *adopt a resolution opposing the proposed annexation of property from Howland and Vienna Townships to the city of Niles.*

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2022, the owners of 31.380 acres in Howland and Vienna Townships filed a petition with the Clerk of the board of County Commissioners of Trumbull County, Ohio for the real estate to be annexed from the respective Townships into the City of Niles under R.C. 709.02;

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners of Trumbull County, Ohio set a hearing date of December 7, 2022 to consider the Petition;

WHEREAS, the board of Trustees of Liberty Township does not believe that, if the proposed annexation is granted, on balance, the general good of the territory within the County that is proposed to be annexed will be served, and the benefits to the territory within the County that is proposed to be annexed and the surrounding area will outweigh the detriments to the territory within the County that is proposed to be annexed and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the board of Trustees of Liberty Township opposes this and any annexations. The board of Trustees of Liberty Township believes that communities should work together to reach mutually beneficial terms to avoid the appearance of conflict which, ultimately, is a detraction for investment in our area and the board of Trustees of Liberty Township believes that we should present ourselves in a positive light to attract investment and development within Trumbull County, Ohio.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, that the Fiscal Officer shall certify this resolution and transmit the same to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Trumbull County, Ohio.

Motion to table: Mr. Stanley. Second: Mr. Clebone.

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

Motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:00 p.m. to meet with the township law director to discuss contract negotiations with the Fire Union and to discuss matters required to be kept confidential by state law.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session at 9:29 p.m. and end meeting. No decisions were made.

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

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

Next meeting is Friday, December 2, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

MATT CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

DEVON STANLEY, CHAIRPERSON