

The Champion Township Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on October 6, 1025, at 6 pm, at the Champion Township Administration Building, at 240 Marshall Ave, to conduct the general business of the township.

Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by Fiscal Officer Miller:

Trustee Fee: present

Trustee York: present

Chairman Emerine: present

All in attendance stood and joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Emerine reminded those in attendance all that township meetings are public meetings and any interruptions can be subject to removal. The public was encouraged to not interrupt the meeting and to save all comments for the public comment session at the end of the meeting. This includes township personnel in the audience unless specifically addressed by the Board to speak.

Chairman Emerine announced that a Township Workshop Meeting was scheduled for October 21, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Township Administration Building at 240 Marshall Ave.

Business

Todd Brainard requested to address the Board of Trustees and was placed on the agenda, but he did not attend the meeting.

G2025-171: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Report for the month of September, in the amount of \$216,720.19. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-172: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the Payment Warrant Listing Report for the month of September in the amount of \$35,363.26. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-173: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the Credit Card Payment Report in the amount of \$96.96. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-174: Trustee York made a motion to approve the Supplemental Report for the month of September. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-175: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the authorization of the DE23 application for the Property Tax Exemption for the Storage Building constructed on Parcel 46-903724. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call: Trustee Fee – Yes, Trustee York - Yes, Trustee Emerine – Yes.



Chairman Douglas Emerine
Trustee Rex Fee
Trustee Dean Richard York
Fiscal Officer Laurie-Jo Miller

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND
REMISSION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY. (6 20 25 - 175)**

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Champion Township had a storage building constructed on Parcel 46-903724, a parcel of Real Property, used for Township purposes, located at 149 Center Street, Warren, Ohio, and

WHEREAS, Real Property and buildings owned by a public entity and used exclusively for public purposes are exempt from taxation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Champion Township that:

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees of Champion Township had a Township storage building constructed on the property it owns at 149 Center Street, Warren, Ohio Parcel No. 46-903724.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.03, 5549.21 and 505.50, the storage building was constructed for and is being used for public purposes, to store Township Records, Police Department Vehicles, and Road Department equipment and supplies.

SECTION 3. The Board of Trustees of Champion Township authorizes and directs its Fiscal Officer Laurie-Jo Miller to execute any documents necessary to apply for Real Property Tax Exemption and Remission of the Storage Building as provided by law.

SECTION 4. If any paragraph, provision, or section of this Resolution is held to be invalid by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, then that decision will not affect the validity of the remaining paragraphs, provisions, or sections of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. The Board of Trustees of Champion Township 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 of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including R.C. §121.22.

Made by: *Rex Fee*

Seconded: *Dean Richard York*

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Fee - *Yes* Trustee York - *Yes* Chairman Emerine - *Yes*

Motion passed.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the Champion Township Trustees on the 6th day in the month of October, 2025, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.


Laurie-Jo Miller
Fiscal Officer, Champion Township

G2025-176: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the receipt of the Financial Reports for the month of September to include: Cash Summary by Fund, Revenue Summary, Fund Ledger, Appropriation Status, Fund Status, Fund Summary, and PO Listing. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-177: Trustee Fee made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for Fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, from the Trumbull County Budget Commission, dated September 15, 2025, and totaling \$6,448,549.96. Trustee York seconded; Roll Call: Trustee Fee – Yes, Trustee York - Yes, Trustee Emerine - Yes.

F2025-178: Trustee York made a motion to approve the renewal of the Accident and Sickness Insurance Policy for full time Fire and EMS personnel, as provided by Volunteer Fireman’s Insurance Services (VFIS) of Ohio, at a cost of \$1,897.00 for the period of November 1, 2025 to November 1, 2026. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-179: Trustee York made a motion to approve the renewal of the OTARMA Insurance Policy for the period of November 4, 2025, to November 4, 2026, at a cost of \$50,899.00. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-180: Trustee York made a motion to approve, with appreciation, the donation, from Dianna Baycich, of an artificial Christmas Tree. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

G2025-181: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the acceptance of the First Energy Solutions Grant in the amount of \$12,639.00 with subsequent reallocation of the revenue budget from the Miscellaneous Capital Fund 4901 to the General Fund 1000. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes

G2025-182: Trustee York made a motion to approve the proposed updated Credit Card (13.6) and Procurement (13.7) Policies. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

13.6 Credit Card Policy

The Township has established an official Credit Card policy under O.R.C. §505.64 that must be followed without exception by all Employees and Officials.

A. DEFINITIONS

1. Authorized User: An officer, employee, or appointee of the Township who has been authorized by the Board to use a Champion Township Credit Card Account.
2. Board: The Board of Trustees of Champion Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.
3. Credit Card: A card or any other Presentation Instrument linked to, associated with, or related to a Credit Card Account held by the Township and which can be used to purchase goods or services, including online purchasing. Every Credit Card or Presentation Instrument shall identify the card as issued to Champion Township, Trumbull County Ohio.
4. Credit Card Account or Account: Any account issued by a bank or other financial institution or store with a card number allowing the holder to purchase goods or services on credit or to transact with the account. It does not include a procurement card account, gasoline or telephone credit card account, or any other card account where merchant category codes are in place as a system of control for use of the card account.
5. Credit Card Information: Includes, but is not limited to, the Credit Card number, expiration date, security code, passwords, and any and all other similar numbers, codes, words, and/or other information used to identify the Credit Card, make purchases and/or access credit using the Credit Card, and/or access the Credit Card Account.
6. Debit Card Account: A card account issued by a financial institution which allows the holder to transfer money electronically to another bank account when making a transaction. Under O.R.C. §9.22 no political subdivision may hold or use a debit card account, except for law enforcement purposes.
7. Employee: Any officer, elected official, employee or appointee of the Township.
8. Issuer: A bank, savings and loan, credit union, other financial institution, or vendor (i.e. store or gas station) that issues the Credit Card.

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9. Personal Expense: Any cost or expenditure other than a Work-Related Expense and which is not incurred as a direct result of the Authorized User's employment with the Township. Examples of Personal Expenses include, but are not limited to, gasoline for personal vehicles, cash advances, any amount in excess of the authorized amount, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, gambling, and goods or services for personal use.
10. Presentation Instrument: Any card, check, or account number related to a Credit Card Account which can be used to purchase goods or services, including online purchases.
11. Unauthorized Expense: Any purchase or expenditure not authorized in this Policy.
12. Work-Related Expense: Any cost or expenditure incurred for work-related goods and/or services authorized by the Board and related to the official business of the Township, including, but not limited to, gasoline for Township vehicles, meal allowances, or equipment purchased on behalf of the Township by an Authorized User.

B. AUTHORIZED USERS

1. Only an Employee may be designated as an Authorized User.
2. Only Authorized Users may use a Township Credit Card Account.
3. Only the Board, in its sole discretion, may designate an Employee as an Authorized User of a Credit Card Account held by the Board. At any time and for any or no reason at all, the Board, in its sole discretion, may revoke or terminate the designation of an Employee as an Authorized User.
4. The list of Employees designated as Authorized Users identifying the card they are authorized to use is maintained by the Fiscal Officer.
5. Authorized Users shall not transfer a Township Credit Card to anyone, including other Employees.
6. Authorized Users shall not allow anyone else, including other Employees, to use a Township Credit Card.

C. AUTHORIZED EXPENSES

Authorized Users may use a Credit Card Account only for Authorized Expenses. Authorized Expenses are:

1. Credit Card Accounts shall only be used to pay Work-Related Expenses incurred on behalf of the Township.
2. No single transaction on a Credit Card Account by any Authorized User shall exceed any limit set by the Township Purchasing Policy.

D. UNAUTHORIZED EXPENSES

A Credit Card may not be used to pay for any Unauthorized Expense, even if the employee intends to reimburse the Township for the purchase. The Authorized User is responsible for any purchases made with the Credit Card, and discipline may be imposed, and a criminal referral may be made for Unauthorized Expenses made on the card, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Credit Cards shall NOT be used to pay for any Personal Expense or for any personal purchase.
2. Credit Cards shall NOT be used to obtain cash advances, cash withdrawals, or to obtain cash back from a transaction.
3. Credit Cards shall NOT be used to obtain personal services such as grooming, etc.

4. Credit Cards shall NOT be used to pay for entertainment.
5. Credit Cards shall NOT be used to purchase alcohol or tobacco.
6. Credit Cards shall NOT be used for gaming, betting, wagering, or gambling.
7. Credit Cards shall NOT be used for any purpose or to pay for any expense prohibited by federal or state law or by any Township policy or practice.

E. ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTS

1. **Opening a Credit Card Account.** Only the Board may authorize a Township Credit Card Account with an issuer. Approval to request and open an account shall be by resolution. The Board shall set the Credit limit for each Account (a maximum of \$4,000.00). The total credit limit for all Credit Cards shall not exceed \$10,000.00.
2. **Township Credit Cards.** The Board is and shall remain the holder of all Credit Cards issued to the Board. The Credit Cards remain the property of the issuer. The name of the Township shall appear on each Presentation Instrument related to the Credit Card Account, including but not limited to, Credit Cards and checks.
3. **Internal Control Model.** The Fiscal Officer does not maintain physical custody and control of all Credit Card Accounts and Presentation Instruments. The Fiscal Officer shall be responsible for the following:
 - a) Upon prior Board approval, apply for and obtain a Credit Card Account and/or obtain Credit Cards or other Presentation Instruments associated with the Credit Card Account from the issuer;
 - b) Maintain the Authorized User List;
 - c) Distribute Credit Cards to Authorized Users and keep records of distribution and return of Credit Cards;
 - d) For any Credit Cards held by the Fiscal Officer, the Fiscal Officer shall maintain a record of when an Authorized User signs out and returns a Credit Card.
 - e) Monitor usage of Credit Cards issued to Authorized Users, to include, but not limited to, reviewing all Credit Card statements as soon as possible to ensure compliance with this Policy;
 - f) Present to the Board each month the Credit Card Account transaction detail from the previous month.
 - g) Assure that funds to pay expenses incurred by use of a Credit Card are appropriated for such purpose and allocated to the correct Township fund;
 - h) Pay all Credit Card balances in-full each month so as not to incur interest or late fees. Credit Cards shall not be used to defer all or any part of the purchase price or create an installment payment plan for any expenditure. (See OAG 84-050);
 - i) Immediately report to the Board any unauthorized charges, charges for Unauthorized Expenses, or other violations of this Policy;
 - j) Respond per this Policy to reports of loss, theft, fraud, or possible unauthorized use of a Credit Card; and,
 - k) Oversee compliance with this Policy.

F. USE OF CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTS

1. Permitted Uses. Authorized Users may use a Credit Card Account only for Authorized Expenses. An Authorized User may not transfer the Credit Card to anyone else or make purchases on behalf of any other person or entity, including other Township Employees. Authorized Users may use a Credit Card in person, online, or over the telephone.
2. Reasonable Care. Use of a Credit Card is an expenditure of Township funds. Employees should use common sense and reasonable care when using a Credit Card. If purchasing goods online, the Authorized User must use reasonable care and judgment regarding the authenticity and security of a website. Authorized Users shall only disclose Credit Card Information as is necessary or to make an authorized expenditure or purchase. Credit Card Information shall not be disclosed to any unauthorized person or entity.
3. Security. Authorized Users must keep Credit Cards, checkbooks, and any other Presentation Instruments associated with a Credit Card Account in a secure place at all times. Authorized Users shall keep secure and protect all Credit Card Information from unauthorized disclosure and shall maintain such information as confidential as it if were the Authorized User's own personal credit card information.
4. Issuing, Re-Issuing or Cancelling a Credit Card. A Credit Card will be issued, re-issued or cancelled at the discretion of the Board.
5. Stolen/Lost Credit Cards. If a Credit Card is lost or stolen, or the Authorized User has reason to believe a Credit Card is lost, stolen, or used in an unauthorized manner, the Authorized User shall immediately notify the Fiscal Officer so that the Fiscal Officer or the Fiscal Officer's designee can notify the card issuer and/or law enforcement, as appropriate, and the Board immediately. The Authorized User must provide all necessary information required by the Township or the card issuer relating to the disappearance of the Credit Card and shall fully cooperate with any investigation.
6. Return of Credit Card to Township. The Authorized User, upon resignation, termination, or change in position within the Township shall return the Credit Card to the Fiscal Officer immediately. Additionally, the Credit Card shall be immediately returned if the Township revokes authorization to use the Credit Card or requests the return of the Credit Card.

G. VEHICLE/FUEL CARDS

The EMS/Fire, Road and Police Departments, under separate cards, maintained by the Vendor, are authorized purchase fuel for Champion Township vehicles during on-duty hours. Employees of these departments are authorized to refuel vehicles to keep them fueled, in accordance with SOPs set forth by the department head on fuel levels required to be maintained.

H. DOCUMENTATION OF CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

1. Receipts. Authorized Users shall obtain from the vendor and produce to the Fiscal Officer an original itemized receipt for all expenditures or purchases made using a Credit Card. The receipt should include the customer copy of the receipt, the itemized cost of the goods or services purchased, the total cost, and the date of the purchase.
2. Requisition. The Department Head authorizing the purchase must create a requisition, including Fund #, Function #, and Account Code. Department Heads are responsible for verifying that the purchase was necessary for the business of the Township and actually used solely for the business of the Township.

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3. Submit to Fiscal Officer. As soon as reasonably possible, but not later than five (5) days after the purchase was made, the itemized receipt, requisition, and any documentation necessary to describe the purchase and the reason for the purchase, must be provided to the Fiscal Officer by hand, electronic transmission, or fax.

I. LIABILITY

An Authorized User shall be liable personally and on any official bond to reimburse the Township for any of the following:

1. Purchases charged to the Credit Card that are not documented and timely submitted to the Fiscal Officer or for which the Authorized User does not provide itemized receipts in accordance with this Policy;
2. Expenses that exceed the scope of the authorization of the Authorized User's use of the Credit Card;
3. Unauthorized Expenses charged to the Credit Card;
4. Purchases the Authorized User allowed an unauthorized user to make; and/or,
5. Any other purchases made with the Credit Card that are in violation of this Policy.

J. MISUSE

The use of a Credit Card account for Unauthorized Expenses constitutes misuse of a Credit Card Account. Any employee using the Township credit cards for personal use, cash advance or any other Unauthorized Expense is subject to immediate termination. Failing to submit receipts, or submitting false or incomplete information, within a reasonable time after making a purchase also constitutes misuse of a Credit Card Account and may result in discipline.

Any Employee or public servant, as defined in R.C. § 2921.01, who knowingly misuses a Credit Card Account held by the Board violates R.C. § 2913.21. Misuse may also be a violation of other federal and/or state criminal laws.

The Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney is authorized and shall recover the amount of any Unauthorized Expenses and associated costs incurred by the Authorized User or Employee who Misuses a Credit Card, or allows another person to use a Credit Card, and fails to immediately and voluntarily make restitution to the Township for the total amount of the unauthorized purchase(s) and costs. In addition to any criminal charges and/or any civil actions for recovery, misuse of a Credit Card or Credit Card Account may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

K. SALES AND USE TAX

Sales Tax should NOT be incurred on any purchase with a Credit Card, as townships are exempt. The Fiscal Officer shall provide each Authorized User with a "Sales and Use Tax Blanket Exemption Certificate" to present to the merchant or vendor. If tax is charged inappropriately, the Authorized User should present a tax exemption certificate to the vendor and receive credit for the unnecessary tax.

L. MONTHLY REVIEW OF TRANSACTION DETAIL BY BOARD

The Fiscal Officer shall present to the Board each month the credit card account transaction detail from the previous month. The Board shall review the credit card account transaction detail and the chairperson of the Board shall sign an attestation stating the board reviewed the credit card account transaction detail.

M. SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW BY BOARD

The Board at least once every six (6) months shall review the number of Credit Cards and Accounts issued,

the number of active Credit Cards and Accounts issued, the Credit Cards' and Accounts' expiration dates, and the Credit Cards' and Accounts' credit limits.

N. ANNUAL REPORT - REWARDS

Any awards received from the use of a Credit Card Account belong to the Township. The Fiscal Officer annually shall file a report with the Board detailing all rewards received based on the use of the Township's Credit Card Account.

13.7 Purchasing Policy

The Township has established this purchasing policy that must be followed. No employee shall make purchases for the Township or use the Township's name or credit to make purchases unless authorized by the Board of Trustees and in adherence to the procedures set forth in the procurement policy.

1. A Department head may themselves or may authorize an employee they supervise to make a purchase of goods or services with a cost up to \$1,500 without prior approval.
2. Purchases greater than \$1,500 but less than \$2,500 will require prior approval by the Fiscal Officer with a purchase order requisition and the signature of one trustee. The department head will complete and sign a requisition form and submit it to the Fiscal Officer. The Fiscal Officer will then issue a purchase order and return a signed copy to the department head.
3. Purchases greater than \$2,500 but less than \$10,000 must have a purchase requisition signed by the Fiscal Officer and at least two trustees. These purchases shall be presented to the Board of Trustees' for approval at their next scheduled meeting.
4. For repairs more than \$1,500 and less than \$10,000 that arise from an EMERGENCY SITUATION, department heads may authorize the repair by signature on a purchase requisition form after obtaining verbal approval of at least two trustees and the fiscal officer.

R2025-183: Trustee York made a motion to approve the purchase of 9 snow plow blades with nuts, bolts, and washers, from the Dexter Company 4933 Stetzer Rd, Bucyrus OH 44820, not to exceed the amount of \$5,742. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

R2025-184: Trustee York made a motion to approve the purchase of 3 snow plow blades from Meyers Equipment, 8860 W Akron-Canfield Rd, Canfield, OH 44406, not to exceed the amount of \$870.00. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

R2025-185: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the placement of a stop sign at the intersection of Woodrow and Lauder at the request of local residents. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

CHAMPION TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. R2025-185

TO LOCATE AND ERECT UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES, TO-WIT STOP SIGNS PURSUANT TO ORC §4511.01 THROUGH §4511.76 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULATING TRAFFIC FLOW, WARNING WHEN WARRANTED AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO GUIDE TRAFFIC

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is necessary to locate and erect two Uniform Traffic Control Devices, to-wit Stop Signs to provide for the orderly flow of traffic and the safety of the travelling public at the intersection of Woodrow Avenue and Lauder Avenue in the unincorporated area of Champion Township: therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees shall locate and erect two traffic control stop signs at the intersection of Woodrow Avenue and Lauder Avenue in the unincorporated area of the Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Highway Superintendent is directed to locate and erect said signs in accordance with the General Regulations for the use and location of "Traffic Control Devices" by Ohio Townships, pursuant to ORC §4511.01 THROUGH §4511.76.

Moved by Rex Fee Seconded by Dean Richard York

ROLL CALL:

TRUSTEE YORK	☒ YES	☐ NO
TRUSTEE EMERINE	☒ YES	☐ NO
TRUSTEE FEE	☒ YES	☐ NO

Approved and Adopted this day October 6, 2025

Laurie Jo Miller
Laurie Jo Miller, Fiscal Officer

Certification

I, the undersigned Fiscal Officer, and Custodian of the Records of Champion Township hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Resolution as appears in the Transcript of Minutes of the Official Record of Proceedings of the Board of Champion Township Trustees.

In Witness thereof, I have affixed my signature in acknowledgement thereof.

Date: 10 / 6 / 2025


Fiscal Officer/Clerk

P2025-186 Trustee York made a motion to approve the donation of CPD Unit 58 back to the Road Department. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

R2025-187: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the acceptance of the More Grant, for the Road Department, in the amount of \$1,000.00. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

R2025-188: Trustee York made a motion to approve the purchase of Road Heroes collapsable safety cones, from Amazon, not to exceed the amount of \$125.64. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

R2025-189: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the purchase of 26 cones and 10 cone bars, from SealMaster, 430 North Meridian Road, Youngstown, OH, not to exceed the amount of \$856.50. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Discussion was held on whether to accept or deny the AFG Safer Grant in the amount of \$1,092,774.24, with Federal contribution of \$673,877.42 and the Township share of \$418,894.82, over the time span of three years, for the explicit use of hiring 3 full time Fire Fighters/EMTs. The Grant money cannot be used for anything else. Acceptance of this grant is a mandatory three-year commitment with the financial breakdown as shown:

	<u>Year One</u>	<u>Year Two</u>	<u>Year Three</u>
Federal	\$273,193.55	\$273,193.55	\$127,490.32
Township	\$91,064.53	\$91,064.53	\$418,896.82

If the township cannot pay the high third year requirement the entire amount must be repaid in full.

The 1.2 Mills Fire Levy will be up in Year 2028, voting on renewing it or continuing it will be required in Nov. 2027 Election. This grant award catches the township at a really bad time.

F2025-190: Trustee Fee made a motion to deny the acceptance of the AFG SAFER Grant. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

Unfortunately, the environment for any township is tenable. Representative Dave Thomas is proposing a bill to eliminate property taxes, and no back up plan is suggested. There is also a bill trying

to pass for limitations on townships to place renewal levies on the ballot. With these unknown factors, it is hard to accept this grant with such a high township contribution requirement of \$418,896.82.

Department Reports

Working Forman Davis presented the Road/Cemetery Report for the month of September.



September 2025

- Trimmed Trees over road on Clearview, Copeland, Alva, High, Pierce, Shafer, and Airport
 - Cold patched roads
 - Roadside mowed
 - Trimmed bushes in cemetery
 - Trimmed trees by Cross Creek on St Rt 45 due to bus not being able to see pulling out
 - Trimmed trees at North Park and Bristol Champion Twp. due to bus not being able to see pulling out
 - Weedwacked around all signs after roadside mowing
 - Made two grates, one for Shafer and the other for Vesey due to them being rusted out
 - Installed 340' of 12" double wall pipe and 4 tee's with lids on Airport
 - Ditched on Cloverlane
 - Serviced backhoe and excavator



- Used County's bucket truck to cut trees over the road on Prentice Ext. Louise by St Rt 305, Clearview at Copeland, Alva at High, and Eldon at Shirley
- Took down big tree on Kincaid leaning into road
- Assisted Fire Dept. with fire on Kincaid
- Installed 120' of 12" double wall pipe, 1 90, 1 tee with lid on Shaffer
- Installed 40' of 15" double wall pipe in driveway on Shafer
- Installed 30' of 15" double wall pipe in another driveway on Shafer
- Ditched on Shafer, Airport and Prentice
- Flushed on Alve and Aspen
- Got paperwork from Laurie-Jo that she signed, got trustee's signatures then took to attorney to look over and sign. Went back and picked it up to email to RT Vernal to get on their list to pave Clearview, Eldon, and Shirley this year. We are now on the bottom of the list should be done in November some time

Working Foreman Davis informed the Board that Sealmaster of Youngstown, OH would like to trade our wood chipper, that was declared worthless and has not sold on GovDeals, for 60 units of crack patch. Trustee York made a motion to trade the chipper for 60 units of crack patch with Sealmaster of Youngstown. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee — Yes; Trustee York — Yes; Chairman Emerine - Yes.

Discussion was held regarding the need for repairs to Truck 3 and Truck 7 through Alliance Motor, at \$5,800.00 each. Fiscal Officer Miller will review and advise.

Zoning Inspector Brown presented the Zoning Report for the month of September 2025.

Cty/Twp/Village: Champion					Sep-25	
Parcel #	Permit Description	Permit #	Permit Date	Est. Constr. Cost	Property Owner Name	Property Address
46-116650	porch roof	511	9/2/2025	\$ 7,500.00	Jason & Brittany Schwab	6355 Alva Ave, Warren, Ohio 44483
46-314202	fence	512	9/15/2025	\$ 6,875.00	Doris Leigh	6341 N Park Warren, Ohio 44481
46-327100	fence	513	9/15/2025	\$ 7,000.00	Kevin Reed	756 Champion Ave, Warren, Ohio 44483
46-331750	fence	514	9/15/2025	\$ 6,000.00	Brandon Ginter	5935 Pat Ann, Warren, Ohio 44483
46-903452	fence	515	9/15/2025	\$ 20,000.00	TK Properties	6189 Mahoning Ave, Warren, Ohio 44486
46-347150	solar rooftop	516	9/15/2025	\$ 30,100.00	Mark Monahan	5573 Pierce rd, Warren, Ohio 44481
46-901948	fence	517	9/19/2025	\$ 6,000.00	Adam Hall	292 Aspen, Warren, Ohio 44483
46-901866	outbuilding	518	9/23/2025	\$ 18,000.00	Craig Robinson	6521 Downs Rd, Warren, Ohio 44481
46-330480	front porch	519	9/30/2025	\$ 8,500.00	John Hall	5239 Alva Ave Warren, Ohio 44483

Inspector Brown informed the Board that the Title Company of Warren donated \$100.00 for the Trunk or Treat event as prize money for the best decorated trunk.

Trustee York questioned the amount of garage sale permits on record vs. how many he has seen without permits posted.

Fire Chief Thomas Dempsey presented the Fire Department Report for the month of September.



CHAMPION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

139 Champion Street West • Warren, OH 44483 • Phone (330) 847-0311 • Fax (330) 847-0318

Fire Chief Thomas Dempsey

October 6, 2025

To: Champion Township Board of Trustees

Mr. Doug Emmertine

Mr. Rex Fee

Mr. Dean "Rick" York

Mrs. Laurie Jo Miller, Fiscal Officer

From: Thomas Dempsey, Fire Chief

Personnel:

> Nothing to report

Public Relations/ Public Education:

> Three inspections were completed.

> Standby at KSU Hero Run.

Vehicle and Equipment Status:

> Ladder testing completed

> M21, M20 Serviced.

> M21 Rear windows replaced. (warranty)

> M20 now first out unit.

Facility Status:

> HVAC filters replaced on roof top unit.

Training:

> 16 hours fire training

> 6 hours EMS training

Other:

Sept. Alarms -	
Total calls:	213
EMS:	196
Fire:	17
Consecutive Calls:	36
YTD Calls:	2082 (+25)
Mutual Aid Total - To 69 / From 7	

Southington - Total - 34 / EMS 33 - Fire 1
Canceled 4 / 17 Transports / 6 NO Transports / 3 Lift
Assists / 3 EMT or Medic Assist

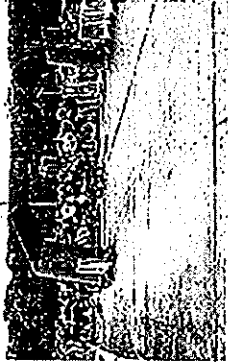
Police Chief Larry Skaggs presented the Police Department Report for the month of September.



CHAMPION POLICE
DEPARTMENT



September 2025



Month	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	256	471	494	393
February	266	471	484	367
March	325	538	448	516
April	324	541	572	547
May	333	545	557	530
June	324	535	549	515
July	494	633	581	582
August	345	576	563	570
September	424	586	502	519
October	518	465	539	
November	435	424	535	
December	363	452	511	

Traffic Crash Investigations	14
Traffic Stops	171
Citations Issued	23
Adult Arrests	7
Juvenile Arrests	0
Warrants from Investigation	1
Domestic Violence / Disputes	2
Incident Reports	56

Mutual Aid Calls: 3 Asst other agency
3 Asst CPD

Highlights

- *Awaiting sentencing in Trumbull County Common Pleas Court for an investigation into an elderly resident who was sexually assaulted. The suspect, John Baker was found guilty of Kidnapping and Felonious Assault. Sentencing has been set for some time in October 28, 2025.
- *Awaiting sentencing in Trumbull County Common Pleas Court for Harold Michaels on Burglary and Breaking and Entering. He is scheduled to be sentenced sometime in to approximately (9) years in prison. This case involved dozens of hours of preparation and review of electronic surveillance and search warrants to identify and locate the suspect who was not known at the time of the break in.
- *Awaiting court hearing in Trumbull County Common Pleas Court for suspect for an indictment for Felonious Assault and Domestic Violence involving a female victim/ resident.
- *Awaiting court hearing in Trumbull County Common Pleas Court for suspect in Involuntary Manslaughter case. Recently the suspect's cell phone was analyzed after six months of

Sending our Community with Peace and Committed



CHAMPION POLICE DEPARTMENT



September 2025

attempting to get into the phone.

Pending:

- *Enhanced software update has been completed for Report Management System (RMS). Officers are still learning the update and it has been problematic.
- *Criminal charges were filed for a theft case from ACE Hardware after officers identified a suspect who had fled the store with merchandise. The merchandise was later recovered.
- *Officers are continuing to monitor the construction site on Educational Highway (Mercy Health) several times each shift to prevent theft and or criminal damaging. Traffic patterns during the day have been good.
- *Officers have issued numerous citations to juvenile motorists during school traffic from TCTC. Officers are continuing to monitor the morning and afternoon traffic for aggressive and reckless driving.

Adopt:

- *Part-Time Officers Darbey and Blasko have begun working shifts. Officer Blasko has been assigned to an FTO.
- *All officers attended a state mandated training class at North Jackson PD. CPT is mandated by OPOTA and partial funding is available.
- *All officers will complete weapons qualifications this October.
- *No new applications have been received.
- *Assisted with the Trumbull County Heroes Run at KSU on September 14th.
- *Spoke with the Ohio Collaborative to initiate application for certification.
- *CPD 58 is out of the fleet.
- *CPD 57 needs a new/used ABS module. Estimated \$800 to \$1000 in cost.

Remember:

- *Prescription Drug Take Back is available 7 days a week for residents. DEA is no longer taking the meds but we will use our drug incinerator to dispose of the items.

Sending our Community and Officers our Condolences

Police Chief Skaggs noted that there was an increase in Beach House disturbance calls. The owner of the Beach House has not been cooperative in investigating these disturbances. Discussion was had on whether or not the Township has the power to dictate business operating hours, according to ORC 503. Chairman Emerine wants Chief Skaggs to consult with Attorney Dan Letson.

Old Business

Diversified on Refractories Drive. Trustee Fee has had contact with Lisa Ramsey and the process has started with a contract awarded to remove trees and brush. Then a different contractor will take care of the non-toxic barrels. Then another contractor will take care of the toxic barrels. Then remediation will begin.

Public Comment

Jim Latimer, 1025 Prentice, addressed his comment to Fiscal Officer Miller and said he “did not buy the whole budget thing” and does not agree that the township cannot afford the AFG SAFER Grant. He feels that the township should accept the grant and he will not vote for a levy. Mr. Latimer will provide a records request to Fiscal Officer Miller to prove to the board that the township is able to accept this grant. Mr. Latimer questioned the board as to whether or not they gave Chief Dempsey the authority to pursue this grant. The cost of writing the grant was never presented to the Board. Chairman Emerine addressed the fact that the Fire Department over spent their revenue in 2024 by \$30,000.00, the Township cannot afford to take on the \$418,896.82. Accepting this grant, at this time, is not a fiscally responsible decision to make. The detail of the grant and the non-federal portion was not communicated to the board at all. Chairman Emerine made the statement that, “Ultimately this grant is not free.” Fiscal Officer Miller reported that the Fire Department Expenses are exceeding the Revenues the last two years and the carryover is decreasing each year. Chief Dempsey informed the Board of Trustees that the motion to approve the grant writer was in March of 2023. The expense from the grant writer was not communicated to the Board of Trustees.

Silas Dozier, 6158 Shafer Road, asked about the status of the soccer field appraisal. Trustee Fee answered that the appraisal is in progress. Mr. Dozier inquired about what kind of sign is the board looking for to place on Mahoning Avenue. Mr. Dozier inquired about the possibility of a Postal site within the administration building and Trustee Emerine responded that he keeps contacting the Postal Master and they have not called back.

Loretta Hedrick, 2320 Anderson Anthony, inquired about the status of her variance she applied for to build a tiny home on a piece of property she purchased. Inspector Brown informed her that the appeal is in progress by the Zoning Appeals Board.

Cindy Thomas, 406 Lauder, was in attendance and as a member of the Zoning Appeals Board, she shared that the next meeting was in three weeks.

Bill Spencer, 6028 Mahoning Ave., questioned the existence of a Volunteer Fire Department and was advised that, basically, it is non-existent due to state law issues.

F2025-190R: Trustee Fee made a motion to rescind the motion to deny the acceptance of the AFG SAFER Grant to enable further investigation and consideration. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

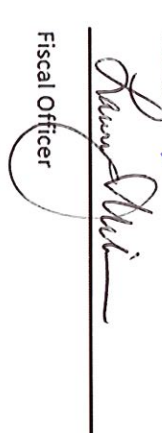
Trustee Fee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.



Trustee


Trustee



Trustee


Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled Workshop Meeting on October 21, 2025, at 6 pm, at the Administration Building located at 240 Marshall Ave. to conduct business of the township.

Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by Fiscal Officer Miller:

Trustee Fee: present

Trustee York: present

Chairman Emerine: present

Everyone in attendance stood and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Emerine made the following announcement: The next Township Monthly Meeting will be on Monday November 3, 2025, at 6pm, in the Township Administration Building at 240 Marshall Ave.

Trustee Fee presented a few facts regarding the proposed JEDD agreement. It is a 40-year agreement and will include a 3-person board with one person representing Warren City, one person representing Champion Township, and one person at large. The JEDD Agreement would prevent any potential annexation of Champion Township into Warren City.

Chairman Emerine reiterated that Champion Township would receive no money from the Mercy Health project without having a JEDD in place. Chairman Emerine also expressed thanks to Trustee Fee for all his hard work and effort to bring the JEDD to fruition.

A Public Hearing on the JEDD agreement has been set for November 12, 2025, at 6 pm. A Meeting Notice was published in the Legal Section of the Tribune Chronicle on October 11, 2025. Township residents are encouraged to attend. Copies of the proposed JEDD are on file in the Fiscal Office.

The Trustees decided to meet following the JEDD Public Hearing, on November 12, 2025, at 7 pm, to consider action on the JEDD Agreement. This special meeting is open to the public and a special meeting notice will be submitted to the Tribune and posted on the Website Fiscal Officer Miller.

Trustees had additional discussion regarding the AFG SAFER Grant. Trustees York and Fee stated they believe there is too much risk to the township to accept the Grant. Chairman Emerine was also in agreement that the risk was too high, but he appreciated the efforts of Chief Dempsey.

Trustee Emerine explained that when Champion first applied for the SAFER Grant the Trustees had placed a combined Safety Services Levy on the ballot, with the intention that the planned revenue generated would allow the township to afford their share of the SAFER Grant costs. However, this combined levy was defeated by the residents in November 2023. Once the Safety Services Levy failed, Champion was not in a position to be able to move forward in the pursuit of the SAFER Grant. Chairman Emerine said he had no knowledge that the grant application was resubmitted. Chief Dempsey said he informed Chairman Emerine that the grant writer would re-apply at no charge.

Chairman Emerine pointed out that this grant comes at a volatile time with many unknown variables, including the outcome of Dave Thomas' proposal of property tax abolishment in Ohio and the possibility of the state revising the township laws governing placing levies on the ballot. Chairman Emerine believes accepting this grant, at this time, would be an irresponsible decision.

Fiscal Officer Miller presented the following analysis to the Board and a copy was circulated to the meeting attendees:

CHAMPION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	2025	2026	2027 (6%)	2028 (6%)
APP BUDGET	\$1,620,691	\$1,643,106	\$1,741,692	\$1,846,194
* REVENUE	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000
	(\$190,691)	(\$213,106)	(\$311,692)	(\$416,194)
CARRYOVER				
\$720,000	\$529,309	\$516,203	\$4,511	(\$411,903)
BUDGET	\$1,620,691	\$1,643,106	\$1,741,692	\$1,846,194
SAFER	\$0	\$91,064	\$91,064	\$236,193
REVENUE	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000
	(\$190,691)	(\$304,170)	(\$402,758)	(\$563,367)
CARRYOVER				
\$720,000	\$529,309	\$225,139	(\$177,617)	(\$380,504)

Forecast at 4% increase beginning 2027

	2025	2026	2027	2028
BUDGET	\$1,620,691	\$1,643,106	\$1,708,830	\$1,777,183
REVENUE	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000
	(\$190,691)	(\$213,106)	(\$278,830)	(\$347,183)
CARRYOVER				
\$720,000	\$529,309	\$316,203	\$37,373	(\$305,811)
BUDGET	\$1,620,691	\$1,643,106	\$1,708,830	\$1,777,183
SAFER		\$91,064	\$91,064	\$236,193
REVENUE	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000	\$1,430,000
	(\$190,691)	(\$304,170)	(\$369,894)	(\$583,376)
CARRYOVER				
\$720,000	\$529,309	\$225,139	(\$44,750)	(\$728,132)

- 1) Current planned spending exceeds revenue each year
 - This overspending is covered with the carryover
 - The carryover is forecasted to be exhausted starting 2028
 - At 2020 levels, levy will be required to provide funds in 2028
 - A current 1.2 mill levy will also require in the Year 2028 and will need revenue (\$120,000)
- 2) Accepting the SAFER Grant will accelerate the exhaustion of the carryover
 - An additional mill, levy would be required to provide funds in 2027
 - Once accepted, the township owns the ability to make any adjustments in staffing, even if a discretionary
 - If staffing isn't maintained, the money provided must be used and penalties could be assessed
- 3) Additional things to think about:
 - Funds can only be spent on 1 additional full time fire fighter (1155
 - Have 2 payments to make over 2 years for newest fire truck (\$155,000)
 - Need to replace an ambulance in the near future
 - If the grant is not accepted, Champion can not apply again for 5 years and project a need for firetruck/ambulance
 - A significant reduction in part-time staff could offset the grant costs to Champion Township
 - This plan will result in equivalent units AFD essentially equivalent, no taxpayer coverage
 - After 3 years, without a significantly higher levy, the additional 3 firefighters would need to be covered
 - Fire contract up in May 2027
- * Notes:
 - Planned Revenue is lower than expected by \$117,000 (was \$1,532,302 for 2025/2026)
 - Actual Spending may be less than planned spend, but see how fourth quarter finishes (\$1,450,019 estimated)
 - Analysis above based on use of entire budget
 - The Budget exceeds the planned Revenue year over Year
 - 2024 actual spending exceeded actual Revenue by \$60,000
 - No money is being set aside for capital

Fiscal Officer Miller reminded the public that the current Fire levy will expire in 2028 and would have to be renewed. Additionally, she advised that prior to then, it was likely that the township would need to place an additional levy on the ballot in order to sustain the current Fire Department operations. There are also major equipment needs that are not currently addressed in the budget. Chief Dempsey advised that a new Tanker Truck is needed to replace the current 28-year-old truck and a new ambulance would be necessary as well. Using General Fund money to support the Fire Department would be concerning in that there would not be the necessary revenue to return the funds back to the General Fund.

Trustee Fee noted the mathematical stance regarding this grant and way too many unknown variables, including the following: unknown property tax situation, unknown changes in levy legislation, contract negotiations, increase in healthcare costs that continue to escalate year over year. Trustee Fee reiterated his position that Trustees simply could not accept the grant given all the unknown variables. He simply does not believe accepting the grant is a wise decision to make on behalf of the township. Trustee York stated he also agreed with Trustee Fee's analysis.

Trustee Emerine made a note that according to Fiscal Officer Miller, she used 6% increase in expenses in her analysis and this may not be enough to reflect increases in healthcare costs and increases that will occur as a result of contract negotiations.

F2025-191: Trustee Fee made a motion to deny the acceptance of the AFG SAFER Grant that was awarded in September 2025. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee - Yes; Trustee York - Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Trustee Fee suggested that Fiscal Officer Miller work with him to draft a letter to FEMA stating the reason for denial of the grant.

Chairman Emerine communicated that he was planning to push for street sweeping and Clean Up Day in 2026. He also noted that the Flag Pole out front was purchased and donated to the Township by Rex Fee and himself. Lumos will be connecting the light.

Trustee Fee shared a communication received from Tom Bellish, Buckeye Energy Brokers, advising Champion Township that the term for the Natural Gas Program is up in March 2026 and the Trumbull County Commissioners have engaged Sylvania Mayor Frye's company, Palmer Energy from Toledo, but the County Commissioners stated Townships can choose to seek their own rates.

Public Comment

Jack Besse, 381 Durst Drive, would like the Trustees to consider establishing a Cost Reduction/Avoidance group that includes township residents. He also had a question for Shawn Davis regarding Blue utility Flags.

Chairman Emerine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee - Yes; Trustee York - Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee


Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 3, 2025, at 6 pm at the Administration Building, located at 240 Marshall Ave, to conduct the business of the township.

Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by Fiscal Officer Miller:

Trustee Fee:	present
Trustee York:	present
Chairman Emerine:	present

Everyone in attendance stood and joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Emerine reminded the public not to interrupt the meeting and to please save all comments for the public comment session at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Emerine made the following announcement: A special meeting to consider action on the proposed JEDD agreement, is scheduled for November 12, 2025, at 7 pm, following the 6 pm JEDD Public Hearing at the Township Administration Building located at 240 Marshall Ave.

New Business

G2025-192: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the receipt of the October Financial Reports to include: Cash Summary by Fund, Revenue Summary, Fund ledger, Appropriation Status, Fund Status, Fund Summary, and PO Status. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-193: Trustee York made a motion to approve the October Payment Warrant Listing Report in the amount of \$132,817.09. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-194: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the Electronic Funds Report for the month of October in the amount of \$246,162.81. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-195: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the October Credit Card Payment Report in the amount of \$166.88. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-196: Trustee York made a motion to approve the Supplemental Appropriations Report for the month of October. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-197: Trustee York made a motion to approve the payment of the Worker's Compensation Bill in the amount of \$31,053.00. Trustee Fee seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2025-198: Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes as submitted. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

The department supervisors advised that they close to completing their assigned tasks for the Records Retention Schedule project. Chief Dempsey has submitted his documents to the Fiscal Office.

Z2025-199: Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint Trish Kover to the two-year alternate position of the Zoning Appeals Board. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Fee – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.