

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on February 7, 2022 at 6:30p.m. at the Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order, absent Trustee Templeton who arrived at 6:40pm.

The department heads gave their respective reports. Officer Mackey requested to use his equipment funds of \$750.00 for purchase of a thermal imager at a cost of \$600. The Board would like to research this further as they had recently purchased a thermal imager on a grant for the Fire Department at a cost of over \$7,000.00 and their were concerns about quality. (Brittany and Jason Schwab, 525 Towson, comments about the grievances and officer safety). The Trustees requested that the PD report snow piles that are interfering with the ability to see to the Road Department so that they can be redistributed as there have been reports of accidents due to people not being able to see around them.

Chief Dempsey gave his report. Trustee Templeton asked how many mutual aid calls the department has responded to thus far.

Working Foreman Davis said that Educational Drive was potentially on the docket to pass off to Champion Township by the Trumbull County Commissioners at their upcoming meeting Wednesday at 11:30am. Rumors have it that County had been meeting with the hospital and the Engineer's department. Zoning Inspector Fonce indicated that the Planning Commission was trying to set a meeting date for the parties to coordinate with Mercy Health.

Working Foreman Davis gave an update on the potential of a building in the Road/Police department. He said he heard back from the county no floor drains are necessary for this structure and he had no information on the electrical.

Zoning Inspector Fonce gave an update that one of the owners of 287 Center St East had died so it may be sitting in probate before the township can take further action or before it can be sold. She is seeking 505.86 on 455 Prentice Rd, awaiting the health department and fire department inspections to be complete.

Trustee Fee gave an update on the property at Refractory Drive after Dempsey and Fonce mentioned it in their reports. The site evaluation was conducted while Fee was present. Shawn Carver at the Trumbull County Land Bank is confident that it will get funded for cleanup. There was misinformation given to the State about the actual clean up during the Brownfield Remediation grant.

Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the January minutes as submitted. Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Fee yes, Templeton no, with a right to make corrections if needed when he reads later. Trustee Fee objected and told Trustee Templeton that he could not just make corrections without getting the minutes reapproved by the rest of the Board. Trustee Emerine and Trustee Fee expressed their displeasure at the fact that the minutes from clear back to November have not yet been reviewed and approved. Trustee Templeton questioned why the minutes were being done the way they were. Fiscal Officer Hatt stated there was a motion on the books from 2018 dispensing with the reading of the minutes. Trustee Fee offered to rescind the motion for the January minutes if Trustee Templeton came prepared at the March meeting to approve all the minutes on the table. Trustee Emerine stated that the minutes of all the meetings that were outstanding would be read aloud during the meeting and voted on one by one. Fee made a motion to rescind the approval of the January minutes. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

(Tom Tracey interjected that some buildings can be purchased in wholesale packages and the trustees should look into that.)

The trustees acknowledged the receipt of preliminary financial worksheets for December 2021 and January 2022.

**G2022-12** Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the 2021 inventory. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Z2022-13** Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint Justin Martin to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the term ending 12/31/2026. Emerine seconded. Emerine yes, Fee yes, Templeton no due to believing there is a conflict of interest.

**Z2022-14** Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint John Kiepper to the Zoning Commission for the term ending 12/31/2026. Emerine seconded. Zoning Commissioner John Streitfrenrdt interjected that he should be an alternate and only for one year. Trustee Fee accepted the amendment, passed unanimously. Templeton seconded the amended motion. Passed unanimously.

A potential MOU between the Township and the IAFF was discussed at length with regards to promoting two captains without testing. Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the IAFF MOU. The motion died for a lack of second.

**R2022-15** Trustee Fee made amotion to allow Trumbull County Engineer’s Office to advertise for bids for the 2022 OPWC project. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

A lengthy discussion on hiring a full time fire fighter to replace Chief Dempsey who was promoted from within. Trustee Templeton cited Guzman and Champion who faced a similar issue. Trustee Fee said this is not a Champion only issue, we cannot continue to sit on the issue. Trustee Emerine stated that the situation is worse than we think it is and it is bad to do nothing. There was concern over the only applicant being an EMT and needing to go to school, which would also create overtime shifts. Discussion was held on the way Dempsey was hired while almost complete with school versus someone who was just starting since the IAFF contract not having an EMT wage in the contract.

(Tom Tracey, who refused to give his house number on Glendola, talked about the trustees researching making a fire district back in his day.)

The Police Department reported having no applications for hiring additional personnel at this time.

**G2022-16** Fiscal Officer Hatt indicated that Huntington was going to start charging the Township for having an inactive account if there was no movement in the money market. Trustee Fee made a motion to transfer \$100 into the money Market from the Primary Checking account. Trustee Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Richard Berry, 5171 Calla, was in favor of the increased wage for police and stated that he doesn’t see how we can NOT raise taxes with the economy the way it is. Emerine and Fee commented about the school replacement levy versus the cost of our replacement levy.

No one else, since they all interjected during the meeting

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees canceled a meeting not advertised by the Tribune on Monday, February 21, 2022.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a Special Meeting on February 24, 2022 at 5pm in the Champion High School Community Room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:10pm, awaiting the arrival of Trustee Templeton who was late.

The Board discussed briefly a lawsuit against the township and the dilemma of conducting the business of the township when the tribune said they do not have to advertise our meetings, but the prosecutor says the advertisement must reach the public, in reference to the lac of advertising the meeting on Monday.

The members of the Fire Union were present to discuss the issues in the fire department, hoping to come to an agreement on the MOU previously presented to them by the Fire Chief. The Union was frustrated that no decision had been made. Trustee Emerine corrected that he made the motion and no one else was in favor, which he felt was a resounding decision. The Board had concerns over MOUs becoming habitual and lack of understanding why Article 13 was present in a contract for such a small department. There was discussion on cost of testing, morale and the length of time the position has been open. Chief Dempsey will write a follow up letter to the trustees to present the facts to them and the Board can revisit on the next regular meeting. In the event the motion were to be made again and die, this would be a dead issue. That would lead to the testing taking place. Trustee Emerine asked Quiggle if he were to test and pass would he take the position of Captain. Bland did not feel that was fair to ask of him. While the debate got heated on both sides, the Union and the Trustees parted professionally.

The Trustees and Union had concerns over the full time hiring in the fire department to replace Captain Dempsey who had been promoted to Chief. Trustees addressed that we only had one outside applicant and one part time internal applicant who was not qualified. The Board briefly discussed a training reimbursement program that the candidate was agreeable to and had signed. The Union stated that if presented the opportunity there would be two other part time EMTs who would be able to take the training and become paramedics, but had not applied for the open full time position because they did not believe they were qualified.

A disciplinary matter was briefly discussed with regard to a part time member of the fire department. The trustees were in agreement to have Fire Chief Dempsey handle it as he saw fit.

The trustees gave the Fiscal Officer the go ahead to schedule the Zoning Public Hearing within the required timeframe and advertise the meeting.

The trustees addressed the possibility of having a second regular monthly meeting to overcome issues with advertising concerns.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer