

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 pm, at the Champion Township Administration Building, 240 Marshall Ave, for the purpose of conducting the business of the township.

Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by Fiscal Officer Miller:

Trustee York:	present
Trustee Emerine:	present
Trustee Jeffers:	present

All in attendance stood and joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Emerine gave the following reminder: This is a public meeting and any interruptions can be subject to removal. The public is encouraged to not interrupt the meeting and to save all comments for the public comment session at the end of the meeting. This includes Township personnel in the audience unless specifically addressed by the Board to speak.

Trustee Emerine made the following announcements:

The next Township Meeting will be Tuesday April 7, 2026, at 6 pm at the Township Administration Building located at 240 Marshall Ave.

Trustee Emerine welcomed Andrew Kline, from the Champion Pentecostal Church, who inquired about having some Easter festivities at either the Administration Building or the Soccer Field area. Trustee Emerine welcomed the idea and informed him to call Gerry Brown and have a Hold harmless form filled out.

Trustee Emerine welcomed Board Members from the Woodland Meadows Housing Community. Evelyn Gardner presented an information packet to the Fiscal Officer and the Trustees and announced that they had received a \$1.9 Million grant for upkeep and repairs to the property. It is a non-profit organization and they are looking for additional or replacement board members. Woodland Meadows started in 1980 and the next board meeting is March 17, 2026.

Trustee Emerine welcome David DeChristofaro's Assistant, Lauren Hill, who spoke about the possibility of ordering road salt directly from ODOT, rather than through the County Engineer's Office.

G2026-47: Trustee York made a motion to approve the receipt of the February Financial Reports to include: Cash Summary by Fund, Revenue Summary, Fund Ledger, Appropriation Status, Fund Status, Fund Summary and Purchase Order Status. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-48: Trustee York made a motion to approve the February Payment Warrant Listing Report in the amount of \$40,751.09. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-49: Trustee York made a motion to approve the February Electronic Funds Report in the amount of \$232,294.25. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-50: Trustee York made a motion to approve the February Credit Card Payment Report in the amount of \$1,267.23. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-51: Trustee York made a motion to approve the February Supplemental Appropriations Reports. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-52: Trustee York made a motion to approve the December 2025 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Z2026-53: Trustee York made a motion to approve the Interfund Transfer of \$45,000 from the 1000 General Fund to the 2181 Zoning Fund. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-54: Trustee York made a motion to approve the proposed Permanent Appropriations for the 2026 Fiscal Year, as submitted by Fiscal Officer Miller, in the total amount of \$4,914,081.55 and to authorize Fiscal Officer Miller to submit the information to the County Budget Commission. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Fund	2026 Appropriation			2026 Appropriation	2025 Spend	2026 Est Revenue	12/31/26 Projected Fund Balance	12/31/25 Fund Balance
	Salaries	Other	Capital					
1000	109,000.00	347,059.20	115,000.00	571,059.20	\$415,244.42	\$577,449.01	583,395.30	622,005.49
2011	10,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	\$18,745.22	\$16,735.00	22,060.69	33,325.69
2021	179,000.00	0.00	0.00	179,000.00	\$204,819.77	\$179,150.00	41,249.04	41,099.04
2031	122,000.00	331,550.00	20,000.00	473,550.00	\$357,366.26	\$394,188.96	242,325.98	321,687.02
2041	38,000.00	16,000.00	12,000.00	66,000.00	\$52,111.67	\$39,500.00	30,933.00	57,433
2181	25,000.00	6,500.00	0.00	31,500.00	\$21,525.19	\$20,000.00	59,828.12	14,828.12
2191	585,000.00	620,700.00	65,000.00	1,270,700.00	\$977,782.07	\$1,296,689.00	124,314.58	98,325.58
2192	842,000.00	728,000.00	153,772.35	1,723,772.35	\$1,457,443.75	\$1,527,167.42	676,771.51	873,376.44
2193	0.00	\$30,000.00	\$425,000.00	455,000.00	\$24,561.33	\$265,372.72	179,207.66	368,834.94
2231	0.00	70,000.00	0.00	70,000.00	\$40,019.34	\$58,827.12	63,766.59	73,576.59
2401	28,500.00	0.00	0.00	28,500.00	\$23,044.73	\$26,000.00	33,978.75	34,478.75
2901	0.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00	\$20,400.00	\$7,500.00	11,125.57	18,625.57
Total	1,938,500.00	2,179,809.20	795,772.35	4,914,081.55	\$3,613,063.75	\$4,412,579.23	2,068,946.79	2,557,596.23

F2026-55: Trustee York made a motion to approve payment to The Paint Works, in the amount of \$2,954.33, for CH21 Hood Repairs for the Fire Department. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

F2026-56: Trustee Jeffers made a motion to approve the proposed Mutual Aid Policy for answering Fire Department Dispatches, effective 4/1/26, or after Trustees have the opportunity to communicate with the impacted communities. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

G2026-57: Chairman Emerine made a motion to appoint Attorney Tonya Rodgers to represent Champion Township for Legal matters, at a rate of \$210 per hour. Trustee York seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers- Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Fiscal Officer Miller shared the following correspondence:

The Trumbull County Engineer’s Meeting with the Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and the Road Supervisor will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 3:30 pm.

The Trumbull County Engineer’s Annual Dinner meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026, at Di Lucia’s at 6:00 pm. All Trustees, the Fiscal Officer, and Working Foreman Shawn Davis will attend.

The 2024/2025 Fiscal Year records have been picked up by Perry & Associates and the audit has begun.

Notices to negotiate with the OPBA have been received and forwarded to the Trustees and Attorney Dan Letson.

Communication was received from the County Board of Elections with the following approved Ballot Language for the Additional Fire Levy to be placed on the May 5, 2026, ballot:

TRUMBULL COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 5, 2026

Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)

Champion Township

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

An additional tax for the benefit of Champion Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under Section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs, that the county auditor estimates will collect \$692,145 annually, at a rate not exceeding 2.65 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$93 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, for a 5 year period of time, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027.

For the Tax Levy

Against the Tax Levy

OTARMA has requested to meet with the Township to review Policy and highlight additional benefits of OTARMA. These meetings are held every 5 years and Champion Township is due. The meetings should include Working Foreman Davis, Departments Heads, a Trustee, and the Fiscal Officer.

Department Reports

Zoning Inspector Brown presented the February Zoning Report.

City/Twp/Village: Champion					Feb-26		
Parcel #	Permit Description	Permit #	Permit Date	Est. Constr. Cost	Property Owner Name	Property Address	
46-901688	signage	539	2/4/2026	\$ -	Mercy Health	570 Educational Hw, Warren, Ohio 44483	\$ -
46-103552	interior remodel	540	2/17/2026	\$ -	Danny Miller	1224 Airport Rd, Warren, Ohio 44481	\$ -
46-104100	new home construction	541	2/23/2026	\$ 200,000.00	Matthew Miller	6620 Downs N Rd, Warren, Ohio 44481	\$ 9
46-171850	solar panel installation	542	2/27/2026	\$ 26,400.00	Cynthia Brown	209 Earl Dr, Warren, Ohio 44483	\$ 9
	1 sign,						
	1 interior remodel						
	1 new home						
	1 solar						

Road Working Foreman Davis presented the Road and Cemetery Report.



February 2026

- Fixed speed limit sign that got hit on Lauder
- Cleaned snow off sidewalk to chapel and yard for burial
- Worked at the Administration building 14 days
- Cold patched roads, used 7.5 ton of cold patch
- Plowed and salted roads 6 times
- Fixed 3 mailboxes
- Cleaned up berm
- Cleaned up berm in cemetery and garbage around the tree line

Foreman Davis inquired about getting a plaque for the New Garage building dedicating it in memory of Joe Meikle and Trustee William Templeton. Trustee Emerine agreed and advised Foreman Davis to get some estimates for a plaque.

Public Comments

Silas Dozier, 6158 Shafer Road, inquired about the progress of cleaning up the old Copperweld site and the Folsom property. Clean up has stepped up on the Copperweld property but stalled on the Folsom property due to not enough funding. He also inquired about the measurement for the right of way when it comes to all of the fiber optic lines being installed. Working Foreman Davis advised that it is 50' to 60' from center of the road depending on how wide the road is.

Greg Lazor, 179 Aspen, asked about the green flags that are now in the yards and Working Foreman Davis responded that the green flags denotes where the water and sewer lines are.

Jack Besse, 381 Durst, asked if we have a program in place to ensure we do not miss any deadlines for getting a levy on the ballot since this happened recently in Boardman Township. Fiscal Officer Miller reported that the township receives a report each year of all current levies and their timelines. This information is shared with the Trustees.

Debbie Christ, 400 Lauder, questioned the legality of having an Executive Session regarding the purchase or sale of Township property. Trustee Emerine stated the Executive Session was for discussion purposes only and no action is taken during Executive Sessions. Any action taken would occur during a public meeting.

Trustee Jeffers discussed the Howland Township Public Meeting he attended. The Trumbull County Commissioners were present to discuss the possible outcomes if property taxes were voted out in the November 2026 election. There were no clear-cut answers provided.

Bob Kane, 219 Sabrina Lane, inquired about the moving of the soccer fields and where they would go. Chairman Emerine responded with a brief summary of past options for locations and infrastructure.

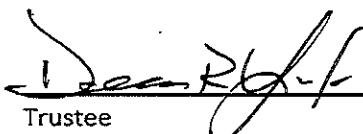
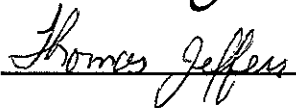
John Cummings, 111 State Road, announced he is taking over the Fat Cats Tattoo Studio and assured the Board that he intends to run a clean and safe business. He hopes to open on March 13, 2026.

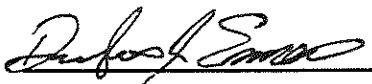
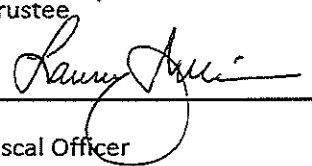
Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter into Executive Session to consider the Purchase and/or Sale of Property under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 505.10. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Trustees discussed options for purchase and sale of property within the township.

Trustee Jeffers made a motion to exit Executive Session. Trustee Emerine seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

Trustee York made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll Call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.


Trustee

Trustee


Trustee

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees had a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:15 pm, at the Champion Township Administration Building, 240 Marshall Ave, for the purpose of conducting negotiations with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA).

Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by Fiscal Officer Miller:

Trustee York: present

Trustee Emerine: present

Trustee Jeffers: present

Trustee Jeffers made a motion to enter into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 121.22 (G) (4) to conduct negotiations / bargaining sessions with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). Trustee York seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

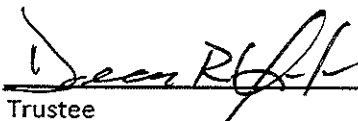
Also present for the Executive Session were Jeff Perry, Dan Wasko, and Attorney Dan Letson.

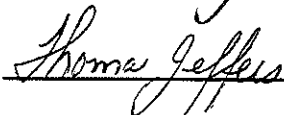
The parties worked through a draft submitted by the OPBA.

Trustee York made a motion to exit Executive Session. Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

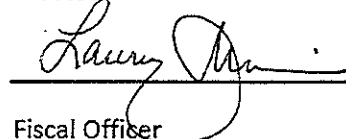
The next meeting was set for March 25, 2026, at 3 pm, at the Township Administration Building.

Chairman Emerine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee York seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.


Trustee


Trustee


Trustee


Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees had a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 3:00 pm, at the Champion Township Administration Building, 240 Marshall Ave, for the purpose of conducting negotiations with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA).

Chairman Emerine called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken by Fiscal Officer Miller:

Trustee York: present
Trustee Emerine: present
Trustee Jeffers: present

Trustee York made a motion to enter into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 121.22 (G) (4) to conduct negotiations / bargaining sessions with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). Trustee Jeffers seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

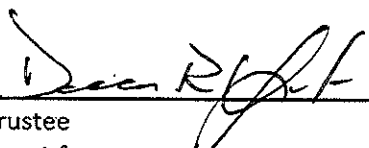
Also present for the Executive Session were Jeff Perry, Dan Wasko, and Attorney Dan Letson.

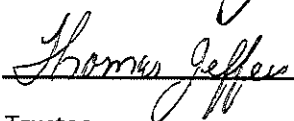
The parties continued to work through a draft submitted by the OPBA.

Trustee Jeffers made a motion to exit Executive Session. Trustee York seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.

The next meeting was set for April 9, 2026, at 3 pm, at the Township Administration Building.

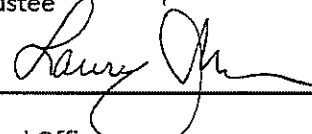
Chairman Emerine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee York seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Trustee Jeffers – Yes; Trustee York – Yes; Chairman Emerine – Yes.



Trustee


Trustee



Trustee


Fiscal Officer