

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Organization/Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Devon Stanley, Mr. Arnie Clebone and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

26-01 Motion to appoint Greg Cizmar as Chairperson for 2026.

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

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

26-02 Motion to appoint Arnold Clebone as Vice Chairperson for 2026.

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

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

26-03 Motion to adjourn the Reorganizational Meeting and begin the Regular Meeting.

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

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

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly reviewed the Cash Summary Report yearend total of \$6,729,732.4. All union contracts will be negotiated in 2026. Matt is receiving quotes from other property and casualty insurance companies to make sure we are good stewards with taxpayer dollars. Matt informed the trustees the auditor's office notified him the 2-year audit will be starting. Also he is working with the auditor's office to come out of fiscal caution February sometime. He is working on a 3-year projected budget.

Administrator Martha Weirick is working on dates for the spring litter clean up, Music in Churchill Park, and the Scrap Tire Grant collections. Once she has those dates, she will post them on the web page and outside sign. Wayne and she are working on a Go-Green Grant for park benches.

Fire Chief Douglas Theobald reported 3,703 calls ending above last year. He is working on two grants, a zero out of pocket grant from Firehouse Sub grant for gloves and hoods and/or a partial match BWC grant if the Firehouse Sub grant falls short. The newest squad is still at Penn Care waiting on a recalled part. They can't deliver it without the repair. The department is holding a paramedic refresher course this year. He conclude stating they had 140 runs this month and sometimes they get double and triple calls within an hour.

Police Chief Ray Buhala submitted his report. He is currently working on the annual report. He reported they received average calls for 2025. Once he completes the report, it will be posted online.

Road Superintendent Mr. DeWayne Hickman reviewed the current projects. Center Park bid was awarded and will begin mid-January through late March. He cautioned anyone using Center Park to be mindful of the construction. He obtained a \$55,000 signage grant from ODOT for signs and hardware. He is working on six different drainage sights. Wayne mentioned the Go-Green Grant application he is working with Martha. Wayne discussed the upcoming sidewalk projects and safety grant project for 2026. He said this winter has not been kind, however despite the shortage of available salt, he has another shipment coming. Enbridge Gas is working to improve their lines and Lumas will be on Mosier and Park Cr. shortly to install fiber optics.

Zoning Inspector Ms. Melissa Ritchie discussed her report with the Board of Trustees. There is a variance hearing scheduled for January 21 at 7 p.m. She sent out violation letters and final notices. She was able to close some of those violations. Melissa is working on scanning old records and reorganizing the office. Trustee Clebone asked Melissa about the Tibbetts-Wick Gas Station as it will come up later in public comments. She reported the owner is out of the country however she is working with the owner's attorney who is obtaining quotes to demolish the building.

26-04 Motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 regular meeting.

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

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

26-05 Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of December 2025 in the amount of \$636,885.81 and warrants #27353 through #27415 inclusive and Then and Now purchase orders.

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

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

26-06 Motion that the Board of Liberty Township Trustees shall conduct its meetings in full compliance with the Ohio Sunshine Law and accordingly establishes the following rules for the scheduling and notice of all meetings:

**REGULAR MEETINGS** – The Board of Trustees will hold Regular monthly evening meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month, at 6:00 p.m. beginning January 12, 2026 **except** for Monday, October 12, 2026 Columbus Day Holiday that meeting will be moved to Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.. Starting January 22, 2026 the Board will also hold a second regular meeting, once a month, on a **Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.** Please refer to the below 2026 schedule \* or the township website ([www.libertytwp.com](http://www.libertytwp.com)) for dates and times. **NO REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD IN AUGUST.** All meetings will be held at the Township administration building. Notice of the Regular Meetings or changes shall be posted on the Township website. The Township will provide notice of changes to the meeting date or times to the Vindicator, Warren Tribune and any other media that requests the same at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, except in an emergency in which case the notices shall be given as soon as practicable.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS** – Notice of special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be given by posting notice of the meeting on the Township website. Notice of all special meetings shall be given to the Vindicator, Warren Tribune

Chronicle and any other newspaper or media that requests the same at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, except in an emergency in which case the notices shall be given as soon as practicable. Additionally, the Township will provide advance notice of regular or special meetings to anyone who provides the Township with postage pre-paid, self-addressed postcards or email address.

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

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

26-07 Motion to set the salaries for the Trustees of Liberty Township for 2026 at the maximum compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §505.24(C) Compensation of Trustees, to be paid in equal monthly payments.

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

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

26-08 Motion to set the salary for the Fiscal Officer of Liberty Township for 2026 at the maximum compensation permitted by Ohio Revised Code §507.09 Compensation of Fiscal Officer, to be paid in equal monthly payments.

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

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

26-09 Motion to renew the appointment of Cherry Lynne Poteet as Township Law Director pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 504.15 at a contract rate of \$3,800 per month (no increase), effective January 1, 2026. Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Clebone.

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

26-10 Motion to authorize membership for the Trustees and Fiscal Officer in the Ohio Township Association, and attendance at the OTA annual Winter Conference in Columbus, and to pay the dues or expenses from the General Fund pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §505.241.

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

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

26-11 Motion to promote Sergeant Michael Shuster to the rank of Captain in the Liberty Police Department effective January 2, 2026. As Captain Shuster has been serving as acting Captain since June 27, 2025, he will be given credit from June 27, 2025 towards his one-year probationary period. Congratulations to Captain Shuster!

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

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

26-12 Motion to set the compensation for the members of the Township Zoning Commission at \$45 per meeting and each hearing is \$45.00 per hearing that they attend and Zoning Board of Appeals at \$45 per meeting and each hearing is \$45.00 per hearing that they attend for 2026, which is the current rate, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §519.13. Alternates shall receive \$45 and each hearing is \$45.00 per hearing for any meeting where they serve in place of an absent member.

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

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

26-13 Motion to approve 4-year terms for Dr. Kevin D. Strickland., Sr. to serve as alternate on the Zoning Appeals Board effective 1/1/26 ending 12/31/30.

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

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

Remarks: Mr. Stanley thanked Ms. Ritchie for finding alternates.

26-14 Motion to set the 2026 mileage reimbursement rate for authorized travel by township officials and employees outside of Liberty Township at \$.72.5 cents per mile, which is the maximum rate per mile permitted by the IRS for 2026.

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

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

26-15 Motion to acknowledge and authorize township officers and full-time employees and their respective immediate dependents who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement are entitled to the same rights and coverage under any and all health care insurance policies and programs currently in effect or subsequently procured by the Township in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §505.60 et seq. and to set health insurance premium co-payments for the non-bargaining unit employees rate of fifteen percent (15%) of the monthly premium costs of their enrollment in the township Health Insurance Benefit Program. Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.

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

26-16 Motion to approve an annual conversion plan pursuant to Section 145.01 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code 145-1-26 for Liberty Township for the conversion of vacation time that is accrued, but not used, during the calendar year, defined as January 1 to December 31, 2026. these earnings are earnable salary on which employee and employer contributions shall be remitted to OPERS. See File for complete conversion plan.

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

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

26-17 Motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to prepare and use super blanket certificates for the 2026 fiscal year for the statutorily permitted purposes of: the services of an accountant, architect, attorney at law, physician, professional engineer, construction project manager, consultant, surveyor, or appraiser; fuel oil, gasoline, food items, roadway materials and utilities; purchases exempt from competitive bidding under O.R.C. 125.04 and any other specific expenditure that is a recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. Each super blanket certificate must identify the specific line-item appropriation account to which it applies, and an itemized statement of obligations incurred, and

expenditures made under each super blanket certificate shall be maintained by the Fiscal Officer. Each super blanket certificate shall be in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 with the exception of the hospitalization super blanket certificate which shall be in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

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

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

26-18 Motion to request from the Trumbull County Auditor advances on Real Estate Property Taxes, and Personal Property Taxes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §321.34.

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

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

26-19 Motion to authorize payment of expenses for township officials and employees to attend meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences, schools, training or conventions for fiscal year 2026, after a formal request has been processed and approved.

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

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

26-20 Motion to authorize the expenditure of township general funds for public community functions to organizations that serve a community purpose and are non-profit under IRS Code 501(c)(3), in an amount not to exceed \$500 per event, upon approval by the Board of Trustees.

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

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

26-21 Resolution of intent to sell unneeded, obsolete or unfit for use personal property by internet auction for the calendar year 2026.

### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TO CONDUCT INTERNET AUCTIONS FOR THE SALE OF UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT PERSONAL PROPERTY OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

**WHEREAS**, Section 505.10 of the Ohio Revised Code permits a board of township trustees to sell personal property, including motor vehicles, road machinery, equipment, tools, or supplies, which is not needed for public use, or is obsolete, or is unfit for the use for which it was acquired; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Township Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio has determined that an internet auction is a cost-effective method of disposing of such property; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 505.10(D) of the Ohio Revised Code permits a board of township trustees to sell such property by internet auction after adopting a resolution expressing its intent to do so;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, that:

**Section 1:** Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.10(D), the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township hereby expresses its intent to sell personal property, including motor vehicles, road machinery, equipment, tools, or supplies, which is not needed for public use, or is obsolete, or is unfit for the use for which it was acquired, by internet auction in 2026.

**Section 2:** The Board of Trustees of Liberty Township hereby will conduct internet auctions through GovDeals, Inc., 100 Capitol Commerce Boulevard, Suite 110, Montgomery, Alabama, 36117 or Knight's Auction Service, 1330 Seaborn St., Mineral Ridge, Oh 44440.

**Section 3:** Such internet auctions shall be conducted according to the requirements of R.C. 505.10(D) under the following general terms and conditions:

1. All property will be offered for sale to the public on the [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) website for a minimum of ten (10) days, including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays;
2. The Township reserves the right to establish a minimum price for any item and to establish other terms and conditions of sale, including but not limited to requirements for pick-up or delivery;
3. Township property auctioned via internet auction shall be sold to the highest qualified bidder at the conclusion of the auction;
4. The highest qualified bidder shall be required to pay in full for the property at the auctioned price plus the stated buyer's premium and all applicable taxes within five business days from the conclusion of the sale, and to comply with any other conditions or terms of sale;
5. All property is offered for sale "As-Is Where-Is" with Liberty Township making NO warranty, guarantee or representation of any kind, express or implied as to the condition of such property;
6. All vehicles will be sold with a Salvage Title; and
7. The Board of Township Trustees, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio reserves the right to reject any bids and to withdraw from sale any items listed on its internet auction.

**Section 4:** In the event that the Township reclaims the auctioned property as a result of the highest qualified bidder's failure to comply with the terms and conditions stated above or in the event that there are no bidders for the auctioned property who meet the terms and conditions established for the auction, the Township reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to re-auction the property or to dispose of the property without auction, as permitted by R.C. 505.10(B).

**Section 5:** That after adoption of this Resolution, the Fiscal Officer shall publish, in a newspaper of general circulation in the township, notice of Liberty Township's intent to sell unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use township personal property by internet auction. The notice shall include a summary of the information provided in this resolution. Information regarding the internet auction shall be published on the Township website and posted at the Township office.

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

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

26-22 Motion to allocate and authorize the Fiscal Officer to deposit into the General Fund and then transfer each month to the Police Fund immediately upon receipt, all funds received from Court fines. For the tow yard all funds received at 80% to the Police Fund and 20% General Fund and for auctioned vehicles (from various departments) the percentages remain 80/20.

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

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

26-23 Motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to move money within a fund from one line item to another in cases where funds must be made available before the next trustees' meeting.

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

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

26-24 Motion to certify road mileage as of December 31, 2025 at 62.146 and to return the Annual ODOT Mileage Certificate form to the County Engineers Office.

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

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

26-25 Motion to continue the township's membership with the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT) and to submit the \$200 fee.

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

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

26-26 Motion to hire Brycen Prasky as a part time basic EMT at a rate of \$20.00 per hour no benefits pending a successful pre-employment drug test and background check, First day he works will be his hire date. Motion: Mr. Clebone. Second. Mr. Cizmar.

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

#### 26-27 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHARGES FOR LIFT ASSISTS

WHEREAS, it is the mission of Liberty Township Fire-EMS to assist medically emergent patients by getting them to the most appropriate medical facility in as little time as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has experienced an increase in the number of non-emergency lift assist calls received via the 9-1-1 system for patients at public or private medical facilities, healthcare facilities or custodial care centers; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Revised Code, Section 505.84 "Reasonable Charges For Use of Ambulance or Emergency Medical Services" authorizes a Board of Trustees to establish reasonable charges for the use of fire and rescue services, ambulance services, or emergency medical services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio:

1. The Board hereby establishes a fee of Two-Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to be charged by the Fire Department/EMS for the service of providing lift assists for patients at public or private medical facilities, healthcare facilities or custodial care centers that have requested lift assistance from the Fire Department, when the patient has no injury requiring transport to a hospital.

2. The fee shall be billed to the public or private medical facility, healthcare facility or custodial care center that requested the assistance, and when collected, shall be posted as revenue in the Ambulance & EMS Fund.

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

Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, NO. Motion carried.

26-28 Motion to amend Resolution 25-145 to increase the General Fund in the temporary budget for 2026 to \$1,139,201, making the total temporary budget \$5,127,794.50.

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

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

Remarks: Fiscal Officer stated it was to fund Belmont Park Cemetery.

26-29 Motion to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FY 2023 STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT AND AUTHORIZING FISCAL OFFICER MATTHEW CONNELLY TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AS REQUIRED AND APPROPRIATE LOCAL FUNDS

WHEREAS, the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program provides financial assistance to political subdivisions for improvements in cybersecurity, and

WHEREAS, LIBERTY TOWNSHIP has been awarded a grant of twenty-eight thousand, six hundred dollars (28,600.00) with a seven thousand one hundred fifty dollar (\$7,150.00) local match from the FY 2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP),

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY;

Section 1: Liberty Township hereby accepts the FY2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant award of \$28,600.00.

Section 2: The Liberty Township Fiscal Officer is hereby authorized to execute the grant agreement and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Section 3: Liberty Township hereby appropriates \$7,150.00 in local funds to pay the local share for the FY2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant.

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

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

26-30 Motion to provide a stipend for volunteer firefighters, in the amount of \$15.0 per call, no benefits.

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

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

After discuss and following resolution:

26-31 A RESOLUTION OF THE LIBERTY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPPORTING THE TRUMBULL COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION'S APPLICATION FOR A U.S. EPA BROWNFIELD CLEANUP GRANT, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE 2901 BELMONT AVENUE SITE IN LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, The Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation (The Land Bank) has submitted an application for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Cleanup Grant; and

WHEREAS, this grant seeks vital funding for the remediation and cleanup of five abandoned properties formerly operating as gas stations throughout Trumbull County, which pose environmental and public health risks; and

WHEREAS, one of the critical properties identified for cleanup under this application is located at 2901 Belmont Avenue, Liberty Township, Ohio, representing a significant investment of approximately \$500,000 for its remediation; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Township Board of Trustees recognizes the substantial environmental and economic importance of cleaning up contaminated sites, transforming them from liabilities into community assets; and

WHEREAS, the site at 2901 Belmont Avenue holds strategic importance due to its immediate proximity to Mercy Health facilities, numerous restaurants, service providers, and retail outlets, serving as a gateway to the region's prime healthcare services, diverse businesses, and essential community amenities; and

WHEREAS, the successful cleanup and productive reuse of this property will not only mitigate environmental hazards but also stimulate economic development, enhance public safety, improve aesthetics, and provide a critical access point to the region's recreational and cultural destinations, as well as Youngstown State University; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that supporting this application aligns directly with the Township's commitment to fostering a healthy, safe, and prosperous environment for its residents and the broader Trumbull County region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Liberty Township Board of Trustees, Trumbull County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Liberty Township Board of Trustees hereby officially endorses and wholeheartedly supports The Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation's application for a U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant.

SECTION 2. The Board specifically highlights the critical need and regional benefit derived from the proposed cleanup of the abandoned gas station site at 2901 Belmont Avenue within Liberty Township, urging strong consideration for this crucial component of the grant application.

SECTION 3. The Board encourages all relevant local, regional, and federal agencies to recognize the profound positive impact this grant will have on environmental restoration, economic revitalization, and public welfare in Liberty Township and the surrounding areas.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

Citizen remarks: A resident thanked Trustee Cizmar who had the boat removed at the corner of Logan Arms and Kingwood. He asked the zoning inspector if she fined the owner of the Tibbetts-Wick Gas Station for the violations. She said as long as anyone is working with her to rectify the problem(s), she does not enforce the fine. He also asked about posting all department reports online. The trustees will look into the request.

A resident asked for an additional no-truck sign to be erected at the entrance of W. Montrose as GPS routes trucks incorrectly direct them to the dead-end portion of Oakwood Ave (off W. Montrose). There is a sign on the opposite side of

the road but it is not visible by semi-trucks when turning onto the road. Trustee Clebone asked Martha to see if IT specialist Joel Davis can contact Google.

Trustee Remarks: Trustee Clebone read the recent correspondence he sent to the Tribune about good things happening in Liberty Township. A copy of the correspondence is available below\*\*.

Trustee Devon Stanley made a comment on the Belmont Park Cemetery liabilities. He mentioned a retired employee’s benefits which he would be discussing at a later time.

Mr. Cizmar announced it appears we may finally be getting the ODOT sound barrier, which he requested many years ago, for Rockwood, Monticello, and Tanglewood. Although, he was not notified by ODOT directly, a resident in that area shared the letter they received from ODOT. He announced holding another auction soon.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.  
Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mr. Stanley.  
Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Next regular business meeting is Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

2026 Meeting Calendar

January 1st Closed  
January 12<sup>th</sup> - Organizational meeting 6:00 p.m.  
January 19<sup>th</sup> Closed MLK Day  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

July 4<sup>th</sup> Closed  
July 13<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

February 9<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
February 16<sup>th</sup> Closed Presidents Day  
February 19<sup>th</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

August NO Regular Meetings

March 9<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
March 19<sup>h</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

September 7<sup>th</sup> Closed Labor Day  
September 14<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
September 24<sup>th</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

April 13<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

October 5<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
October 12<sup>th</sup> Closed Columbus day  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.

May 11<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.  
May 25<sup>th</sup> Closed Memorial Day

November 9<sup>th</sup> - meeting 6:00 p.m.  
November 11<sup>th</sup> Closed Veterans Day  
November 19<sup>th</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.  
November 26<sup>th</sup> Closed Thanksgiving

June 8<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – meeting 8:00 a.m.  
June 19<sup>th</sup> Closed Juneteenth

December 14<sup>th</sup> – meeting 6:00 p.m.  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Closed

\*\*Good Things Happening In Liberty Township

Mercy Hospital, in collaboration with Life Point, opened a 61,900-square-foot facility that serves as a behavioral health clinic, alongside the physical rehabilitation hospital that was established last year.

TownePlace Suites by Marriott, a 97-room hotel, opened on Motor Inn Drive, just off Belmont.

Altobelli announced that twenty new single-family homes will be built in Klines Farm on Potters Circle. Over 1,200 feet of new road was built to complete the circle where the homes will be constructed.

The Trumbull County Commissioners awarded the township a \$450,000 ARP grant to enhance Center Park. The funds will be used to improve the sports and recreation area, the walking path, and the pavilions and other facilities. Construction will commence January 19th and is expected to be completed by July.

A \$107,000 ODOT grant acquired through Eastgate was used to fund the construction of sidewalks from SR 304 to the Churchill Plaza on the west side of the road.

In 2026, a \$446,000 grant from WRTA will fund 100 percent of the costs for sidewalks on Belmont leading from I-80 to SR 304. Both east and west sides of Belmont will have portions of sidewalks and crosswalks installed.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is allocating one million dollars to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety on Belmont Avenue, specifically on a stretch between SR 304 and Liberty Street. These improvements will include enhancing the visibility of crosswalks and installing a pedestrian-actuated signal to ensure a safe crossing from Duncan Donuts to Churchill Park.

The Belmont Corridor Plan, a joint endeavor undertaken by the City of Youngstown in partnership with Liberty Township, is expected to be completed in October. It will propose enhancements for a 4.5-mile stretch from Giant Eagle Plaza to downtown Youngstown.

MS Consultants contracted to develop the plan will be guided by input from residents, elected officials, economic development advocates, businesses, and the Build a Better Belmont Coalition.

A second Indian grocery store opened at 3100 Belmont Avenue, complementing the three Indian restaurant that have been operating on Belmont, further enhancing the international Belmont food corridor that includes locally owned Middle Eastern, kosher, Mexican, Cajun, and Italian cuisine.

On May 18, the Third Annual Bike Belmont event, organized by the Build a Better Belmont coalition, had three hundred riders participate in routes to and from the B&O Station to Churchill Plaza, and for the more seasoned riders, from the B&O Station to the Airport. The event was supported by a coalition of Youngstown and Liberty Township businesses and associations, including the

Foundation of Mahoning Valley, Youngstown City Scape, Jimmys Italian Deli, Giant Eagle, Mercy Health, YSU, and Stambaugh Auditorium.

The construction of youth soccer fields commenced on SR 304, adjacent to Center Park, on land owned by the Township. The Township leased the land to the Refuge Ministries, a social service agency that currently provides services in the vicinity of the soccer fields.

Mellissa Ritchie, with fourteen years of experience in zoning and property maintenance enforcement in Ravenna and Weathersfield Townships, has been appointed as the new Zoning Officer, succeeding James Rodway, who held the position for 32 years.

Police

Ray Buhula, a ten-year LPD Captain and a member of the force since 2001, has been promoted to Police Chief. He is replacing Toby Molero, who served as chief for the past eight years and was a 25-year veteran of the force.

A \$100,000 grant secured in 2024 from the Ohio Senate Capital Budget acquired through Senator Sandra Obrien funded the Completion of wrought iron fencing enclosing a parking area for police vehicles. The enclosure enhances the safety of police officers entering and exiting their cruisers.

Received a \$36,000 grant from the State of Ohio to enhance body cameras.

Initiated a more proactive approach to curb neighborhood speeding through deploying extra resources into the neighborhoods.

Upgraded our BAC breathalyzer using forfeited funds from OVI and drug cases.

Increased training resources available to each officer in the department.

Augmented police presence in Liberty schools will enhance the safety of students, teachers, and staff.

A Reserve Officer Program was initiated, allowing well-trained retirees to actively participate in emergency situations and community events.

Road Department

Nine Township roads encompassing 3.5 miles were improved including repaving and storm drainage enhancements. The total length of roads resurfaced from 2019 to the present is 40.587 miles, representing 65.31% of the sixty-two miles of Liberty Township roads.

Townsend Avenue road repair and drainage work that commenced in 2024 was completed in 2025. It was funded by a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant acquired through the Trumbull County Planning Commission.

Added a new 2024 F450 dump truck with plow.

Crack sealed 4 miles of roadway on 10 roads.

Fixed and installed new storm drainage on numerous roads.

Received an ODOT State Grant totaling \$55,000 for signs, posts, and hardware.

Recycled over 1,200 scrap tires in our annual scrap drive

Fire Department

Replaced all three ambulances with two new and a reconditioned.

Acquired Two new Chest Compression Recitation devices

\$10,000 Training grant from the Gary Sinise foundation to acquire trailer used for training firefighters throughout the region