

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Gregory Cizmar and Mr. Devon Stanley, presiding.

Firefighters sworn in by Trustee Stanley: John Rongyos III, Nicholas Foard, Jeremy Gless, Matthew Gordon & Kaitlyn Mason. Congratulations to everyone!

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly gave his financial report. By investing township funds in Star Ohio, he reported the township received over \$150,000 in interest this year. The bank statements are reconciled to date. He will begin the process of closing out 2023. Since the last meeting, Matt attended the annual NOPEC meeting with Trustee Greg Cizmar and Administrator Martha Weirick. Because of shopping around, he was able to secure better rate for our electricity.

Reports:

Administrator Martha Weirick thanked those who helped make this year's Holiday Lighting and Santa's arrival event a complete success. The Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and will post 2024's entire regular meeting calendar on the township website soon. She thanked the Department Heads for the extraordinary work this past year and was looking forward to the coming year.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald reported on the various grants his department is working on, including a BWC grant for power stair chairs, a joint grant with several other communities for air packs, an apparatus (tool) grant, and a State Grant to replace hose. He reported the runs are in line with last year's numbers.

Police Chief Toby Meloro gave his report and reminded everyone Coffee with a Cop will be at Bob Evans tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman reported all projects are moving forward. We are ready for snow removal. The men continue to do drainage repairs and are replacing street signs. The bathroom at the Road Department is nearly complete, just needs flooring and a few punch list items.

Trustee Devon Stanley thanked the Road Department for putting up the "caution autistic child" signs. The mother of the child reached out to Devon to express her sincere gratitude.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway was absent.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 Regular meeting and the November 17, 2023 Special 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 2023 in the amount of \$653,713.08 warrants #25120 through # 25732 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 the Then and Now Certificates for the month of November 2023.

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

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

23-153 Motion to enter into an agreement between the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Patrol Union and the Board of Liberty Township Trustees effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

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

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

23-154 Motion to enter into an agreement between the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Sergeants and Captains and the Board of Liberty Township Trustees effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

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

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

23-155 Motion to pass the Temporary Budget for 2024	
GENERAL FUND	\$1,406,984.00
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FUND	\$100,000.00
GASOLINE TAX FUND	\$142,460.00
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$599,862.00
CEMETERY FUND	\$12,750.00
LIGHTING ASSESSMENT FUND	\$65,300.00
POLICE DISTRICT FUND	\$1,774,441.00
FIRE DISTRICT FUND	\$1,228,227.00
DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND	\$9,000.00
AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUND	\$313,013.00
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FUND	\$0
ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION FUND	\$0
<u>ARPA (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT) FUND</u>	<u>\$300,094.00</u>
	\$5,952,131.00

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

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

23-156 Motion to amend Resolution 19-94 governing the Liberty Township Traffic Law Photo-Monitoring program as set forth below:

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 23-156
A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRAFFIC LAW PHOTO-MONITORING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the ongoing problem of motorists disobeying speed limits and traffic signals threatens the safety of the residents of Liberty Township;

WHEREAS, Liberty Township seeks to increase compliance with speed limits and traffic signals, thereby decreasing the potential for motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian injuries that are caused by such failures to comply; and

WHEREAS, an automated speed enforcement program assists in increasing compliance with speed limits and traffic signals without the disadvantages of conventional traffic law enforcement, such as disruptions in the flow of traffic at heavily traveled locations and intersections and danger to police officers; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution Number 16-65, Liberty Township adopted an automated speed enforcement program; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution Number 19-94, Liberty Township amended the Traffic Camera Resolution to comply with changes to the law adopted in Amended Sub. H.B. No.62; and

WHEREAS, the penalties for citations have not been increased for five years while costs have increased.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Ohio, hereby adopts the following Resolution to revise the Liberty Township Traffic Law Photo-Monitoring Program within Liberty Township.

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees hereby amends Section 5 of Resolution Number 19-94 to read as follows:

Section 5. CIVIL PENALTIES

1. The civil penalty imposed shall be as follows, or in such amount as established by Resolution by the Board of Trustees:

(a) One hundred thirty-two dollars (\$132.00) for speeds 10-15 miles over the speed Limit

(b) One hundred forty-five dollars (\$145.00) for speeds 16-20 miles over the speed Limit

(c) One hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) for speeds 21 or more miles over the speed limit or if the offense occurs in a marked construction zone

(d) If the civil penalty is paid more than thirty (30) calendar days, but within forty-five (45) calendar days after date of issuance of the ticket, a late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be added to the amount of the civil penalty

(e) If the civil penalty is paid more than forty-five (45) calendar days of the date of issuance of the ticket, an additional late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be added for a total late fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

2. In addition to any civil penalty and any additional late fee, any and all costs or expenses incurred by the Township for litigation or other costs of collection shall be assessed against the person or entity found to be liable.

3. A traffic law violation for which a civil penalty is imposed under this Resolution is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points under Ohio Revised Code Section 4510.036 and may not be recorded on the driving record of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and shall not be reported to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, nor shall such a violation be recorded on the driving record of the owner or operator of the vehicle involved in the violation.

SECTION 2. The fees set forth in this Resolution shall go into effect January 1, 2024.

SECTION 3. All portions of Resolution 19-94 not amended above shall remain in full force and effect as written. If any provision of Resolution 19-94 as amended by 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 provisions.

SECTION 4. 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. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

26-157 Motion to increase the appropriations in the Lighting District Fund by \$7,500.

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

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

Citizen Remarks: A citizen mentioned a situation where a child may have wandered off (but in fact was asleep in his home). Someone was in his backyard with a flashlight. However, it was difficult to see any identification on the clothing. The resident requested to try to make sure personnel are identifiable.

Trustees' remarks:

Trustee Greg Cizmar thanked everyone for the Christmas Tree Lighting event and Santa's arrival. He estimated 200 people attended. Greg wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Trustee Arnie Clebone said he anticipates a sizeable donation from a foundation towards a \$350,000 fire vehicle, a possible added sizeable amount from another donor, along with smaller donations from individuals and business.

Trustee Devon Stanley was happy and grateful the negotiations are all complete, which made his job easier. He thanked all those involved in the process and especially our Law Director Cherry Potet for her work.

Motion to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting is Friday, December 22, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.