

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnie Clebone and Mr. Gregory Cizmar, presiding.

Fiscal Officer's financial report. Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly gave his financial report which included details on revenue and expenditures.

Reports:

Administrator's Report –Mrs. Martha Weirick thanked Chief Gus Birch for his many years of service as a first responder and Fire Chief.

Fire Department – Chief Gus Birch noted the Belmont Fire Station exterior painting has been completed and thanked the Board for how nice it looks. Chief Birch remarked that retired Firefighter Jim Nardella who passed away suddenly. May his memory be eternal. The firefighters had a food drive at Giant Eagle. They presented 33 boxes of food and \$2,500 cash to the Salvation Army.

Police Department – Chief Toby Meloro thanked Chief Birch for his many years of service. The police department also had a food drive at Giant Eagle and collected 600 lbs. of food and \$2,800 cash for the food bank. The Chief also presented 5/\$100 gift cards to Paster Michael Constantino, New Life Christian Fellowship, for families in need. The Police Department received an award from WFMJ for their engagement with the community.

Zoning Department – Mr. Jim Rodway wished Chief Birch a happy retirement and presented his report.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2021 and the November 30, 2021 Special meetings.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of November 2021 in the amount of \$719,480.68 warrants #23161 through #23290 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and the Then and Now Certificates for the month of November 2021.

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

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

21-163 Motion to pass the following resolutions:

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 \$10,976,197.35 from the certificate of estimated resources October 27, 2021; 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 membership dues.

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

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

21-164 Motion to move the remaining CARES Act funds, which is \$5.80 plus any accrued interest to fire salaries line and request an amended certificate from the Trumbull County Auditor.

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

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

21-165 Motion to accept part time firefighter medic resignation Jim Petruzzi effective 11/29/21.

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

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

21-166 Motion to pass the **RESOLUTION DECLARING PROPERTY TO BE INSECURE, UNSAFE, STRUCTRALLY DEFECTIVE AND/OR UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND ORDERING AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 810 Colonial Drive, 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 abatement of said nuisance by demolition and removal of said structures; and;

WHEREAS, the Liberty Township Fire Inspector has inspected the property located at 810 Colonial Drive, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, and has declared the residential dwelling structure (hereinafter “the Structure”) on the property to be structurally damaged, unsafe and structurally defective, with holes in the roof and foundation;

WHEREAS, the Trumbull County Chief Building Inspector has inspected the property located at 810 Colonial Drive, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, and has declared the residential dwelling structure on the property to be structurally deficient in the roof system, and that it is a serious hazard dangerous to human life, is insecure and unsafe due to structural defects;

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 810 Colonial Drive, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, Permanent Parcel No. 12-342780, (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 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 demolition of the Structures, 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 demolition and removal of said nuisance structures within thirty days of the notice, the Township Administrator is hereby authorized to obtain proposals from contractors for the 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 auditor 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 in formal 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. Stanley. Second: Mr. Clebone.

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

21-167 Motion to approve an Agreement between the Liberty Township Board of Trustees and the International Association of Firefighters Local #2075 effective December 6, 2021 to amend the contract and adopt terms and conditions of employment in substitution of the Township Civil Service Commission and Civil Service rules and regulations.

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

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

21-168 Motion to acknowledge and accept the resignation of Daniel Thomas from the Liberty Township Civil Service Commission effective 9/27/2021. The Board would like to thank Attorney Thomas for his many years of dedicated service to the residents of Liberty Township as a Liberty Township Civil Service Commissioner.

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

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

21-169 Motion to abolish the Liberty Township Civil Service Commission and Liberty Township's status as a civil service township. The Board of Trustees believes this decision will result in increased economy and efficiency, allowing the Township to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code applicable to non-civil service townships and the collective bargaining agreements between the Township and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and the International Association of Firefighters Local 2075. The Trustees thank the Civil Service Commissioners and secretary who have served the township over the years.

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

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

21-170 Motion to appoint Douglas A. Theobald as Fire Chief effective December 27, 2021 at an annual salary of \$75,000.00 and benefits as set out in the memorandum of benefits.

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

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

21-172 Motion to accept the 2021 Annual ODOT Mileage Certification of 62.146 miles.

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

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

21-173 Motion to pass the temporary budget before the end of the year.

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

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

21-174 Motion to move firefighter/medic Chelsea Caggiano to part time status effective 12/7/21.

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

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

Kline’s Farm economic development – Jason Altobelli offered a Tax Increment Financing concept to the Board of Trustees for a section of development at Kline’s Farm. Nick Coggins from the Trumbull County Planning Commission was available to answer any questions regarding the County’s roll in a TIF. The County does not have an opinion, one way or the other, on the proposed Kline’s Farm TIF.

Pastor Michael Constantino reminded everyone on the great need in our community to think of those less fortunate. New Life has had several food give-a-ways.
Trustees’ remarks.

Trustee Cizmar met Davey Resource Group at Churchill Park who placed some signage

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

Next scheduled meeting is Friday December 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Note: Monday, January 10, 2022 will be the organizational meeting.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Fire Chief August Birch for his many years of dedicated service to the residents and staff of Liberty Township. Enjoy your retirement!!!

MATT CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON

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