

CHAMPION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING
August 1, 2022
6:30pm

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a Regular Meeting on August 1, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Champion High School Community room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Roll Call:

Present: Douglas Emerine, Rex Fee, William Templeton

Pledge of Allegiance

Monthly Report from Rhonda Fonce, Zoning Inspector – Presented July high grass and debris lists along with junk vehicle lists. Presented list of July Zoning Permits issued. Discussed abatement updates and properties referred to Land Bank.

Z2022-85 Discussion and then Motion to invoke Section (505.86) on 6149 Shaffer Road, parcel # 46-001501. Motion made by William Templeton and seconded by Rex Fee. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

Monthly Report from Tom Dempsey, Fire Chief - Discussed personnel needs. Reserve firefighter Kevin Hostetler will be on a leave of absence for 11 to 14 months due to a military deployment. Two interviews were conducted for full-time Fire-Medics. Tom recommended hiring both candidates to reduce scheduled OT and to assist in filling shifts. Also discussed Fire Chief activities, public relations, vehicle, equipment and facility status, and training. Tom also shared July alarm call and mutual aid totals.

F2022-86 Discussion and then Motion to hire Amerisa C. Minor as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic effective 08/07/2022. Motion made by William Templeton and seconded by Rex Fee. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

Monthly Report from Shawn Davis, Working Foreman – Shawn is proceeding with paperwork for the repaving of Allison and Grady roads in 2023. We need to earn points to receive more OPWC Funds. Shawn reported on road repairs and other work done by the Road Department in July. A discussion was held concerning either the sale or scrapping of old equipment not currently in use such as a grader, sweeper, tar truck, roller, and a zero-turn mower. We need to send documents to Atty Mark Finamore so he can revise the language on construction contracts enabling us a refundable bond.

Monthly Report from Dan Wasco, Acting Chief of Police – Reported that two new full-time Police Officers were hired in July. Sgt. Goldner will be retiring in August with his LDW scheduled for August 6th. Due to this supervisor positions will need to be filled. Dan also reported July's Fill A Cruiser with school supplies event was very successful. Plans for August include weapons qualifications, and active shooter training. Also shared incident reports, and 911 call reports. Dan was asked to provide a list of everyone's vests plus panels and what needs to be updated.

Trustee Doug Emerine read aloud an email from Fiscal Officer Courtney Hatt sent to the Board of Trustees and the Deputy Fiscal Officer, and asked that it be recorded in the Board Minutes:

“Having spoken to Trustee Fee on the matter, I have decided that due to ongoing health issues within my family unit, as well as the Board’s need to make decisions on the “secretary position” reported in the Tribune from the June and July meetings, I will be extending my leave of absence through August 31, 2022. In the event that some of these issues resolve more timely, I reserve the right to return sooner.

Upon my return, I will be unable to work at the same capacity that I was before and will therefore be voluntarily reducing my salary to compensate. In the event that the Board has not come to decisions on staffing the office prior to my return, I will once again feel the need to invoke my right to hire sufficient help in the fiscal office for the good of the township.

Sincerely
Courtney Hatt”

Public Discussion:

Debbie Christ, 401 Lauder. Asked if there was any probationary period for new firefighters. She questioned the Deputy Fiscal Officer on his hours worked and salary paid. Regarding the updated township website, Debbie asked if students at the Champion Schools could video the Board Meetings and then upload the videos onto our website. Could the Trustees ask the school to video our meetings? Can the township get a YouTube Channel? Trustee Doug Emerine stated he will discuss these suggestions with Champion Schools Superintendent John Grabowski.

Breanna Johnson, 4651 Verona. Questioned our open fire positions and the loss of one full-time firefighter. She also asked about the City of Warren's potential annexing the Mercy Health property in the township.

Silas Dozier, 6158 Shaffer Rd. Questioned what our various actions meant regarding the property at 6149 Shaffer Road. Sections 505.87 and now Section 505.86.

Jason Kish, 5110 Sabrina Lane: Asked how we can fund the needed police vests. Will donations be accepted? He asked about the walking trail near Kent State Trumbull and Clarence Darrow Park. Jason suggested a route from the cemetery to the bike trail would provide a safer passage rather than crossing State routes 45 and 305.

New Business:

Approve March, April and May 2022 minutes: Not all trustees have copies, so they will again be forwarded and readings tabled until the next meeting.

C2022-87 Motion needed to increase the Cemetery Appropriation budget for Machinery & Equipment. An increase of \$5,859.00 is needed to pay Do-Cut \$10,859.00 for a Toro 4000 60" Kohler Commercial Mower.

Motion made by William Templeton and seconded by Rex Fee. All voted yes. Motion Passed

G2022-88 Motion needed to enroll our three Dominion Energy gas accounts into the Trumbull County Aggregation program.

Motion made by William Templeton and seconded by Rex Fee. All voted yes. Motion Passed

Old Business:

Gas Aggregation Program.

Announced residents can sign up for better gas aggregation rates with Trumbull County.

ARP Discussion. There are three sites that can be used for youth soccer fields. The current Central Elementary site, the old Middle School site on Alva Ave., and the new proposed township park site. Soccer fields at the proposed site should have restrooms, parking, sanitary sewers, a pavilion, and concessions. ARP funds could be used to improve all but the old Middle School site, since the township no longer owns that property. Trustees will meet with the local soccer league to determine what their expectations are and to what funds the township can provide.

Benefits Administrator

Records Policy

Workers Comp Administrator

DOT Administrator

Drug Free Workplace Administrator

Discussions were held concerning the reorganizing of these old business jobs, with the possibility of adding some of these duties to the Zoning Inspector.

Trustee Doug Emerine read aloud an ad from Weathersfield Township regarding their need to hire full-time Police Officers.

Rex Fee motioned for Executive session after a break at 8:30 seconded by Bill Templeton all voted yes. Motion passed. *for the consideration of interviewing and hiring a Public Employee for position of Police Chief.*

Executive Session started at 8:45 pm

Interviewed Kevin Miller for the Police Chief position. Kevin was excused at 10:00 pm.

Bill Templeton motioned to adjourn both the Executive Session and Regular Meeting at 10:30 pm. Rex Fee seconded, all voted yes. Both meetings were adjourned.


Chairman


Deputy Fiscal Officer

Amendment approved 10-3-22 Chas

CHAMPION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING
August 16, 2022
6:30pm

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a Regular Meeting on August 16, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Champion High School Community room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Roll Call:

Present: Douglas Emerine, Rex Fee, William Templeton

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcomed Architect Tim Sexton with information on the Champion Township Road Department Storage Facility. Tim would design a new storage facility behind the Police Dept. Do we need floor drains? If yes then they would need connected to the sanitary sewer system. If not then depending on the use of the facility we could slope the concrete for drainage after washing or servicing of vehicles and equipment. Or is the facility just for storage? Trustees would need to discuss all the options. Tim asked that we sign his contract, which requires the first payment of \$1,100.00 upon acceptance. Trustee Doug Emerine signed the architectural contract in order to get the project started.

ARP Discussion. The township has two current options with regard to the use of ARP funds for township recreational activities.

- 1) Improve facilities at the current Central Elementary site,
- 2) Move soccer fields to the new planned park.

Trustee Rex Fee stated he discussed the new planned park with Andrew Bednar of Baker, Bednar, Snyder & Associates, Inc.

Estimated costs are:

- 1) A parking lot would cost \$85,000
- 2) Storm sewer retention basin would cost \$45,000
- 3) A trench would be needed for lateral settlement
- 4) Concession stands might be needed
- 5) Soccer fields would cost \$20,000
- 6) Sewer lines would cost \$65,000

This totals \$215,000 for just a bare minimum.

7.2 acres of the Central Elementary site could be sold, leaving in place plans there for a new fire station. We could also build a new Admin and Police building at that site.

A 2021 resolution (ARP2021-118) allocated \$350,000 of ARP funds to the Central Elementary site. \$250,000 is the new recommended allocation, but we must refer to last year's motion.

Other uses of ARP funds include new equipment for the Police Dept. including dash cams, body cams, certified vests and pads, thermal imaging equipment, night vision goggles, mobile radios, collection kits, evidence bags, and a supply of Narcan.

Appraisals and Plotting of the Central School Property. It was agreed to hold off on any actions at this time.

Discussion on 2023 OPWC Road Resurfacing projects. Trustee Doug Emerine read Authorizing Legislature regarding resurfacing Pierce Road and Emerson.

R2022-89 Motion to accept the Authorizing Legislation for the 2023 OPWC Road Resurfacing projects. Pierce Road at \$143,627.21 and Emerson at \$46,546.71. Project Totals of \$190,173.92.

Motion made by Rex Fee and seconded by William Templeton. All voted yes. Motion Passed

C2022-90 Motion needed to increase the Cemetery Appropriation budget by \$15,000.00 for Salaries (\$14,500.00) and Medicare (\$500.00). An increase of \$15,000.00 is needed to complete estimated Cemetery payrolls for the remainder of 2022.

Motion made by William Templeton and seconded by Rex Fee. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

Two related Motions needed to allow the completion of Zoning payrolls for the remainder of 2022.

Z2022-91 Increase Zoning's Estimated Revenues by \$15,000.00 to provide an amount available for appropriation

Motion made by Rex Fee and seconded by William Templeton. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

Z2022-92 Increase the Zoning Appropriation budget by \$15,000.00 for Salaries (\$14,500.00) and Medicare (\$500.00).

Motion made by Rex Fee and seconded by William Templeton. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

G2022-93 Approval needed for a revised storage unit contract with STOC Enterprises, Inc.

Monthly rent will be \$65.00 per month paid monthly beginning September 1, 2022.

Previously was \$75.00 monthly paid every six months in 2020 and was \$70.00 monthly paid every six months in 2021. This new rate is incumbent upon our payment of \$1,010.00 in back rents not yet paid for the last 14 months. Motion made by Rex Fee and seconded by William Templeton. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

*Amended upon proof of payment
10-3-22*

Public Discussion:

William Templeton, Trustee. Discussion about Fiscal Officer out on a leave of absence and the temporary Deputy Fiscal Officer. Do we have the right to ask for the Fiscal Officer's resignation? Is her work considered misfeasance or malfeasance? Two separate attorneys stated we cannot ask for her resignation. They did offer other legal advice, including that she should provide numerous needed passwords to the Trustees.

Jason Kish, 5110 Sabrina Lane: Asked if we knew what the 7.2 acres of the Central Elementary property could sell for. Should we relocate soccer fields to improve future recreational needs? The current soccer fields need work.

Debbie Christ, 401 Lauder. Asked if the Storage Facility would have the room for Police cruisers. Can space be added for Administration needs?

Rex Fee motioned for Executive session after a break at 8:17pm. Seconded by Bill Templeton, all voted yes. Motion passed. *for the consideration of hiring a public employee for the position of Police Chief.*
Executive Session started at 9:46 pm

Discussions held regarding the Police Chief position. There were four final candidates under consideration. Dan Wasko, Larry Skaggs, Kevin Miller, and Mike Stabile. No actions were taken.

Bill Templeton motioned to adjourn both the Executive Session and Regular Meeting at 11:07 pm. Rex Fee seconded, all voted yes. Both meetings were adjourned.

*Amendment approved
10-3-22
Chata*


Chairman


Deputy Fiscal Officer

**CHAMPION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING
August 31, 2022
6:30pm**

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a Special Meeting on August 31, 2022, at 6:30pm in the Champion Township Road Department for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Roll Call:

Present: Douglas Emerine, Rex Fee, William Templeton

Pledge of Allegiance

The date of **Trick or Treat** was set for Monday October 31, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

A resolution provided by Legal Counsel setting bid procedures for Professional Design Services for the Road Dept. Storage Building was read by Trustee Douglas Emerine.

R2022-94 Discussion and then Motion to Approve the Resolution provided by Legal Counsel for Professional Design Services for the Road Dept. Storage Building, with bids due on September 16, 2022 by the end of business 3:00 pm.

Motion made by Rex Fee and seconded by William Templeton. All voted yes. Motion Passed.

P2022-95 Discussion with possible motion on hiring a Police Chief.

Rex Fee made a motion to hire Larry Skaggs as Police Chief at a salary of \$58,000.00 per year, pending background check, psych evaluation, drug screening and with a one-year probationary period. Douglas Emerine second the motion.

Two voted yes (Rex Fee and Douglas Emerine). One voted no (William Templeton). Motion passed.

Public Discussion:

Jim Latimer, 1025 Prentice. Asked when Fiscal Officer Courtney Hatt will return. Also why was this meeting postponed one day? Trustee Douglas Emerine responded that Courtney Hatt will be returning September 2nd. The meeting was postponed to provide a 24-hour publication notice.

Jason Kish, 5110 Sabrina Lane: Asked for clarification about the police officer 75% starting rate scale versus 75% of their first-year salaries if paid by a grant.

Stephanie Alberini, 5093 Pierce Rd. Asked questions about ARP Funds and where the soccer fields would be that are used by the youth soccer league. What is the allocation of ARP funds for soccer? She commented that sewer, water, and electric would be needed if the fields are placed behind the current school location and that we can't do work on the school-owned property on Alva Ave. The Champion Athletic Club leases the Alva property from the school district, which currently has no water there which is needed to attract visiting teams who often complain about the lack of water.

Jack Besse, 381 Durst Ave. Started a discussion on the architectural plans previously done by Baker, Bednar, Snyder & Associates, Inc. Jack commented that passing a levy for parks is not likely to happen. Instead, he suggested that it might be better if Trustees consider a total project levy instead, encompassing soccer fields, a fire station, and an Admin building. It might take 6 to 8 mills to cover the needed funding.

Adam Miller, President of Champion Youth Soccer. He stated if the fields are moved to the new site they will need concessions stands to generate revenue. Nearby playground equipment for the youth is useful in keeping non players entertained. Adam commented that the Champion Youth Soccer league prefers to stay where they are. He is concerned about vandalism problems on Alva Ave.

Sheila Besse, 381 Durst Ave. Suggested that youth football, soccer, baseball, the Champion BOE, and the Township Trustees need to meet numerous times in order to discuss their numerous recreational options.

Jason Kish, 5110 Sabrina Lane: Jason likes the overall master plan, but suggested that a good starting point would be to install a playground and a pavilion first on the new property.

Jim Latimer, 1025 Prentice. Commented that Trumbull County is also seeking a new Parks levy and that this levy would interfere with the Township passing a Parks levy. Trustee Rex Fee stated a three to five-year levy would be needed to be approved by Champion residents. The earliest it could be on the ballot would be the May 2023 primary election.

Jason Kish, 5110 Sabrina Lane: Referring to his previous comment, Jason stated we should do things in a different order for a net positive gain. We could hire a grant writer on a contingency basis. Corporate grants are also available if we do the research. He asked what the potential tax revenue loss might be if the Mercy Health planned hospital property is annexed by the City of Warren.

Adam Miller, President of Champion Youth Soccer. He asked what will make Champion Township attractive to new employees of the Mercy Health hospital and to business relocating or being built near the hospital.

Trustee Rex Fee thanked Deputy Fiscal Officer Tom Blazek for his services filling for Courtney Hatt while she was on a leave of absence from June 15th to August 31st.

Rex Fee motioned to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:40 pm. Douglas Emerine seconded. all voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.


Chairman


Deputy Fiscal Officer

Meeting advertisement
declared improper.
Motions Rescinded and
Affirmed 9-12-2022