

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on December 6, 2021, at 6:30p.m. for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order, absent Trustee Templeton who arrived a few minutes late.

The department heads gave their respective reports.

Welcome Andy Bednar, of Baker, Bednar and Snyder for an update on the design and implementation of the outdoor facilities project. Mr. Bednar gave a very detailed report and update as well as answered questions from the public.

The trustees acknowledged receipt of November financial statements.

The Trustees approved the October minutes.

P2021-120 Trustee Bugos made a motion to supplementally appropriate \$19,072.05 and approve the contract with Lexipol for services within the police department. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2021-121 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the Trumbull County Highway Engineer's Annual Mileage Certification. Templeton seconded. Emerine and Bugos made sure that this did not change and therefore did not include Educational Highway. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-122 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources dated November 15, 2021 in the amount of \$5,418,267.06. This includes appropriations and revenue approved at the last several trustee meetings. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-123 Trustee Bugos said first on the Faithful Performance of Duty Insurance resolution. Emerine seconded. Templeton left the room to take a phone call and therefore was absent for the vote. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

R2021-124 Trustee Bugos made a motion OPWC Authorizing Legislation appointing the Chairman of the board to execute contracts and naming WF Davis as the project manager. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no.

R2021-125 Trustee Bugos made a motion committing funds **\$127,621 which is (62.9%) of the total project cost of \$202,573 for OPWC and directing** OPWC Fiscal Officer Certification of Funds to be completed. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no.

P2021-126 Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire Michael G. Evans II, of Champion, in the Police Department as a part time officer, pending pre-employment drug screen and required background checks at a rate of \$12.50 per hour. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Z2021-127 Trustee Bugos made a motion to transfer \$20,000 to the Zoning Fund from the General Fund. This amount was already designated earlier in the year in the budget but was not required until this point in the year. Trustee Templeton asked if the last time money was transferred in was February. Fiscal Officer Hatt only recalled that it was earlier in the year. Bugos yes, Templeton no, Emerine yes.

G2021-128 Trustee Bugos made a motion to supplementally appropriate (if necessary) and pay the BWC Policy Premium in the amount of \$24,263. (General 1234.99; Zoning 548.34; Cemetery 249.91; Road 5172.87; Police 7560.35; and Fire 9496.54). Emerine questioned what if necessary meant, Fiscal Officer Hatt replied that there may not be a need to appropriate additional funds in all the funds, so the if necessary was only applicable to the appropriation, not the payment of the bill. Paying the premium in full now rather than an installment will result in a discount. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board set a year end meeting date for Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6:30pm. The Board will still meet on Monday, December 13, 2021 to interview candidates for the fire department and other items as necessary.

F2021-129 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the FEMA MARCS Grant of \$30,828 and appropriate the fund balance, including the grant amount, of \$47,724.72 in fund 2281. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes. This is the county wide grant that Champion sponsored for the Trumbull County Fire Chief’s Association.

C2021-130 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the contract with Heritage Fencing and Landscaping for the Cemetery grant for the fence. This contract allows the required prepayment of materials, which is not a normal procurement process for the township, but is requested by the vendor. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

A discussion and possible motion to approve a 2% increase to all non-bargaining unit employees was tabled until after the executive session.

Correspondence:

Today is the final day to make a decision to move to a new TPA. None of the healthcare quotes came back feasible options to what we have now. PrimePay did a terrible job on the conversion and the employees are ready to revolt.

G2021-131 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve Burnham and Flower as the new TPA for calendar year 2022. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None during this time. Many public members spoke during Mr. Bednar’s presentation.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters on the matter of raises for non-bargaining unit employees and other personnel matters in several departments. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Emerine made a motion to exit executive session. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-132 Trustee Bugos made a motion to grant a 2% raise to all non-bargaining unit employees who had not received a raise yet in 2021. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on December 13, 2021, at the administration building at 6:30pm with a full board present for the purpose of conducting the business of the township.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Fire Chief position and other personnel matters, if time permits. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to exit executive session. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on December 20, 2021, at the administration building at 6:30pm with a full board present.

The Board tabled approval of the November 2021 minutes because Trustee Templeton wants to review. Trustee Emerine stated that he would like to see a much faster turnaround time on the minutes as they should not be lagging behind. He stated in the past board it was never a problem to have them approved at the following monthly meeting and that should be the norm not the exception.

F2021-133 Trustee Bugos made a motion to appoint the following members to the Volunteer Fire Dependency Fund Board: Austin Gebhardt, Rob Kern, Kyle Maffitt, Jon Massett and Justin Martin. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the resignation of Thomas Bumgardner, effective September 30, 2021, due to personal health issues. Thank you for your service! Mr. Bumgardner had been on sick leave for awhile prior to this. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-134 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the additional 2021 Mosquito Grant funding in the amount of \$217 into the general fund, where the Mosquito Spraying overage came from. The grant dollars were excess and redistributed to the participating townships earlier this month. This is the second redistribution of dollars from the excess for this fund. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made an announcement of thanks to Gloria Martinek who has asked not to be renewed at the end of her term, December 31, 2021 from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board thanks her for her many years of service!

Trustee Bugos made an announcement of thanks to Robert Gavazzi, who asked not to be renewed at the end of his term, December 31, 2021 from the Zoning Commission. The Board thanks him for his years of service!

G2021-135 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve all supplemental appropriations as necessary for the Township expenditures to finish out the 2021 calendar year. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-136 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the official certificate of estimated resources dated January 1, 2022 in the amount of \$4,345,436.14 . This simply sets the revenue budget based on the auditor's certification and does not include any carryover from 2021. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-137 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve temporary appropriations of \$2,880,109.25, according to the attached list by fund for all regular and necessary Township expenditures pending the filing of the statutory appropriation resolution due no later than April 1, 2022. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

A motion to authorize the continuation of health care benefits for full-time employees, Trustees and Fiscal Officer for the year 2022. A lengthy discussion was held on the legality of vision care. The outcome was that Trustee Emerine would contact Mr. Jason Toth to determine if Templeton and Hatt were eligible based on the township paying claims as a self funded insurer for two months. Based on legal counsel's previously provided advice, it appears that a formal motion to continue healthcare is not needed at this time as no incoming elected official is adding or changing their healthcare.

G2021-138 Trustee Bugos made a motion to adopt the year 2022 salary method of compensation for the Trustees and Fiscal Officer to be equal monthly payments of an annual salary, per the Ohio Revised Code. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to re-hire all non-bargaining part time employees, Zoning Inspector Fonce and Police Chief Jeffery White. **Motion died for a lack of a second.** Bugos stated that he believes this is an inappropriate move on the part of the Board when there is currently a lawsuit going on, a request by a department head to join a union and the potential liability of the township. He also stated that he believes rehiring prior to the start of a new term is better as it is unfair to make a new trustee rehire when he had not had any chance to evaluate their performance. Trustee Emerine asked Trustee-elect Fee to weigh in. Fee thanked Bugos for considering this fact.

G2021-139 Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain Police Chief Jeffery White. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain Rhonda Fonce. **Motion dies for lack of second.**

Trustee Emerine called for a motion to retain Cody Bartholomew. **No motion was made.**

Trustee Emerine called for a motion to retain Sally Berkhouse. **No motion was made.**

Trustee Templeton called a **Point of Order**. Why are we asking for motions to retain these people individually by name? Trustee Emerine said that he was asking for the motions by employee individually because when asked for as a group, the motion died for a lack of a second, so there must be an employee that trustees do not want to retain.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain Rhonda Fonce. **Motion dies for lack of second.**

G2021-140 Trustee Bugos made a motion to rehire (Templeton POO- retain) Amendment to retain accepted by Bugos. Motion to retain all part time employees. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustees agreed to advertise for appointments to Zoning Boards.

G2021-141 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve OUPS annual assessment fees for 2021 of \$204.02. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2021-142 Trustee Templeton made a motion to approve Trumbull County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management 2010 Census of 9612 residents x the rate of \$.21 per resident for a total cost of \$2,018.52. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board set a date for the township’s Organizational meeting as January 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Location to be determined.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters and a grievance in the fire department, inviting Thomas Dempsey and Trustee-elect Fee in.

Motion to exit the executive session.

G2021-143 Trustee Bugos made a motion to rescind the motion (G2021-139) to retain Jeffery White as Police Chief.

G2021-144 Trustee Bugos made a motion to retain all department heads. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine no, Templeton yes.

F2021-145 Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire Thomas Dempsey as Champion Township Fire Chief, effective December 26, 2021 per negotiated agreement. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton abstains with the right to change his vote after he sees the contract written out.

Trustee Emerine offered words of gratitude for Trustee Bugos for his hard work and dedication during his term. Trustee Bugos thanked Trustee Emerine and stated that he would like to help the Board in any way he can in the future, particularly in helping with the par board.

The swearing in for Trustee Fee was set for December 28, at 6pm at the Township Administration Building. Trustee Bugos will bring the names for the Par Advisory Committee then for ratification by the oard.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer