

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the township administration office on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance, Mr. Arnie Clebone, Mr. Devon Stanley, and Mr. Gregory Cizmar presiding.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald swore in Firefighters Trevor Willoughby, John Greene, & Matthew Kello. Congratulations to all!

Reports:

Fiscal Officer Matthew Connelly was absent. A copy of the monthly cash summary report was available for anyone to review.

Administrator Martha Weirick updated the Board on her meeting with Walmart and WRTA.

Fire Chief Doug Theobald reported for the past 7 months that they have experienced over 300 runs. The Chief is hoping to hear soon if they were successful in securing the Safer Grant. Due to the recent adverse weather conditions, they've responded to a multiple motor vehicle accident. He asked that everyone use caution when driving, allow extra room between vehicles and slow down. Lastly with the recent structure fires in the surrounding area, he is asking that everyone check their smoke detectors and CO2 detectors. Both are free to those on the Senior Watch Program. However if any resident is in need of a smoke detector, please call the fire department.

Police Chief Toby Meloro presented his report. Chief also announced that the Police Chaplains are hosting this year's Spring/Easter Bunny Event at the Lyric Center on Saturday, April 12th. Time to be determined.

Road Superintendent Mr. Wayne Hickman stated that winter has taken a toll on township roads and the 5 road department employees. He asked that people be patient during the extremely bad weather conditions. In addition, Wayne reported, we have used more salt on the roads this year than the last two years combined. He reviewed the upcoming projects, placed a hold on the 2024 Road project due to weather conditions and reminded the Board he needs letters for the CDBG Fredrick Street project. Wayne wanted to thank Julie Green and Emily Moran from Trumbull County Planning Commission who were instrumental in getting the Townsend Project completed and the extra costs were covered by them. NO township dollars were used. Wayne reported on the progress of the Center Park Project. He believes the upcoming sidewalk projects, referred to as Phase I & II should all be completed this coming year and ODOT is still looking for funding for Phase III. In the meantime, he concluded the road crews are busily plowing, salting, patching and filling potholes.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Director Mr. Jim Rodway presented his report and also wanted to thank Robyn from Walmart and the WRTA folks for the productive meeting. He was happy to report they are moving one of the stops. now inside Liberty Plaza parking lot.

New Business:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, January 23, 2025 Regular meeting.

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

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

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of January 2025 in the amount of \$727,076.91 warrants #26690 through #26753 inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

25-34 NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED
COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (2025 NEC GRANT(S))

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT
NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2025 ENERGIZED
COMMUNITY GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township of Liberty, Ohio (the “GRANTEE”) is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”) and is eligible for one or more NOPEC Energized Community Grant(s) for 2025 (“NEC Grant(s)”) as provided for in the NEC Grant Program guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the GRANTEE wishes to enter into a Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. in substantially the form presented to this Board of Trustees to receive one or more NEC Grant(s); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF TRUMBULL, AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. This Board of Trustees of the GRANTEE (the “Board”) finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the GRANTEE to enter into the Grant Agreement to accept the NEC Grant(s) for 2025 and authorizes the President of the Board to execute the Grant Agreement to accept the NEC Grant(s) funds.

SECTION 2. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the GRANTEE; wherefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the President of the Board of Trustees of the GRANTEE.

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

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

25-35 Motion to authorize the Trumbull County Engineers to advertise for bids for the Liberty Township 2025 OPWC project.

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

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

25-36 Motion to hire Kenneth Jones as a part time firefighter paramedic at \$21.00 per hour, no benefits, pending pre-employment drug testing and background check. First day of work will be his hire date.

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

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

25-37 Motion to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Sale of a vacant lot on Overbrook Avenue to Thomas W. Weaver and Sherril Weaver

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township owns a vacant lot on the unimproved portion of Overbrook Avenue in Liberty Township which is not needed for township purposes; and

WHEREAS, the adjoining property owners Thomas W. Weaver and Sherril Weaver have requested that the Township sell the property to them for driveway purposes; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §505.10(A)(6) authorizes a township board of trustees to sell

real property on terms agreed upon by unanimous vote of its members by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that the property is not needed for public use, and it is in the best interests of the Township and its residents that the property be sold.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township does hereby authorize the sale of the vacant lot at 0 Overbrook Avenue, Permanent Parcel Identification No: 12-219900 to Thomas W. Weaver and Sherril Weaver, for the sum of Four Hundred Dollars, and the purchasers shall pay all costs.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

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

25-38 Motion to table the resolution to oppose any Trumbull County Sales Tax Increase as it directly affects Liberty Township residents.

WHEREAS the Trumbull County Commissioners have discussed a potential increase in the County Sales Tax in Trumbull County. Such an increase will directly harm the residents of Liberty Township by increasing prices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township OPPOSES any increase in the Trumbull County Sales Tax.

Citizens may speak on any matter.

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

Roll Call: Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mr. Stanley, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, No. Motion Tabled.

Discussion: Trustee Clebone would like to review this further. In addition, the Trumbull County Commissioners are a new Board and would like to give them time to explain further. Trustee Devon agreed with Trustee Clebone's assessment.

25-39 Motion to table the resolution to oppose any Trumbull County Water District Rates Increase as it directly affects Liberty Township residents.

WHEREAS the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer has proposed Trumbull County Water District Rate increase to \$12.50 per thousand gallons plus a \$5 water replacement improvement fee for each account. Such a dramatic increase will directly harm the residents of Liberty Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township OPPOSES any Trumbull County Water Rates increase.

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

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

Discussion: Trustee Stanley said for the reasons stated in motion 25-38, he feels we should table this resolution as well.

Trustees Remarks: Trustee Devon Stanley thanked Walmart and commended the store manager Robyn Mediate for her endless support for our community. He thanked the fire department who transported his wife to the hospital during a difficult time a few weeks ago. Lastly, he thanked all those who reached out to him to offer their support at the loss of one of his family members.

Trustee Arnie Clebone Thanked WRTA and Walmart who both came willingly to find solutions. He spoke on Build a Better Belmont regarding funding that was granted to the City of Youngstown, however, may share some of the funding with Liberty Township. The goal is to improve Belmont Avenue from Giant Eagle to the downtown area of Youngstown. He is meeting Liberty businesses to form a Business Association. Arnie may invite Beth Carmickle, Trumbull County Tourism to help promote the businesses. Arnie wanted to make others aware that Governor DeWine would like the share of the tax on the sale of recreational cannabis which is currently earmarked for the township or city where the dispensary is located (36% of the 10%

tax) to go to the state instead.

Trustee Greg Cizmar thanked Walmart and WRTA for their participation in the meeting to eliminate the shopping carts and move bus stops from residents' front yards. He attended a ribbon cutting at Happy Campers, a new daycare facility last week. He attended the Trumbull County Association meeting and the Engineers Meeting this past month. Greg is working on restoring the electricity in the maintenance garage that was cut when a contractor was erecting a fence.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss the compensation and/or discipline of a public employee at 6:32 p.m.

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

Motion to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Next regular business meeting is Thursday, February 20, 2025 p.m.

MATTHEW CONNELLY, FISCAL OFFICER

GREG CIZMAR, CHAIRPERSON