

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance Mr. Arnold Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, & Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, June 10, 2024 Regular meeting.

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

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

24-76 Motion to transfer \$9,647.82 from the 1000-910-910-01221 General Fund transfers out line into the Police Fund Court Fines.

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

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

24-77 Motion to extend trash contract with Browning-Ferris Industries of Ohio, Inc., dba Republic Services of Youngstown, for one year, until September 30, 2025, on the same terms and conditions.

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

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

24-78 Motion to promote Firefighter Matthew Gray to the rank of Lieutenant and approve the MOU between the Board of Trustee and the IAFF Local.

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

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

24-79 Motion to adopt a Resolution to Proceed with Renewal of a Fire/EMS levy (Renewal Levy 1.5 mills)

The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, hereby determines to proceed with a renewal levy in excess of the ten-mill limitation, in the amount of 1.5 mills, to be submitted to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024 and directs the Township Fiscal Officer to certify the resolution to the Trumbull County Board of Elections, all in accordance with the Resolution below.

RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH A RENEWAL LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION FOR FIRE/EMS PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of said Liberty Township, which is located exclusively in Trumbull County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, at an election in 2000, voters of Liberty Township approved a 1.5 mill tax levy outside of the ten-mill limitation for firefighting/EMS purposes, for a period of five years; and that levy has been periodically renewed, most recently at the election on November 5, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the authority to levy that 1.5-mill tax will expire with the levy on the 2024 duplicate for collection in calendar year 2025; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to renew that tax levy in excess of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of providing for the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting on the 10th day of June, 2024, the Board of Trustees passed and adopted Resolution 22-176 declaring the necessity, for the purposes set forth in RC §5705.19(I), of levying a renewal tax upon the electors of Liberty Township in its entirety, in excess of the ten-mill limitation, under Ohio Revised Code §505.37, §5705.19(I) and 5705.191, to support the Fire Department, at the rate of 1.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, for a five-year period, first levied in tax year 2025, collected commencing in 2026; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2024, the Trumbull County Auditor certified to the Board of Trustees that:

(1) The dollar amount of revenue to be generated by the tax levy at the stated millage, assuming tax valuation of the subdivision remains constant throughout the life of the levy, is calculated to be \$329,000;

(2) The total tax value of the township is \$316,303,220; and

(3) The millage is 1.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$34.00 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, all members elected thereto concurring, that the Board desires to proceed with the submission of the question of a renewal levy in excess of the ten-mill limitation as follows:

- (a) The proposed rate of the tax shall be 1.5 mills for each one dollar of taxable value.
- (b) The purpose of the tax shall be:
Providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings or sites therefore, or sources of water supply and materials therefore, or the establishment or maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of permanent, part-time or volunteer firefighting personnel or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of fire fighter employers contributions required under R.C. 742.34 or to purchase ambulance equipment, or to provide ambulance, paramedic or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company.
- (c) The tax is a renewal levy.
- (d) The sections of the Revised Code authorizing submission of the question of the tax are: R.C. §505.37, R.C. §5705.19(I) and R.C. §5705.191.
- (e) The tax is for a five-year period of time.
- (f) The tax is to be levied upon the entire territory of Liberty Township.
- (g) The date of the election at which the question of the tax shall appear on the ballot is November 5, 2024.
- (h) The ballot measure shall be submitted to the entire territory of Liberty Township.
- (i) The tax year in which the tax will first be levied is 2025 and the calendar year in which the tax will first be collected is 2026.
- (j) Liberty Township is wholly located in Trumbull County, Ohio.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fiscal Officer of this Board of Trustees of Liberty Township be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Trumbull County Board of Elections, not less than ninety days prior to the election and notify said Board of Elections to cause notice of election on the question of levying said tax to be given as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the form of ballot to be used for submitting the question of such renewal tax levy to the electors of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, and cast at the election, shall be in conformity with all provisions of law and/or as follows:

"A renewal tax for the benefit of Liberty Township, Trumbull County Ohio, for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings or sites therefore, or sources of water supply and materials therefore, or the establishment or maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of permanent, part-time or volunteer firefighting personnel or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of fire fighter employers contributions required under R.C. 742.34 or to purchase ambulance equipment, or to provide ambulance, paramedic or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, that the county auditor estimates will collect \$329,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$34.00 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for a five-year period of time, first levied in 2025 and collected in 2026.

	FOR THE TAX LEVY
	AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

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

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

24-80 Motion to pass the following resolution for grass abatements:

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.:
155 Euclid	12-510130
3850 Belmont Ave.	12-761926
4647 Belmont Ave	12-258000

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.**

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

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

24-81 Motion to Adopt Resolution to abolish position of Captain Fire Inspector

WHEREAS, the previous Captain Fire Inspector retired effective May 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the township fire inspections do not require a full-time position, as the prior Captain Fire Inspector was actively working only part-time for several years; and

WHEREAS, the Captain Fire Inspector is an office position, is not considered turn personnel, is not included in daily staffing levels or minimum manning, and does not regularly respond to fires and ambulance calls; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that the Fire Department can be reorganized by eliminating the Captain Fire Inspector position and the inspections can be conducted by the Fire Chief and Fire Captains, all of whom are required to have inspector certifications; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Fire Department is spending more on personnel than it receives in revenue, and the operating costs are being subsidized from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the funds used for the Captain Fire Inspector position can be better allocated to pay for firefighter/paramedics who can respond to fires and ambulance calls; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that abolishment of the position of Captain Fire Inspector is necessary for the efficient operation of the Fire Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. As of the effective date of this Resolution the position of Captain Fire Inspector, which was previously created by the Trustees, is abolished.

Section 2. The position of Captain Fire Inspector is abolished for reasons of efficiency, reorganization and economy.

Section 3. The position of Captain Fire Inspector is currently vacant, so no layoff will result from this job abolishment.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect in thirty days.

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

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

24-82 Motion to sell the 2022 Ford Explorer to the City of Warren for \$27,000.00

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

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

24-83 After some discussion, motion to approve an Auxiliary Police Force for up to five (5) retired officers.

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

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

Discussion: Trustee Greg Cizmar mentioned the Cemetery Shelter is in worse shape than originally thought and may require additional repairs.

Trustee Arnie Clebone said we are still waiting for the updated date for the \$450,000 Park Improvement Grant. It is his hope that we can start to begin the upgrades soon.

Trustee Devon Stanley has two projects going on. He is working with Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman and the owner of property adjacent to the Road Department property to see if any of the land can be acquired. Devon is also working with a resident regarding a pond that is under an LLC. He will be talking to Trumbull County to see if they are willing to take it over.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly announced the State Auditor requested additional information that he and the office staff are in the process of collecting. It's typical request for data, nothing out of the ordinary. He was happy to hear the stair chairs we received from the BWC were put to good use during a power outage at a local nursing home facility. Matthew is working on the alternative tax budget due in July.

Motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:50 a.m. to consider the employment and/or compensation of public employees.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session at 9:07 a.m. and resume regular session.

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

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:08 a.m.

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

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

Next meeting June 28, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY
FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON