

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on July 5, 2021, at 6:30pm absent Trustee Templeton who was ill and with Trustee Bugos participating virtually in the Champion high School Community Room. The public, Steve Papoulas from the Trumbull County highway Engineer's Office and the media, Bob Coupland, Warren Tribune Chronicle were also in attendance.

F2021-70 Trustee Bugos made a motion to hire (promote) Austin Gebhart to a full time position within the Fire Department, pending preemployment pension physical and necessary background checks, effective July 5, 2021 with benefits to start on August 1, 2021. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

G2021-71 Trustee Bugos made a motion to change the date in which employee healthcare, vision and dental benefits begin upon hire to the first day of the month following their hire date and authorize the submission to the insurance carrier, pending approval by the IAFF. This change in policy is because the township gets charged for a full month's premium regardless of when the employee starts working. Most insurance companies are no longer billing for partial premiums so this policy promotes fiscal responsibility in hiring. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

G2021-72 Trustee Bugos made a motion to authorize the emailing of paystubs by the Fiscal Office to employees enrolled in direct deposit who have provided a valid email address. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

MCP2021-73 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the First Energy Civic Grant in the amount of \$13,293.00 and place it in the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the resignation of firefighter Joseph Danks and thank him for his volunteer service. Mr. Danks attended orientation at Champion but was offered a full time position with Liberty Fire upon completing his Paramedic course. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the resignation of part time police officer, Dejan Robinson, and thank him for his service. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the resignation of part time police officer Jarrett Pishotti, and thank him for his service. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to amend the November 2020 minutes to reflect the November 10 special meeting rather than the October 14 special meeting. The October minutes overwrote the November minutes in the original file submitted and approved. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the minutes for February, March, April and May 2021.

Emerine declared that going forward if two trustees agreed, he would as Chairman call for the approval of the minutes in order to not delay if one trustee was not prepared for the acceptance of the minutes so that there was not a backlog of minutes to approve. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Discussion was held but no motion made to make supplemental appropriation and purchase a new furnace/AC unit from Denna Heating and Cooling the quote was not on hand to get the actual dollar amount for the purchase.

G2021-74 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the 2022 Alternative Tax Budget and forward to the County Auditor for approval by the Budget Commission. This is a statutory requirement that must be completed prior to July 20, 2021. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Discussion was held on changing township insurance broker and entering a contract to provide benefits for the township employees' healthcare coverage, through said broker, but no motion was made due to the absence of Trustee Templeton. Trustees Bugos and Emerine felt that it was important to have the vote of the third trustee for this very impactful decision.

A date was set for Fire Negotiations to meet with Chief Hickey and if available with Fire department union on July 19, 2021. Board will meet with Chief Hickey at 6pm and then the union at 7. If time allows, the trustees will look at healthcare at that time.

G2021-75 Trustee Bugos made a motion on a Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution-required by EMA/County in order to continue to have mutual aid should a Federal disaster occur. The full resolution is WHEREAS natural, technological, and man-made hazards can affect Champion Township; and WHEREAS significant structural, historical, and economic losses could result from an occurrence of a natural, technological, or man-made hazard events; and WHEREAS undertaking mitigation projects during pre-disaster periods could decrease the total losses

Champion incurs as a result of said hazard occurrences. AND WHEREAS the Champion Township Board of Trustees has a strong interest in reducing losses from future hazard occurrences; and WHEREAS the hazard mitigation plan is a federal and state requirement to maintain eligibility for hazard mitigation funding, and, by that requirement, must be updated a minimum of every five years; and WHEREAS a cooperative, joint effort is a proven, efficient way to plan for and reduce hazard susceptibility in all government jurisdictions in Trumbull County, Ohio. THEREFORE the Champion Township Board of Trustees has partnered with the county to update the existing *Trumbull County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* in an effort to further identify, define, and characterize the hazards affecting the Township as well as to continue identifying and prioritizing projects that could lessen hazard vulnerability. NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Champion Township Board of Trustees does hereby adopt the updated *Trumbull County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan* this fifth day of July, 2021 Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Correspondence:

Fiscal Officer Hatt mentioned the upcoming deadline for petitions to place levies on the ballot and to turn in for trustee. The Board held intense discussion on the placement of a levy but did not make a motion due to the importance of Trustee Templeton's presence for any such vote. Additionally, Fire Chief Hickey wanted to have more informed discussion with the architect on the matter. Trustee Emerine discussed the availability of two options, one levy to encompass a building and operations, versus placing a separate levy on for operating and a separate levy on for the building. Fiscal Officer Hatt was concerned about the timeframe with the paperwork for a levy needing to go through multiple offices prior to placement on the ballot. Fiscal Officer Hatt renewed intense discussion on the healthcare choices available to the township, but no motion was made because Trustee Templeton was not present to cast a vote on such an important expenditure and Trustee Bugos favored Burnham and Flower while Trustee Emerine was interested in BE Solutions as broker.

Public Comment:

Steve Papoulas, Trumbull County Engineers Office, wanted to let the Board know that Randy Smith and his office was available for assistance as they had been in the past and would continue to support Champion township and all townships as much as they could with their equipment loan program and other resources. The Board thanked Mr. Papoulas and Mr. Smith's office for the support.

Fiscal Officer Hatt asked the Board's permission to address Mr. Papoulas. Permission was granted. Mr. Papoulas contacted Mr. Gary Shaffer to answer whether or not the joint Woodside-Brookside project that had previously been indicated as in the funding bubble would get a status change before the end of the year for current funding purposes. Mr. Shaffer said that it had been moved to funded for this year and the project would proceed.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter into executive Session to discuss AFSCME negotiations. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

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

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met on July 19, 2021, at 6:30pm, at the Champion Township Administration Building for conducting the business of the Township with a full board present.

Announcement: Effective July 1, 2021 public meetings are no longer allowed to be held solely in teleconference mode. The Champion Township Board of Trustees shall meet at the Champion High School Community Room for its regular meetings and publish as per G2021-1 "Sunshine Law Meeting Notice 2021" all special meetings.

A motion to accept the AFSCME Union contract was not passed as trustee Templeton had not read through nor signed the contract.

R2021-76 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Cemetery Sexton Davis to hire Seth Shay for seasonal part time help in the Cemetery at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, pending a preemployment drug screen. Mr. Shay was the only applicant for the position. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Chief Hickey gave a presentation on the necessity of a levy for the fire department. Chief Hickey informed the Board of a grant that was moving through the Congress for a new fire station, thus potentially eliminating the need for a building payment to be included in a levy option. Chief Hickey had formerly presented four options at the Board's request to help fund the ailing fire department. Trustee Templeton had asked what an operating levy plus a building payment would look like based on the sketches coming forth in the Land Use Plan. Chief Hickey recommended a 2 mill levy at this time for operating expenses. He took questions from the public. Nancy Shafer, former trustee, asked what millage the fire department was currently operating at. Russ banks thanked Chief Hickey for his efforts to watch for grants to assist the taxpayers before just going after a levy. Tom Tracey, former trustee, asked about increasing staffing in the fire department, to which Chief Hickey replied, that the 2 mills would maintain the status quo.

Trustee Templeton addressed the fiscal officer's email about the Alternative Tax Budget due the following day. He was frustrated that the Fiscal Officer had asked about him completing it when he felt it was her job. Fiscal Officer Hatt replied that he had demonstrated an intense interest in doing budgetary tasks, but that she had completed the task and the Board approved it in his absence at the last meeting. Trustee Templeton indicated that he did not like paper trails asking him to do things that weren't his job.

Valerie Campbell, corner of Downs and route 305, had questions about water in the area, mowing businesses and the old Speedway gas station. She addressed many of the same issues the trustees had. This was her first meeting but she has lived in the township quite some time. The trustees answers to flooding questions led to a productive discussion on beavers, ODNR and the Army Corp of Engineers. The possibility of additional water lines going in due to the American Rescue Plan funding also was mentioned. Chief Hickey, the Trustees and other members of the public present all chimed in ohn the discussion, including former clerk, Carol Deehr.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive session for IAFF negotiations after a brief recess. Templeton seconded.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to exit executive session.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to reenter the meeting. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

F2021-82 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of Chief Hickey to purchase a thermal imager with grant funds in the amount of \$7085.00 Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting a second time.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

*motion was misnumbered by mistake

The Champion Township Board of Trustees postponed a meeting advertised on Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:30 pm for the purpose of conducting the business of the Township at the Champion Township Administration Building. The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on Friday, July 23, 2021 at noon in the Champion Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the township, absent Trustee Templeton.

An intense discussion was held on the Fire Chief’s proposal for a 2 mill levy. Trustee Emerine was concerned with the community financial uncertainty that a 2 mill levy would be difficult for the residents to handle. Trustee Bugos was concerned about operations in the fire station being dropped to lower service levels and the residents being unprotected. Fiscal Officer Hatt spoke on the fact that had the pandemic not happened last year, the levy would have already been on the ballot. Fiscal Officer Hatt was hopeful that steps the government had taken to assist residents along with the new information on the American Rescue Plan that was coming out would also alleviate some of the stress a levy would bring.

F2021-77 Trustee Bugos made a motion declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation and to levy a new tax at a rate not exceeding .95 mills for continuous period beginning with the year 2021, for 5705.19(I), 5705.03, 5705.191 and to direct the Fiscal Officer to forward the Resolution to the County Auditor for the calculation of the annual levy expressed in dollars and cents for the life of the levy. Said levy to be submitted to the electors of Champion Township in the general election to be held the 2nd day of November 2021. (see full text attached.) Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Hearing no further comment, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session on July 28, 2021 at 8am in the Champion Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the Township, absent Trustee Templeton.

F2021-78 Trustee Bugos made a motion to proceed to submit the second reading of a levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation and to levy a new tax at a rate not exceeding .95 mills for continuous period beginning with the year 2021, for 5705.19(I), 5705.03, 5705.191 and to direct the Fiscal Officer to forward the Resolution to the County Auditor for the calculation of the annual levy expressed in dollars and cents for the life of the levy. Said levy to be submitted to the electors of Champion Township in the general election to be held the 2nd day of November 2021. (see full text attached.) Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Hearing no further comment, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer