

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on March 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.

The approval of the February minutes was tabled by the Chairman until the March 21 meeting as he did not receive the email with the minutes attached.

The Chairman called for a motion to accept the financial reports of February 2023. Trustee Fee made the motion. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Announcement: The Senior Citizens Advisory Council is hosting its first “Swing Into Spring” since 2019 on April 20th, at the PreK-8 Cafetorium at 6pm. Look for upcoming announcements to get tickets. Residents are encouraged to attend this special event. The Champion High School Jazz Band will be a special treat for the evening. Mark your calendars and bring a friend or two!

P2023-21 Trustees discussed the “jake brake” problem on Route 45 and 82 extensively. Trustee Emerine made a resolution declaring Mahoning Avenue, South from Bristol Champion Townline Road to the Warren Township line a “No Engine Brake” designation. This is required for ODOT to designate and place signs. The resolution will be forwarded by the Chief of Police to ODOT. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2023-22 Trustees discussed the “jake brake” problem on Route 45 and 82 extensively. Trustee Emerine made a resolution declaring State Route 82 from half a mile west of the Rt 82/45 interchange, both directions, and acceleration/deceleration ramps and interchanges to North Park Avenue a “No Engine Brake” designation. This is required for ODOT to designate and place signs. The resolution will be forwarded by the Chief of Police to ODOT. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2023-23 Trustee Fee made a resolution regulating traffic on the property located at 5759 Mahoning Ave through to Route 305 West a “No Thoroughfare” zone under ORC 4511.12 “Avoiding Intersections” violations. Signs to be pasted at the driveways on Route 45 and the driveway at Rt 305. There are many people cutting through to avoid the light now that the school is no longer there and it is becoming very dangerous. Emerine seconded. Placing a gate at the Route 305 entrance was also discussed as well as possibly borrowing a digital lighted sign from the state to place on the property. Passed unanimously. *A typographical error on the agenda listed this as 5975, not 5759. Trustees were clear that it was the township property located at 5759 Mahoning in their discussions.

A request for a motion to submit a BWC grant for a woodchipper was tabled until Working Foreman Davis could provide a dollar amount the township would be responsible for funding.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the EMS Grant in the amount of \$743 towards the purchase of an MDT for the Fire Chief. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

F2023-24 Trustee Fee made a motion to make a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1099. In the 2192-760-700 Fire Equipment fund line item towards the purchase of the MDT, using EMS Grant of \$743. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

The Board tabled a discussion and motion on appointment of a Zoning Commission Alternate due to the fact that Chairman Streitferdt stated that Commissioner Secretary Berkhouse will not renew her term at the end of the year and the commission has no one on it currently who is able to commit to the task. Mr. Dozier has withdrawn his application as he does not have this ability. Fiscal Officer Hatt will check with the other applicant to find out if he is able to commit to the secretary position.

G2023-25 Trustee Fee made a motion to approve moving the balance of the Huntington Money Market funds to STAROHIO and close the Huntington account. Star Ohio is getting interest 10% better than Huntington. The Balance is approximately \$7,100.00 and Huntington will begin charging a monthly fee to keep the account open. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Z2023-26 see attached. Afterward, Zoning Commission Chairman Stretiferdt told the trustees that Zoning Inspector Fonce was in the process of amending the Zoning Map on the Planning Commission records and they would like to complete the project so he is requesting that the Interim Zoning Inspector continue the project.

Z2023-27 Trustee Fee made a motion to transfer \$15,000 to the Zoning Fund from the General Fund. The account balance as of February 28, 2023 is \$17,476.02. Trustees opted to not do \$25,000 and asked Fiscal Officer Hatt questions regarding the expenditures necessary. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

R2023-28 Trustee Fee made a motion to purchase crack patch from DJL materials for up to \$5,700 to complete crack patching in 2023. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2023-29 Trustee Fee made a motion to hire Jonathan Ball as a part-time police officer, pending preemployment background check, drug screen, psychological evaluation and submission of OPOTA Credentials. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

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. All employees are required to attend. These will take place at the Fire Station. John Stretiferdt, Zoning Commission Chairman asked whether or not the Zoning Board were required to attend. They did not realize this but he will alert him when he leaves the meeting. Consultant Lewis can provide alternate times and dates for attendance.

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 will be required for proof of residency.

Announcement: Champion Community Garage Sale Dates set for may 17-21, 2023. Champion Community Calendar will be handling the sign ups.

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.

Old Business:

Architect Update from Working Foreman Davis, Trustee Fee discussed in absence of WF Davis. All department heads and any personnel who would like to discuss the personnel policies are asked to attend the March 21 workshop.

Trustee Templeton brought up a quote and information that he had obtained with regard to the park, pickleball courts and a pavilion for the old Central property. He also mentioned a walking trail and condensing the playground to accommodate the pickleball courts near the playground and the grassy area. His quote of \$33,000.00 did not include fencing and was from someone doing some work in Hudson, Hanshumacher. He will put together packets for the other trustees. The other trustees were surprised to hear this information as Trustee Templeton had not mentioned it to them.

Trustee Fee shared concerns with the prevailing wage clause required by the Federal government for using the ARP money. Trustee Fee brought up parking concerns with already crowded parking during soccer season. Trustee Fee was concerned about the depth of the foundation for the pickleball courts. Trustee Fee had previously priced properly completed courts at \$115,000.

Chief Saggs report was turned in to the trustees in his absence for training at the state.

Working Foreman Davis turned in his report in his absence.

Interim Zoning Inspector Kusmirek asked for patience as she is getting through the backlog of calls she has received.

Chief Dempsey presented his report with a reminder to check/change your smoke alarm batteries when residents Spring Ahead.

F2023-30 Trustee Fee made a motion to purchase the Stryker ProCare Onsite and Preventive Maintenance onsite contract for the Lucas and LifePak15s in annual installments of \$4,923.28 for four years, totaling \$19,693.13. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee brought up the possibility of ARP funding from the Trumbull County Commissioner Denny Malloy. Fee, Emerine and Cindee Mines all contributed to the discussion. One possible project mentioned was Educational Highway. Discussion will continue at the workshop meeting on March 21. Fee provided packets for the trustees from the applications on the county website. Commissioner Malloy advised the townships to apply for smaller projects that can be completed within the appropriate timeframe.

Public Comment:

Jack besse, 397 Durst Drive, had comments about desiring a lefthand turn lane entering Route 305 East and West from Route 45. Trustee Fee will look in to this by calling ODODT, but stated concerns with the narrow setback of the current properties at the intersection. He also stated that he knew that the state had discussed widening the road along that section but the project may have been delayed.

Steve Rhoads, Statler Ridge HOA President, asking for the township to take on the maintenance for these private roads. He said Shawn was looking into it but he had been asked by the residents to check again. He gave his phone number and stated that he had zoning complaints about 4 months ago and had never gotten a call back from Zoning Inspector Fonce about those. Interim Zoning Inspector Kusmirek will see what she can find and contact him. He also stated that the website said the meeting was at the admin building rather than the school so he went to the wrong place.

Cindee Mines, 210 Glendola, has called ODOT about sidewalks down Route 45 but has not had a return phone call. Would like the trustees to inquire. Also, she wanted to tell the trustees that there is a special spray that can be used on the grave markers in the Cemetery called DZ Spray that comes in gallon jugs and can restore the etching/sandblasting. The Vienna Historical Society recently advertised their success with the project on their website.

Sials Dozier, 6158 Shafer, wanted an update on 6149 Shafer.

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.

Announcement: Applications being accepted for alternate to the Zoning Commission. Discussion was held on appointing an alternate, regardless of whether or not they were interested in the secretary position. Zoning Commissioner Richard Berry was present and mentioned concerns that he had on the subject.

Announcement: Township Cleanup Day will be April 22, 2023 from 8am-2pm at the Township Building. 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. Trustee Templeton asked about student volunteers and Working Foreman Davis was instructed to only

have a handful of students for liability purposes. Trustee Emerine questioned if the township should have a truck available that could take paint over to the GTSWD building as they had provided last year.

Announcement: Champion Community Garage Sale Dates are set on May 17-21. Champion Community Calendar will 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.

G2023-1A Trustee Fee made a motion to amend G2023-1 to change the meeting originally scheduled for July 3 to July 10 due to the Fourth of July holiday. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-30 Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the purchase of additional storage from Carbonite at a cost of \$299 for the remaining 15 months of the contract. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Emerine requested to further discuss personnel policies in executive session rather than set a date for employees to acknowledge receipt of them.

G2023-31 Trustee Fee made a motion to renew the JED LLC contract at a cost of \$60 per hour during business hours and \$90 per hour for non-business hours. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-32 Trustee Fee made a motion to adopt supplemental appropriations in the general fund in the amount of \$66000, due to a typographical error in the original appropriation spreadsheet. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources dated March 9, 2023, in the amount of \$6,086,764.73, accepting appropriation changes made at the March 6 meeting.

Trustees discussed submitting ARP projects to the county for funding. Several projects were mentioned, including water projects to the township building and to undeveloped areas, Educational Highway, an ambulance, and a generator for the police department. The consensus was to form a list of projects and vote on them, submitting no more than three (3), on the advice of Commissioner Malloy, who expected there to be about \$7 million in money for townships. Trustee Templeton believes that getting water to new areas to entice developers is going to increase our tax base.

Trustee Fee discussed a brief synopsis of House Bill 1 currently in infancy in the Ohio House, affecting property tax valuations. Templeton wants to see the state, federal and county give more money to us, not take it away.

Discussion was held on the Metroparks levy and the desire for a park in Champion. Much of the Metroparks land was purchased using grants but they had no forethought on maintaining the land and now they are asking for way too much money, Fee stated.

Trustee Emerine addressed an "anonymous letter" sent to the township, portions of which he read aloud and defended himself, the Board as a whole, and Fiscal Officer Hatt personally, from the allegations made in the letter. He requested that any resident who felt in such a manner come and discuss these topics with the Board openly, rather than making accusations that were unfounded, without the whole story or without the proper understanding of being stewards of taxpayer funds. Emerine also reminded the writer that "stupid Doug" is not the only person in the room with a vote and most action only takes two, so the other trustees could override anything Emerine voted down. Trustee Templeton had not read the letter yet. Trustee Fee threw it away since it was unsigned and he could not be sure it was even a resident who wrote it.

Public Comment:

Jim Latimer, 1029 Prentice, had questions on the opinion of each trustee with regards to the park project as there has been no movement on it in the last year. He also questioned whether or not Chief Dempsey had already submitted for a grant for the ambulance during the ARP discussion.

Trustee Templeton outlined his desire to add pickleball courts and a quarter mile gravel walking path around the fields on the old school property. He is still preparing packets for the other trustees on the park with attainable, doable and executable items.

Trustee Emerine does not technically care which property but has pros and cons with both. Paring lots concerns, losing a year of soccer season, cost of moving to a new property, lak of realistic, affordable ideas from the community. Ideas like splash pads and community pools are just not feasible. Bring me realistic ideas.

Trustee Fee due to inflation issues, the park project has grown to \$1.1-\$1.2 million from the original design, but cautions that anything worth doing is going to take time. Would like to add fencing and a track, but it needs done in phases, and needs a board dedicated to improving it year after year.

Vanessa Teuscher, 4692 Hummel, had questions on an abandoned house at 4711 Hummel.

Trustee Templeton announced a short recess before going in to executive session for purpose of 121.22(G)6, full purpose read aloud.

Trustees failed to make a motion to enter executive session upon return from recess.

Trustees discussed the security concern in open session.

Trustees discussed negotiations and staffing in the police department.

Trustee Emerine disbursed Benefit Renewal packets to the trustees and fiscal officer. The Board discussed the impact of the increase.

Trustees discussed the disposition of a vehicle in the fire department.

Trustees discussed the economic impact potential of House Bill 1 on the ability of the Township to fund future staffing and other departmental needs should the state make major changes.

Trustee Fee is going to check with the Prosecutor's office on the proper legality of disposing of the fire department vehicle.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer