

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session on Friday, May 3, 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 April 26, 2024 Regular meeting.

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

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

24-38 Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Liberty Township Trustees and the IAFF Local 2025.

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

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

24-39 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.:
801 Mansell	12-645260
3465 Hadley	12-261125
57 Redfern	12-443052
50 Redfern	12-340865
3470 Fifth Ave	12-569950

**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.

24-40 Motion to purchase 2023 police vehicle from Vienna Township for \$40,000.00.

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

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

24-41 A Resolution Opposing Dominion Energy Ohio's Proposed Thirty Percent Rate Increase and Requesting That The Public utilities Commission Of Ohio Deny Dominion Energy Ohio's Request For The Same and Declaring An Emergency.

Whereas, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, and its residents currently receive natural gas distribution service from Dominion Energy Ohio; and

Whereas, Dominion Energy Ohio has filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), in Case NO. 23-0894-GA-AIR, a request for a thirty percent (30%) increase for the natural gas distribution services it provides to consumers; and

Whereas, Dominion Energy Ohio has proposed a distribution rate increase for consumers which would increase consumers' monthly fixed Basic Service Charge for natural gas distribution services from \$43.27 to \$56.31; and

Whereas, Dominion Energy Ohio as proposed to increase other fixed monthly distribution charges to consumers by more than \$8.78 per month starting in 2025, and increasing by as much as \$29.69 per month by 2032; and

Whereas, large rates increase in natural gas distribution services may negatively impact Liberty Township's efforts to attract new business and jobs, depress the housing market, and place an undue financial burden on residents;

NOW THEREFORE Be It Resolved by the Board of Liberty Township Trustees, Trumbull County, Ohio:

Section 1: That this Board of Trustees and the Administration do hereby oppose Dominion Energy Ohio's proposal to increase the monthly fixed Basic Service Charge for natural gas distribution service to consumers by 30%, and request that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio deny such a rate increase to consumers.

Section 2: That this Board of Trustees and the Administration do hereby oppose Dominion Energy Ohio's proposal to increase other fixed monthly distribution charges to consumers to more than \$8.78 per month starting in 2025, and request that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio deny such a rate increase to consumers,

Section 3: That the Fiscal Officer of Liberty Township is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Attn: Docketing Division (Case No. 23-0894-GA-AIR), 180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, and that a copy of this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

Section 4: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety, and welfare. A further reason is that it is immediately necessary for this Board of Trustees to express its opposition to the proposed rate increase, which will financially impact residents. Whereas, this Resolution shall go into immediate effect.

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

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

24-42 Motion to increase the appropriations in the general fund by \$63,243.95 (the entire amount of the escrow check held for demolition).

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

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

Discussion: Fire Chief Doug Theobald received the fire prevention training trailer shared by multiple communities and plans to keep it at Station 34. He will be able to bring it to functions like the National Night Out event and school events. The parking lot at Station 35 is in the process of being paved, he stated. The two power stair chairs are ordered from a BWC grant award. The Chief was made aware that a former employee had cancelled some upcoming scheduled training events offered by the State Fire Marshall. It was only after a call in the Marshalls office to verify a scheduled class that they were told all scheduled training events were cancelled by the former employee. The crews completed training at the Youngstown Airbase in order to maintain their ISO standings.

Road Superintendent Wayne Hickman has been working on drainage and vegetation for the 2023 paving program. Next Wednesday, the milling for some of the roads scheduled to be paved will begin. He has been acting as inspector since the county engineer's office is not available currently. The Road Department employees will continue to do normal maintenance, grass cutting, catch basins and other work. Crack seal will begin shortly, he reported, and the Salt Storage Barn roof is done, thanks to Groover Roofing.

Police Chief Toby Meloro thanked Trustee Greg Cizmar for negotiating with Vienna Township for the vehicle.

Trustee Greg Cizmar said the park "lean to" attached to the back of the maintenance garage roof needs repaired. Greg authorized a handicap portable toilet to Churchill Park. He said the tank is small and would need serviced often. Instead he asked to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> regular portable placed next

to the handicap one, which is less expensive than servicing the handicap multiple times a week. Greg wanted to thank Adam Grinberg, from Adam and Eve, for donating the pump needed in the park. The Trustees are grateful for his generosity. Trustee Cizmar also wanted to thank the IAFF Fire Union for agreeing to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Trustee Devon Stanley also thanked the IAFF for the positive meeting and was pleased with the agreement.

Trustee Arnie Clebone discussed a new levy, replacement levy and renewals with the two other Board members. Arnie and Wayne met with the folks at Goodwill regarding the ditch that runs along the side of their building and offered them some drainage options they can pursue. The Bike Belmont event is scheduled for Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. starting at the B&O Station in the City of Youngstown, to Belmont Giant Eagle, and Youngstown Warren Airport. Go to <https://youngstowncityscape.org/bikebelmont> for more information. Trustee Clebone and Road Superintendent will attend the Eastgate Annual event.

Motion to adjourn the meeting into executive session to consider employment of a public employee at 10:06 a.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn the executive session and end the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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

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

Next meeting Monday, May13, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

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MATTHEW CONNELLY  
FISCAL OFFICER

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GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON