

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley arrived at 6:07 p.m., and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly presented his financial report. Mr. Connelly compared last year's budget to this year's budget. He showed a total fund balance of \$7,570,855.70, which is approximately one million dollars more compared to last year's balance. Matt reported that the January and February bank reconciliation are complete and has nearly completed March's reconciliation. Matt has been compiling a vendors list, which is currently being reviewed by our department heads. After which, he will be sending the list to our cooperative purchasing company to see if discounts are offered prior to us purchasing items. Matt wanted to educate the residents that in addition to financial management and aiding residents, the other human resource responsibilities are also managed in the administration office. Those responsibilities include processing BWC claims, dealing with Job & Family Services inquiries, working with insurance companies, employment verifications & management. Matt reported that around 50% of taxes collected are sent to the school, 30% come to the township and 20% are given to various County Services.

Reports:

Administrator Martha Weirick thanked Pastor Patrick Mitchell and all those who volunteered at this year's annual Easter Egg Hunt for township children. Martha stated the Trumbull Township Association meeting hosted by the Trustees in March was well attended. She announced the annual township litter cleanup day is scheduled for April 26th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Volunteers should come to the administration building Saturday morning to pick up their supplies and select street(s) they plan to cleanup. Martha wished everyone a safe and happy Easter and Passover.

Fire Captain Phil Lucarell reported they are up 171 runs from previous years. Phil said they gave 26 mutual aid and received 16 services for mutual aid from other departments. They had 2 vehicle fires and a brush fire, he added.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report to the Board. Toby wanted to thank the Police Chaplin's for all they do for the department and for Liberty Township and thanked them for hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the township children.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman said now that the weather broke, the township is in full construction mode. The 2024 Paving Program is ongoing now. Milling starts on Tuesday, he said, and paving to follow. Another aspect of the 2024 Road Program is tree trimming, which has also started. Wayne spoke about Phase 2 Sidewalk Projects should start in August, and travels from Giant Eagle to St. Rt 304. Phase 1 will follow afterwards but he hopes it will be complete this year, as well. There is a Phase 1 "A" regarding mid-block crossings which is still being discussed. The Center Park Project is ready for the engineer to design, he added and is compiling a list of needs and wants. Wayne hopes to bid out the 2025 Paving Program soon. Wayne expects to open bathrooms at both Center Park and Churchill Park this week. Wayne also mentioned Lumos Fiber Optic Company will be laying lines throughout Liberty Township. Lumos will be moving north laying fiber optic lines 2 feet into the right of ways. Wayne has very strict criteria they must adhere to when restoring properties. He asked homeowners to clean out their ditches and said it is the responsibility of the homeowners to keep leaves, lawn clippings and other debris out of ditches so they can drain freely. He let the Board know the seasonal park employees have returned to work. The road crew is busy flushing pipes, maintaining the flow of water and daily road work.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his report.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, March 20, 2025 Regular meeting.

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 March 2025 in the amount of \$485,836.41 warrants #26810 through #26882 inclusive.

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

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

Motion to approve the Purchase Order Listing and any Then and Now Certificates for the month of March 2025.

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

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

25-61 Motion to accept the resignation of Police Officer Christian Thoma effective June 6, 2025. We wish him good luck now and in the future.

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

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

25-62 No objection for the required second notice of a liquor permit for Columbiana Foods Inc. DBA Giant Eagle 6384, 4700 Belmont Ave. Liberty Twp., Youngstown, Oh 44505.

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

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

25-63 Motion to approve participation in the 2025 ODOT Road Salt Contracts and authorize Road Superintendent DeWayne Hickman to execute the contract on behalf of the township and submit purchase orders as necessary.

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

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

25-64 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTERED BY THE TRUMBULL COUNTY ENGINEER FOR THE BELMONT AVENUE SIDEWALKS PROJECT

WHEREAS, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, has obtained Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding through Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for the TRU— Belmont Ave. Sidewalks project (Project), located in Liberty Township; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Department of Transportation has funded a grant at 80%, up to a maximum of \$107,360 from Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding. Liberty Township is responsible for 20% of all eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$26,840, and all costs exceeding the maximum funding amount; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, the Trumbull County Engineer is authorized by ODOT to administer LPA projects whose funds are administered by ODOT, and Liberty Township wishes to authorize the Trumbull County Engineer to administer the project to minimize costs and further agrees to designate the Trumbull County Engineer as the LPA for the purpose of administering this project; and

WHEREAS, Liberty Township desires to accept this grant for the Project and enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with the Trumbull County Engineer for administration of the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio;

SECTION 1. That the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant in the amount of \$107,360, to be used for the TRU— Belmont Ave. Sidewalks project, and agrees Liberty Township will be responsible for all local match.

SECTION 2. That the Board of Trustees hereby accepts and approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Trumbull County Engineer to administer the Project, and authorizes and directs Arnie Clebone, Trustee, on behalf of Liberty Township, to execute the MOU and any other documents necessary, and to provide all information and documentation required to receive awarded funds.

SECTION 4. That Board 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 and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with law. Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second. Mr. Cizmar.

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

25-65 Motion to adopt a new Police Policy 804.18 Processing Requests for Video Records as recommended by the Police Chief and the law director. This Policy will implement H.B. 315, which permits police departments to charge people requesting video records (dashboard cameras and body cameras) the actual cost of redacting and producing the record.

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

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

25-66 Motion to pass the following resolution Authorizing the Law Director to file Lawsuit:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 505.56 and 5739.01, the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township enacted a Resolution levying an excise tax of three percent on hotel accommodations within the Township, and

WHEREAS, as amended by Resolution 22-148, the Township levies a three percent (3%) excise tax on all on transactions by which lodging by a hotel or motel is to be furnished to transient guests at all hotels within the unincorporated area of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution requires that all hotels or motels within Liberty Township: a) Obtain tax forms from Township Fiscal Officer, (b) submit to the Township Fiscal Officer a statement and payment of the tax each month, (c) pay the tax due the Fiscal Officer by the end of each month for the preceding month, and (d) pay a penalty of Ten Percent (10%) for payments not received by the due date; and .

WHEREAS, OH, 4055 Belmont LLC, a foreign corporation, which owns and operates a hotel in Liberty Township at 4055 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44505 as the Baymont by Wyndham; and

WHEREAS, OH, 4055 Belmont LLC has failed to file the required tax returns or remit the taxes collected to Liberty Township for June 2024, August 2024, November 2024, December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Liberty Township Board of Trustees authorizes Law Director Cherry Poteet to file a lawsuit against OH, 4055 Belmont, LLC, and any related people or entities, for unpaid Liberty Township Lodging Excise Tax.

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

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

A resident of the township questioned what can be done about vacant commercial property (formerly a gas station) on the corner of Tibbetts Wick and Shannon Road. The citizen asked for assistance on the removal or restoration of the property. He provided the trustees with an assortment of documents. He was advised the underground tanks had been removed and a local person had purchased the property. The property taxes are up to date and the health department cannot declare it a nuisance. There is some interest in the property, and the Board hopes the matter can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

A township resident asked if the Zoning Board has met with reference to upgrading the property maintenance codes. Jim Rodway confirmed they have met and are evaluating the codes. He assured the citizens all zoning meetings are publicized.

A township resident asked for the trustees' assistance with issue of limited cell service at her home. AT&T does not offer land lines in her area, and cell service is spotty leaving her without a phone at times. She's concerned she may not be able to reach emergency services in the event of an emergency.

A resident of the township wanted to make the trustees aware of neighbors parking on both sides of his street. He is concerned about its impeding traffic flow on Murray Hill. The Police Chief said he would stop at the homes who park on the road and speak with them. He wanted to express his support for the police department and thanked the Chief. He disagrees with Governor DeWine and local Senator Al Cutrona who claims speed cameras are only a money grab. He asked, "what isn't a money grab these days?" In his opinion those who can't control their speed should receive a ticket.

Trustee Arnie Clebone announced he applied for additional funding available through a grant to help with additional costs involved in the removal of underground tanks at an abandoned gas station on Belmont Avenue. The Landbank owns the property and has 70% of the funding needed. Arnie is hoping to secure an additional 30% through grants. Arnie spoke about the Build a Better Belmont – Bike Belmont event held on May 18th – hosted by the Build a Better Belmont Committee. Anyone wishing to join them can contact Arnie. The bike ride starts at the B & O Station in Youngstown, runs along Belmont Avenue, and (if you desire) goes all the way to the Youngstown Airport. Food and water will be provided by the committee along the route.

Trustee Devon Stanley thanked Wayne and the Trustees for their help with concerns on Barth Drive and on Warner Road.

Trustee Greg Cizmar reported another successful auction. He discussed repairs to the leaking roof at the Belmont Fire Station with the Board members. He also announced the annual litter clean up event on April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. He was able to repair the lean to at the park.

Motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, or compensation of a public employee at 7:25 p.m.

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

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

Motion to adjourn from executive session and resume regular session at 7:45 p.m.

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

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

Motion to accept retirement of Police Chief Tobias Meloro. Last day worked will be December 19, 2025. We would like to thank Toby for his many years of devoted service and wish him every happiness in his retirement.

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

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:46 p.m.

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

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

Next business meeting is Monday, April 24, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Annual Township Litter Clean Up Day April 26th from 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. – always looking for volunteers!!

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRMAN

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER