

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on February 1, 2021 at 5:45pm with a full board present via teleconference 727-731-0901.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of conducting interviews. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos had to leave briefly.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to exit executive session. Trustee Emerine seconded.

The Board observed a moment of silence at the passing of former Police Chief Chris Redick and former trustee, J. Arden Emerine. Trustee Bugos returned.

**G2021-27** Trustee Templeton made a motion to renew JED LLC Contract at the same rates and terms as in the past, for the calendar year 2021. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**G2021-28** See GovDeals Motion text attached.

Trustee Bugos announced that new email addresses for the department heads and trustees were purchased and could be used. They are not ready to be announced to the public.

**G2021-29** Trustee Bugos made a motion to allow the Fiscal Officer to request an advance of Real Estate Taxes if needed from the Trumbull County Auditor. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton No as he wanted the Fiscal Officer to ask permission before taking an advance.

Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of the Fiscal Officer to approve permanent appropriations for the 2021 fiscal year in the amount of \$3,750,000.00 Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Templeton No, Trustee Bugos asked Templeton why he voted no. Templeton stated that he believed the Township needed to tighten its belt. Trustee Emerine asked Fiscal Officer Hatt if the motion could wait while they did further research on Templeton's concerns. Fiscal Officer Hatt said by law it had to be passed by April 1 and was retroactive to January 1, so it could wait if Trustee Templeton was really going to give his input. He stated he needed his reports to give his input. Trustee Bugos withdrew the motion due to Templeton's concern over wanting to tighten the belt.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the donation to the fire department from Dan Letson in memory of J Arden Emerine in the amount of \$250.00 and thank him for the donation. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to set the healthcare premium contribution per employee for calendar year 2021, based on coverage level, at: Family, \$2,340; Employee+spouse, \$1,950; Employee+Child(ren), \$1,690; and Employee only, \$1,300. These premiums have been previously agreed to by all three bargaining units. Emerine requested to table this motion because Templeton asserted Atty. Finamore declared it illegal under ORC 505.60. Fiscal Officer Hatt argued that it has gone through multiple audits in previous boards and in various townships. Trustee Emerine asked Fiscal Officer Hatt to touch base with legal counsel and get clarification. Motion died for lack of second with strong objections from Trustee Bugos and Fiscal Officer Hatt.

The appointments of individuals to the Zoning Board of Appeals and creation of alternate positions on the commission and appeals board were tabled because not all the interviews were completed prior to the meeting.

Trustee Emerine called for appointment of Trustee Bugos as liaison between Champion Township and Champion Local Schools for talks regarding a School Resource Officer. Trustee Bugos gladly accepted this position.

The Board set a workshop date of 2/10/2021 @6pm to discuss permanent appropriations and AFSCME contract negotiations. Fiscal Officer Hatt is unavailable, so the Board will need a Pro Tempore. Chief Hickey has also requested to meet with the Board to discuss his department's budget.

Department Heads gave their respective reports.

Discussion was held on the safety of the administration building for the Zoning Inspector. The Board asked the Zoning Inspector what it would take to make her feel safe and she said it was not her job to figure it out. The Board explained that if the building was not open to the public, then she should be safe. The Zoning Inspector stated that she had a problem with other people having keys and walking in on her. The Zoning Inspector expressed that she was not consulted when the Board purchased a car for zoning. When pressed further on the topic, she indicated that she felt safer now with the car than she did last summer.

Working Foreman Davis apologized to Zoning Inspector Fonce for walking in on her in the office. He did not see her car and there was no sign on the door. Zoning Inspector Fonce admitted she may have forgotten to put up the sign. Working Foreman Davis also thanked Mr. Williamson.

**R2021-30** Trustee Bugos made a motion to allow the Trumbull County Engineer to put out for bid for the 2021 Road Resurfacing Program. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

**G2021-31** Trustee Templeton made a motion to express commitment in a joint venture with the Champion Presbyterian Church's 2021 paving project based on the township's long-term usage of the land at a rate of 25%, based on our portion of the surface to be paved. Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board provided approval for the Girl Scouts to hold multiple drive thru cookie booths during the month of March. The Board requested that the Easter Egg Hunt request be redirected to the school football field, which could accommodate that type of event better.

Announcement: Inventories were turned in and have been placed in the basket for review. Old inventories for comparison are in folders. Please review so next meeting they can be accepted.

Old Business:

Atty. Finamore has not yet provided a Skating rink update in writing.

Further discussion was held on liability with the Nutwood stop sign. Trustee Bugos interpreted the legal opinion that the stop sign should not be placed at this location. Trustees Emerine and Templeton requested that the stop sign goes back up with the County's recommendations in place. Working Foreman Davis was instructed to take all the precautions recommended and put the signs back up. Warren Diesel fence permit request with legal counsel opinion was also discussed. Trustee Templeton asked Zoning Inspector Fonce why we have not issued the permit to Warren Diesel. Zoning Inspector Fonce said she does not want to have contact with someone who has threatened her.

Architect Update: The school is asking about the cross country course viability. Trustee Emerine stated it is viable to do so if it does not interfere with the crops that are planted there and if no hard structures are installed. A disc golf course is also requested, along the outskirts of the cross country course. Foreman Davis has not seen this course yet, but tentatively viable under same parameters as the cross country course as long as no hard structures are not installed. The school has some grant writers on staff they may be willing to loan to our land use project.

The next land use plan meeting is set for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7pm at the Central Cafetorium, via teleconference 727-731-0901.

Public Comment:

Lee Beers, 938 Airport Road, water line expansion connection survey by the county. 814-746-0481- Trustees will contact Gary Newbrough to see project status.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive for personnel issues. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met on February 3, 2021 at 6pm via teleconference via teleconference 727-731-0901. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present. Discussion was held on the candidates previously interviewed, the terms of the alternates, the pay, etc. for the zoning positions.

**Z2021-32** Trustee Bugos made a motion to appoint Deanna Tuttle as an alternate to the Zoning Commission as it is defined in the ORC. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton abstained, would like to review the definitions of alternates in the ORC further.

**Z2021-33** Trustee Bugos made a motion to appoint Jennifer Kusmirek to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fulfill the unexpired term of Linda Cain, expiring December 31, 2023. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Templeton questioned why the Board was making the motions when the last candidate had not been available for interviews yet. He was concerned that it seemed all the candidates had connections to the Board in some manner or another. Trustee Emerine reminded him that three of the four Board members grew up in Champion, so many residents would be acquainted with the Board. Trustee Bugos said that he could withdraw his motions, but he did not really see the point in doing so.

The last candidate was interviewed. Trustee Bugos excused himself from the meeting and the topic was tabled. A brief recess was held to allow travel to the Central Cafetorium and commence with the land use plan portion of the meeting set to begin at 7pm.

Trustee Templeton did not rejoin the meeting after the recess.

Andy Bednar displayed his progress and observed the interaction with the community members surrounding the movement of soccer and the old middle school property on Alva Ave.

Community organizations present included CAC, CYSL, the school, Champion Little Flashes.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

Champion Township Trustees Special Meeting

Call in Number: (727) 731-0901

February 10, 2021 at 1800 hours

Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Emerine at 1805 Hours

- ❖ ***Motion made by Chairman Emerine to make Fire Chief John E. Hickey Secretary Pro Temp for the meeting in the absence of Fiscal Officer Courtney Hatt.***

Trustee Bugos seconded the motion. Roll Call: Bugos Yes Templeton Yes Emerine Yes

#### **Attendance Roll Taken**

Emerine Present Bugos Present Emerine Present

Guest In Attendance: Chief Hickey and Shawn Davis, Road Supervisor. No other parties identified.

- ❖ Discussion was held concerning the appointment of a member to the Champion Township Zoning Commission. After discussion, the following motion was made.
 

***Z2021-34 Trustee Bugos made the motion to appoint Deanna Tuttle as an alternated on the Champion Township Zoning commission in accordance with ORC 519.04. Ms. Tuttle's appointment will be for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2021 and running through December 31, 2022, with equal pay to all existing members of the zoning commission.***

***Trustee Templeton Seconded the motion***

**Roll Call:** Bugos Yes Templeton Yes Emerine Yes
- ❖ Discussion was held concerning the appointment to the vacant position on the Champion Township Zoning Board of Appeals. After discussion, the following motion was made.
 

***Z2021-35 Trustee Templeton made the motion to appoint Laura Fike as an alternated on the Champion Township Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with ORC 519.04. Mrs. Fike's appointment will be for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2021 and running through December 31, 2022, with equal pay to all existing members of the zoning board of appeals.***

***Trustee Bugos Seconded the motion***

**Roll Call:** Bugos Yes Templeton Yes Emerine Yes

❖ Discussion to adopt a restricted duty policy for Champion Township was held. Trustee Bugos would like more time to review, and to receive input from the township department heads before approving the policy.

**No action taken...board agrees that this item be tabled for further discussion.**

❖ Discussion concerning a motion to authorize the fiscal officer to initiate the process of direct deposit for all township employees was held. Trustee Templeton would like more information concerning the process and had concerns about the upcoming merger of TCF and how that may affect the direct deposit process.

**No action taken...board agrees that this item be tabled for further discussion.**

❖ Trustee Emerine excused himself from the meeting at 1840 Hours. Trustee Bugos assumed the duties of running the meeting.

❖ Discussion concerning a motion to increase the revenue budget to \$4,137,708.18 per the fiscal officer due to additional revenue from contracts and other sources was held. Trustee Bugos and Trustee Templeton would like further information from fiscal officer before approving.

**No action taken...board agrees that this item be tabled for further discussion.**

❖ Discussion held concerning the pay rate of Craig Criddle when he is performing mechanical duties for the township. Trustee Templeton stated that he feels that no action should be taken at this time, and it should be addressed in the upcoming negotiations. Trustee Bugos feels that it would be better to address it now and go into negotiations with this item already agreed upon.

**No action taken...board agrees that this item be tabled for further discussion.**

❖ Discussion concerning the upcoming AFSCME negotiations was briefly held. It was agreed that no decisions would be made without a full board present.

**No action taken...board agrees that this item be tabled for further discussion.**

❖ Discussion concerning setting a date with the Trumbull County Engineers Office for upcoming Champion Township Road Projects. It was agreed that no decisions would be made without a full board present.

**No action taken...board agrees that this item be tabled for further discussion.**

**Trustee Bugos Adjourned the meeting at 1847 hours, with no further action being discussed or acted upon.**

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer Pro Tempore

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Special session on February 26, 2021 at 3:00pm via teleconference 727-731-0901 for the purpose of conducting the business of the township.

Members from the executive board and project management team of Bon Secours Mercy Health joined via Zoom to meet and greet the Township officials and department heads with whom they may engage should they end up building a hospital facility on the 60 acres located within Champion Township, between Kent State and Trumbull Career and Technical Center. The project is still being vetted and is in its due diligence phase. The project managers will reach out as needed to the department heads as relevant information comes up.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer