

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on July 6, 2020 at 6:30p.m. for the purpose of conducting the business of the township, via conference call under HB 197 (978) 990-5242, Access Code:3519757. Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Chairman Emerine called for a moment of silence on behalf of Deborah Redick, wife of former Police Chief Chris Redick, and a longtime employee of Champion Local Schools as well as a volunteer throughout the community.

Minutes were presented for approval. Trustee Templeton has not been able to review May minutes and the item was tabled. The Fiscal Officer let the Trustees know that there were public records request for the approved minutes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to approve the Alternative Tax budget and forward to the County Auditor. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to accept the resignation of Joseph Meikle, Head Mechanic for the Road Department, effective July 31, 2020. Thank you to Joe for all his hard work keeping the Township equipment running for the last 34 years. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board of Trustees acknowledge receipt of the financial reports for the months of June 2020.

Trustees discussed the early retirement options packages and the lack of funding that was made available through the CARES Act and the HB 481 as previously expected. The Trustees approved Fiscal officer Hatt having an individual discussion with John Osborne, Road Department employee, in order to facilitate his safety during the Coronavirus pandemic. Any solutions that can be worked out are subject to the final approval of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to declare the non-MARCS police radios worthless and accept the donation of the Brookfield Township in the amount of \$225.00 for the equipment. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2020-70 Trustee Bugos made a motion to create fund 2272 CRF (Coronavirus Relief Fund), set the revenue budget and appropriate the funding in the amount of \$123,160.51. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the 2020 OTARMA MORE Grant in the amount of \$500.00. This grant was awarded to the Township based on the submission of expenditures for safety items. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board agreed to declare the Dell 2360dn worthless at the request of Fiscal Officer Hatt and remove it from the Fiscal Office inventory.

G2020-71 Trustee Bugos made a motion utilizing the coronavirus Relief Fund to make a donation to FreeConferenceCall.com in the amount of \$60 due to the use of this service by the Township under HB 197 for teleconferencing meetings. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste grant in the amount of \$2,500 for Township Clean Up Day activities, with a required \$1,500 match. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Trustees set a date of 7/16/2020 at 6:30 pm for a workshop on dealing with CARES Act, Coronavirus Relief Fund expenses and other department needs. Road Supervisor Rozzo would like to advertise for jobs in the Road Department due to the retirement of Joseph Meikle and the impending retirement of John Osborne on October 1, 2020.

P2020-72 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Police Chief White to hire Joshua Rudesill as a full time police officer. This is technically a promotion as Officer Rudesill has been a part time officer with the Township for three years. Trustee Emerine seconded. Trustee Templeton offered many objections to the financial implications of hiring a full time officer when the economy is in such dire straights. The Trustees agreed to put in writing and have already spoken with Officer Rudesill on the precarious nature of the economic issues surrounding his hire during a pandemic and that he may need to be flexible with in his schedule, rather than the normal 5 on two off shifts that are typically offered to full time officers as well as the increased risk for layoff. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no.

Police Chief White also gave a status update on the part time officer positions open with in the department. He has had very few applicants.

R2020-73 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of numerous resident complaints about traffic on Nutwood Ave to place two additional stop signs at the intersection of Nutwood and Republic. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

P2020-74 Trustee Bugos made a motion to submit the 1.1 mill Police levy to the Board of Elections for voting on the November 3, 2020 ballot, a copy of which may be obtained from the Fiscal Office. A full reading was conducted. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-75 Trustee Emerine made a motion to submit the 1.5 mill Road levy to the Board of Elections for voting on the November 3, 2020 ballot, a copy of which may be obtained from the Fiscal Office. A fill reading was conducted. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

G2020-76 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the IT contract with JED LLC at a rate of \$60 per hour during normal business hours and \$80 per hour for emergency after hours support. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-77 Trustee Templeton made a motion to approve the contract with Pryce Farms to farm a portion of the Township land. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Road Supervisor Rozzo gave an update on the Board of Health distribution of larvaecide tablets. The resident needs to file a complaint on their own property and the BOH will come out and look to determine where the larvaecide needs to be placed. Areas of standing water, such as ditches should be reported. The road crew was instructed to keep an eye out for areas to report so that the larvaecide can be distributed in tandem with the mosquito spraying, which will occur again on July 23.

The department heads gave their reports, absent Zoning Inspector Fonce due to sick leave.

F2020-78 Trustee Templeton made a motion to grant the part time EMTs and Paramedics a pay raise, effective June 28, 2020. EMTs will increase to \$11.00 per hour. Paramedics will increase to \$13.00 per hour. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-79 Trustee Templeton made a motion to award the 2020 OPWC Bridge Rehabilitation and Paving Project for Stewart and Atwood to Shelly and Sands, the low bidder, in the amount of \$129,625.00 The Township share of the project will be \$59,628.00. The OPWC share will be \$69,997.00 (54%). Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-80 Trustee Templeton made a motion to award Shelly and Sands the contract for paving on Glenn Ave. this is not part of a grant. The entire project cost will be \$30,338, paid in full by the Township. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-81 Trustee Bugos made a motion to award Shelly and Sands the contract for paving on Sabrina Lane. This is not part of a grant. The entire project cost will be \$80,000.04, paid in full by the Township. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-82 Trustee Bugos made a motion to award Shelly and Sands the contract for paving on Kuszmaul Ave. This is not part of a grant. The entire project cost will be \$94,949.90., paid in full by the Township. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

R2020-83 Trustee Templeton made a motion to hire the Trumbull County Engineer's office to chip and seal Airport Road. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

P2020-84 Trustee Bugos made a motion to upfit the 2014 Ford Explorer for the Police Department so that they can have a back up car for use when their cars are in need of maintenance and so they do not have to share vehicles. The current policy due to Coronavirus is that each officer will use his own vehicle in an effort to minimize the spread of germs, particularly since the officers have to deal with the public in person and sometimes have physical contact. The car is also needed as a part time car with the hiring of Officer Rudesill as full time. This vehicle was originally going to wait for upfitting until later in the year or next year, but circumstances have changed. Upfit includes: \$950 Printer's Edge for graphics, \$800 MAACO painting, and \$3,387 to Cross Radio for installs. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

The Board asked Chief White to look in to training and body cameras for officers given the current political climate. Chief White gave an update on options that the FBI had provided for availability of online trainings. Trustee Emerine suggested OTARMA as a resource.

Z2020-85 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Zoning Inspector Fonce to declare 155 Marshall, 307 W Champion and 4822 N Park as nuisance properties under ORC 505.87. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine abstain due to not having a full report on activity on these properties from the Zoning Inspector, Templeton yes.

Correspondence

None to read- mostly CARES Act information previously forwarded.

Old Business

Drug Free Workplace Training, still waiting to hear when it is acceptable for Murphy Lewis to hold supervisor training.

The Board needs to determine contract negotiation dates and strategies for Police and Road.

Public Comment

None

Trustee Templeton made a motion to enter in to executive session with regard to impending lawsuits and personnel matters. Bugos seconded.

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

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on July 16, 2020 at 6pm via teleconference with a full Board present, after Trustee Templeton arrived on the call at 6:12pm.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the Zoning Amendment on Fences and Outdoor Signs. Trustee Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to furlough John Osborne, Road Department employee, due to health concerns over the Coronavirus. Mr. Osborne has been a Township employee for over thirty years and his health and safety is a priority for this Board. Trustee Emerine had comments about Mr. Osborne having been hired as a probationary employee with no payment to OPERS for the first 90 days of employment or Mr. Osborne could have already retired with full pension and healthcare. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Discussion was tabled on a hazard pay policy for employees until more information on policy requirements could be obtained.

Discussion was held on appointing Dr. Zachary Veres as the Township appointed doctor. Trustee Templeton wanted to check with Murphy Lewis on appointment of doctors in various specialties as well as appointing a General Practitioner.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire Zoning Consultant Mark Majewski of Northstar Planning and Design at a cost of \$1,600 to handle all complaints and inspections for 186 Cleveland St, property owned by Mr. Jack Mahan and leased to Warren Diesel Performance, owner Joseph McFalls, due to a request by Zoning Inspector Fonce's legal counsel that she be exempted from dealing with Mr. McFalls due to allegations of harassment by Zoning Inspector Fonce. Should Mr. Majewski need to testify as an expert witness in the pending court cases, his rate is approved at \$125.00. per hour. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Approval of a list of possible items to use CARES Act money on was discussed and directed to be compiled and sent by Fiscal Officer Hatt to the Trumbull County Prosecutor for an opinion, prior to expanding the remaining funds. Department Heads should have any additional items turned in by Monday.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to reopen discussion of union negotiations immediately. Trustee Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to enter into executive session with regard to personnel matters in the Zoning department. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

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

Hearing no further comments, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer