

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on February 6, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Trustee Templeton called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Welcome Julie Green, Planning Commission, to discuss YARS. Ms. Green discussed that the YARS committee had to adopt a plan every so often and that they were requesting that townships adopt the Zoning compatibility plans that were necessary for the YARS plan. Trustee Fee had questions and Ms. Green would address them and get ack to the Board.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the January Minutes, with amendment to include more details on Mr. Alexander's training. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Departmental Inventories. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of financial reports for January 2023. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

R2023-13 Trustee Fee made a motion to Open the 2023 Road Resurfacing Fund to accept the OPWC project grant funding for this year. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

R2023-14 Trustee Fee made a motion to authorize the Trumbull County Engineer to put out for bids the 2023 Road Resurfacing Project on behalf of Champion Township. The roads to be paved are Emerson, Grady, Pierce, and Allison. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

F2023-15 Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the payment of \$2250 toward the Paramedic School for S. Ray Alexander to Mahoning Country Career and Technical Center. Mr. Alexander has already signed an agreement to work a certain number of shifts for the next 5 years or repay the money. The balance of the cost of school will be covered through a grant and through Farmington Fire Department. Emerine seconded. **Trustee Templeton chastised Chief Dempsey for not discussing his with him when they had a meeting last week. Templeton was upset that the other two had changed their minds and he was in the dark until he received the list of agenda items.** Passed unanimously.

F2023-16 Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the 2022-2023 MARCS Grant for user fees for the fire department. This grant will cover \$840.00 in fees. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resourced dated January 13, 2023 in the amount of \$6,085,265.54. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to authorize, if necessary, the advance of real estate taxes from the Trumbull County Auditor. Motion died for lack of a second. This item was tabled until it becomes necessary, if it becomes necessary.

Announcement: The Township has a bulletin board on the front of the Administration Building for announcements, as well as our website: <https://www.championtownship.org>

Announcement: Drug Free Workplace Training March 6, at 6:00pm, Tuesday, March 7 at 9:00am. Supervisors training will be Tuesday March 7 at 6pm. These will take place at the Fire Station. **Chief Skaggs indicated that he would send Sergeant Wasko instead as he will be out of town for training. Fiscal Officer Hatt told him that Sergeant Wasko was required to attend anyway and that the consultant would offer him other dates as this was mandatory training.**

Announcement: Township Cleanup Day will be April 22, 2023, from 8am-2pm at the Township Building. The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District will provide a grant to help offset the cost in the amount of \$7,008.00, obtained by Working Foreman Shawn Davis. No chemicals, no paint and a limit of 8 tires per resident. Please enter the premises from Route 305 and exit to through the Cemetery onto Route 45. "If you have paint or chemicals, please go to the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste website

to get instructions for disposal. They will not be accepted in our facility.” **Trustee Emerine requested that there be proof of residency shown. The Board concurred.**

Announcement: Champion Community Garage Sale Dates will be discussed/set at the Township meeting on February 21, as we do not want to interfere with graduation (5/13) or Labor Day (5/29) **Correction issued to indicate Memorial Day, not Labor Day. Thank you to Nancy Shafer for catching the error.**

Announcement: The Board would like to remind the community to get out and support the Champion Rotary Club at their Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 8am-11am at the Champion Presbyterian Church, 4997 Mahoning Ave. Kids games, face painting and free baskets for kids will be available along with the Easter Bunny. The Breakfast cost is \$8, Kids under 6 free with adult purchase.

Trustee Fee gave an architect update. Mr. Sexton is going back to the original design. The building materials and such are much higher than originally anticipated, so the addition of an administration side would increase the budget to be out of reach for the township.

Working Foreman Davis mentioned that he put in for the mosquito spraying grant but was unsure if the trustees wanted to spray.

Trustee Fee addressed the ARP funds and the breakdown of where each department was at and had concerns that the park funds committed would soon be gone if there was no forward motion. Trustee Emerine indicated that he wanted to find out more about revenue replacement and wanted to know if there was a way to use the money towards the fire truck. Fiscal Officer Hatt indicated that the payment of previously incurred debt was not an option. The Board did pass revenue replacement, but needs to indicate what expenditures and dollar amounts they want tasked for such funds.

Trustee Fee brought up an email about the natural gas aggregation program that the County’s broker had sent about prices dropping. Trustee Templeton indicated his disgust that trustee Fee and Fiscal Officer Hatt had spoken with Mr. Bellish who was not our broker. Trustee Fee indicated that Mr. Bellish had approached us, as the County’s broker, to ensure our residents were getting a good price because perhaps not all of them had gotten in at the previously approved rate and the County did not have to accept them at their rate, Constellation could give them a higher market rate because they were not part of the original contract. Trustee Fee said he just wanted to ensure he had done his due diligence for the residents. Trustee Templeton indicated blended rates were bad and Bellish was just a salesman.

Dave Wiley, YWRC, wanted to present letters of support to the Board from Senator Santucci and Dean of Kent State University, as well as expect one from Jason Gray, Superintendent of TCTC, for the company that wanted to utilize the light manufacturing and research at the Research Parkway lot that Kent was proposing to sell.

Keith Grahl, 9710 Kings Graves Road, gave a business presentation and answered trustees’ questions as well as discussed his business plan with the board. Zoning Commission Chairman John Streitferdt indicated that he had a meeting set up to discuss with Julie Green how to meld the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning. He thanked them for coming and answering questions and he was now in favor of their business because they indicated more about the research they were going to do. One of the issues with this is the Trumbull County Highway Engineer’s dispute over the road. Mr. Wiley indicated that they would address this with the Engineer immediately to move this project forward.

Emerine addressed the lack of a “No Engine Brake” designation North on Mahoning from 82-Townline. Working Foreman Davis indicated that was ODOT’s territory. Emerine asked if the township had any authority. Working Foreman Davis was going to call ODOT and as if we could request it.

The board accepted the resignation of Matthew Gebhardt, PT Firefighter/EMT effective immediately. The Police Department thanked RD Banks and Chevy All Stars for a \$7,500.00 donation to the Police department for equipment.

Trustee Emerine announced the WARN system, setup by EMA Director John Hickey. There was a banner present with a QR code and a bunch of business cards on the back table with information on the system. The banner needs to be sent to another community, so please scan and set it up soon!

Public Comment:

Silas Dozier, 5168 Shafer NW, wants an update on the Shafer demolition and asked about the TCTC Construction crew doing work on the new building.

John Streitferdt, 5162 Calla, indicated that there was a need for Deanna Tuttle's resignation to come through and the alternate moved up to the regular board. Indicated that he thought Silas Dozier would be willing. The Board indicated that they had not received a resignation from Deanna Tuttle and they wanted to advertise the opening on the Commission. Send resume/letter of interest to

Fiscaloffice@championtownship.org

John Kiepper, 5289 Sabrina, can the police remove the signs that are against zoning since they are out on the road all the time anyway? Chief Skaggs, police enforce criminal law, zoning is a civil law.

Vanessa Teuscher, 4692 Hummel, had questions to follow up on John Kiepper's comments.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment, hiring, promotion, discipline, compensation and/or termination of a public employee. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to exit executive session. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

2023-17 Trustee Emerine made a motion to appoint Jennifer Kusmierек as a part time Interim Zoning Inspector until April 14, 2023. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on February 21, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Trustee Templeton called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Trustee Templeton addressed that the Tribune had not published any of the announcements that we had on the last agenda and he was concerned that information may not get to the residents.

Announcement: Applications being accepted for alternate to the Zoning Commission. Announcement: Drug Free Workplace Training March 6, at 6:00pm, Tuesday, March 7 at 9:00am. Supervisors training will be Tuesday March 7 at 6pm. These will take place at the Fire Station.

Announcement: Township Cleanup Day will be April 22, 2023 from 8am-2pm at the Township Building. The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District will provide a grant to help offset the cost in the amount of \$7,008.00, obtained by Working Foreman Shawn Davis. No chemicals, no paint and a limit of 8 tires per resident. Please enter the premises from Route 305 and exit to through the Cemetery onto Route 45. "If you have paint or chemicals, please go to the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste website to get instructions for disposal. They will not be accepted in our facility." Identification to prove residency will be required.

Announcement: Champion Community Garage Sale Dates will be chosen tonight (avoid May 13, May 29) Proposed dates May 17-21. We will ask Champion Community Calendar to coordinate this as in the past. The Township will place an ad in the Free Press and Champion Times announcing the dates, but not individual sales.

Announcement: The Board would like to remind the community to get out and support the Champion Rotary Club at their Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 8am-11am at the Champion Presbyterian Church, 4997 Mahoning Ave. Kids games, face painting and free baskets for kids will be available along with the Easter Bunny. The Breakfast cost is \$8, Kids under 6 free with adult purchase.

The Township still has not passed the personnel policies. Trustee Templeton is concerned that they are too boilerplate and would like the next workshop to be for employees to address the personnel policies, while the department heads review them in the meantime. Trustees Fee and Emerine stated that the department heads have already received copies and as long as they understand the collective

bargaining agreements supersede the personnel policies where there is disagreement, there should be no issues. The employees received the copies back in November.

An extensive discussion was held on the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Resolution update to include the proper definition of light industry/manufacturing as this board sees it for the future of Champion as this definition will make a difference in how the Zoning Resolution will be amended and how future development progresses in Champion. Discussion included remarks on conditional use versus permitted uses, etc.

Jason Kish, 5129 Sabrina, explained that he felt the comprehensive plan was the strategic plan and the zoning was the practical application for the strategic plan.

Z2023-18 Trustee Fee made a motion to send the project to Attorney Mark Finamore concerning the 231 acres on Research Parkway as light manufacturing definition to match the comprehensive plan definition and to prepare a resolution for passage by the Board on March 6, 2023. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Follow up discussion was with concerns about the map for the proposed light manufacturing site on 16 acres as Trustee Templeton did not recall seeing which parcel the company had chosen.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the resignation of Deanna Tuttle from the Zoning Commission effective February 7, 2023 and thank her for her service. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Z2023-19 Trustee Emerine made a motion to appoint John Kiepper to Deanna Tuttle's unexpired term on the Zoning Commission. John has been an alternate and will move to a regular member of the commission. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Fiscal Officer Hatt addressed the trustee participation at Trumbull County Engineer's Annual Dinner on May 2. RSVPs are requested.

Trustee Chairman Templeton will attend the Health Department Advisory Council Wednesday, March 8, will appoint Emerine if the Chairman is unable to attend.

Reminder: Doug and Courtney to attend TIRC meeting.

G2023-20 trustee Fee made a motion to enjoin the additional National Opioid Settlement contracts, due by April 18, 2023. Emerine seconded. Discussion held that the chiefs need to use the money, \$7500 collected thus far, to help the community with opioid education and Narcan was already being received for free from UH. Looking for other ways to spend the money. No timetable for spending the funds, so they will also check with the school on doing the education side of it.

Trustee Fee brought up the email he received from Tom Bellish, Trumbull County Gas Aggregation broker, who states that the township needs to accept a rate for newcomers in case there are some who have not been added as well as those who are having trouble getting in. Trustee Templeton said the market is lower and the Board does not need to adopt a blended rate or another rate, the customers who want in are in and leave it alone but it is good to keep an eye on it. Trustee Emerine wanted to pass the rate to ensure that there was an option for those who did not have another options. No motion made.

There is a records request which requires legal counsel review and input that the insurance is willing to cover but the Trustees have handed it off to Attorney Mark Finamore. Trustee Fee discussed the use of the Trumbull County Prosecutor, but he was unavailable. Chairman Templeton believes Fiscal Officer Hatt has stated there is a lawsuit just because it is from an attorney. Trustee Fee is willing to let Attorney Finamore handle it if he is comfortable. Trustee Emerine believes since the records relate to Attorney Finamore the request should go to another party. Fiscal Officer Hatt does not understand why we would pay Attorney Finamore for something that is covered by the insurance. There has not been a premium increase much and the Board has used the insurance for other issues. A verbal vote, no motion, indicated that the Board will use Attorney Finamore to address the public records request unless he chooses to recuse himself at some point.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer