

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Meeting on Friday September 24, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnold Clebone and Mr. Gregory Cizmar, presiding.

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 Regular meeting.

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

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

21-136 Motion to allocate \$1,000 of NOPEC Community Grant Funds to L.Y.R.I.C. for flat screen TV, DVD player, and rolling cart. L.Y.R.I.C is open to the public and offers indoor bocce, pickle ball, card games, yoga and other activities. The donation is pursuant to R.C. 505.707 and that the organization serves a community purpose and is exempt from federal taxation under 501(c)(3).

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

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

21-137 Motion to purchase a 2022 Ford F 250, 4-wheel drive, heavy duty, towing package, snowplow package (no plow but set up for installation), standard cab, 8-foot bed from Fairway Ford, Canfield for \$43,699.00, which is State Government Pricing, using General Fund money.

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

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

21-138 Motion to accept Firefighter/Paramedic Tanner Bakers resignation effective September 6, 2021. Good luck!

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

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

21-139 Motion to increase the appropriations in the newly established ARP Fund (American Rescue Plan) by \$598,652.31 and request the Trumbull County Auditor for an amended certificate for that amount due to the increased revenue received.

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

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

21-140 Motion to close out the 2272 CARES Act Fund by transferring out \$6.72 into the Fire Salaries line to increase the appropriations in the 2111 Fund and request an Amended Certificate from the County Auditor.

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

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

21-141 Motion to approve the change order with Z-Tech Builders and Excavators, Inc. for the 4th round 2021 Drainage Improvement Project (Pleasant Valley) for \$38,925.00 to cover additional material and labor.

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

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

Discussion – GPD Group is working on a TAP grant to submit through Eastgate. There has been a petition filed by the residents of Colonial Drive between Fifth Avenue and Logan requesting that sidewalks be installed on one side of the street. The Trumbull County Engineer has provided plans and preliminary cost estimates. There was discussion about whether there was enough interest by the residents to proceed. Only 51% of the residents signed the petition. But if this grant is received, it would pay 80% of the cost, and the residents or the township would only need to pay 20%. Because of the timelines of the grant, the township needs to take some steps to give notice and hold one hearing before we know if the grant is awarded. If the grant is not received, or if the residents are not interested even with the discounted price from the grant, the Trustees could still decide not to move forward with the project. But in order to keep the options open, a legal notice needs to be given to the public and the residents and a first hearing held, and a final decision will be made later.

21-142 Motion to proceed with publishing a legal notice and notifying the residents along Colonial Drive between Fifth Avenue and Logan where the sidewalk petition has been circulated that plans for the sidewalk are on file and available for review and setting a date for the first hearing before the board.

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

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

Administrator Martha Weirick spoke of a \$250,000 ODOT Township Stimulus Grant. Trustee Clebone and Martha will work with Eastgate for a traffic count and will work on the grant. General consensus is roads at Monticello, Madison, and Motor Inn Drive should be considered for the grant.

Fire Chief thanked the Board of Trustees for the purchase of the Heart Monitors and turnout gear for the new firefighters. He also thanked the Trustees for starting to paint Station 34. Chief asked where we were with hiring and the ongoing discussions with the Fire Union. Law Director Cherry Poteet suggested we adjourn into executive session to discuss union negotiations.

Police Chief reminded everyone about National Coffee with a Cop on October 6th from 9 – noon. Also, the Fall Festival at Church Hill Park Sunday October 17th from 1 – 4 p.m. Encouraging any resident who wishes to Trunk or Treat at the event.

21-143 Motion to purchase signs for the entrances to the township for the Liberty Kiwanis Club up to \$500. The donation is pursuant to R.C. 505.707 and that the organization serves a community purpose and is exempt from federal taxation under 501(c)(3).

Mr. Stanley stated that he wants to publicly disclose that he is the Secretary of the Kiwanis Club and Mr. Clebone is on the Board. The installation of the signs will not benefit either of them personally in any way. They are involved in the Kiwanis Club as a community service.

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

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

21-144 Motion to go into executive session at 9:20 AM to meet with the Township Law Director to discuss union negotiations.

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

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

21-145 Motion to adjourn executive session and resume regular session at 10:06 a.m.

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

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

21-146 Motion to recognize that there are two vacancies in the three positions on the Liberty Township Civil Service Commission, and therefore Liberty Township no longer has a functioning Civil Service Commission under R.C. 124.40 and thus is no longer a civil service township. The Township will therefore be governed by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code applicable to non-civil service townships, which the Board of Trustees believes will result in increased economy and efficiency.

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

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

Discussion: Some residents have been complaining about deer dying on their property because of being hit by cars or otherwise. They have requested that the township arrange for removal of the deer. There was discussion about the cost (\$300 per carcass) and the fact that there are not many people in the area who will even do deer removal. The consensus is to move deer carcasses off the street if they are interfering with traffic, and if they are on the berm to cover them with lime to speed decomposition. If they are on private property, it is not a township responsibility.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

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

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

MATT CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Next meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021: Public meeting regarding Colonial Drive Sidewalks 6:00 p.m.; Regular meeting to follow at 6:30 p.m.