

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on January 10, 2022 at 6:30p.m. at the township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Fiscal Officer Hatt called the meeting to order with a full board present. *This meeting was originally set for January 3, but due to several employees with covid or Covid exposure, the meeting was postponed until their quarantine was over.*

Fiscal officer Hatt called for a nomination for a Chairman. Trustee Templeton nominated Trustee Emerine. Trustee Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Fiscal officer Hatt turned the meeting over to the new Chairman, who called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Trustee Fee nominated Trustee Templeton. Trustee Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2022-1 see attached Sunshine Laws Motion.

The department heads gave their respective reports. Important notes: Trustees set a date for the Clean Up Day on April 23, 2022. The Community Garage Sale dates were set for May 19-22, 2022. Garage sale fees will be collected for all other sales this year.

C2022-2 Trustee Templeton made a motion to rescind the Cemetery grant contract awarded to Heritage Fencing, C2021-112, due to an increase in material cost twice since the original quote. Working Foreman Davis is going to look in to alternative materials sources, consider his department installing the fence themselves, or asking the grant committee to allow them to use the money for a different project. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2022-3 Trustee Fee made a motion to increase the part time police officer wage to \$15.00 per hour. Much discussion surrounding what other departments pay, whether or not the officers have experience, etc. Emerine seconded. Templeton yes, Emerine yes, Fee yes.

G2022-4 Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint the Township Legal Counsel Letson & Swader Co., LPA and Law Office of Cherry Poteet and Turner, May and Shepherd (Atty Mark Finamore) at \$150.00, \$125.00, and \$100.00/hr. respectively on an as needed basis. Reminder that the Trumbull County Prosecutor is the statutorily appointed counsel for the Township and their services are provided free of charge. Reminder: township employee must have the permission of TWO (2) trustees to utilize legal counsel services. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2022-5 Trustee Fee made a motion to approve membership in the Ohio Township and Trumbull Township Associations, and attendance of the annual State Association Conferences, County meetings and payment of expenses for Trustees and Fiscal Officer and any department heads as associate membership. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2022-6 Trustee Fee made motion to establish the 2022 mileage reimbursement rate for approved travel expenses of Township Officials and employees. The current rate is set at \$.585 per mile, the IRS rate. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2022-7 Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint the Audit committee for a one (1) year term commencing January 1, 2022 of, Trumbull County Budget Commission and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint the Township Records Commission for 2022: Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Fiscal Officer and the Trumbull County Auditor. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

F2022-8 Trustee Templeton made a motion to approve the IAFF contract Emerine seconded. Fee abstain. Emerine yes, Templeton yes. Fee due to his not being a part of negotiations.

A motion to request an MOU to the IAFF contract to waive the testing for captain for the two open positions was tabled due to some confusion.

A motion to advertise for an open firefighter/paramedic position was tabled. There is an internal posting and there was one applicant. Chief Dempsey would like to have a discussion on using the part time training policy that was requested from Legal Counsel to hire the part time applicant in to a full time position. Trustees will discuss in a workshop.

Z2022-11 Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint Deanna Tuttle to the Zoning Commission for a five year term, ending December 31, 2026. Deanna has been serving as an alternate and will replace Rob Gavazzi who asked not to be renewed. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Justin Martin to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term, ending December 31, 2026 was tabled. Trustee Templeton stated concerns over conflicts of interest by having an employee on he Zoning Board. Trustee Emerine stated that he did not believe it was a conflict of interest as much as it was nepotism, but trustee Fee stated since he was the only applicant it did not make sense to not appoint him. This will be discussed at the workshop further. The opening was created due to Gloria Martinek who served on the Board from January 7, 1987 through December 31, 2021 retiring. Laura Fike has been serving as the alternate and has asked to remain as an alternate for this year.

Fiscal Officer Hatt presented information on the AFSCME Union having issues they want handled by the Board. Chuck Neff has increased rent on the property where the Township stores off-season equipment, but is also considering terminating the rental agreement in the Spring.

Public Comment

None

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a Special Meeting on January 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present, Fiscal Officer Hatt attended virtually.

Trustee Fee made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the fire department personnel. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustees Emerine made a motion to exit Executive Session. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustees worked to Create an RFP for a Storage Building t replace the Neff's Landing storage.

Suggested dimensions included:

6- 14'x14' garage doors, 3 man doors, 120 L 'x40'W x 16' H Road , add section for police 30' x 40' with 3-10'x10' garage doors. Upstairs above Police could be loft for storage items, if built to 16' instead of 10.

Trustees discussed issues with Shawn's pay rate because he wants \$27.00 per hour rather than the AFSCME approved contracted amount of \$25.00 per hour. Trustees Templeton and Fee approved Shawn posting a job posting with his job at \$27 per hour on the union board over Trustee Emerine's objections that it was already negotiated and the rest of the employees would call unfair labor practice. Currently, Working Foreman Davis is getting paid \$25.00 per hour plus 5 hours of overtime in order to make up he difference of his desired negotiated rate of \$27.00 per hour. Trustee Fee is uncomfortable with the way the overtime is being used to bring him up to \$27 an hour, which was orchestrated by the previous board. Davis also would like to have it reported properly as \$27.00.

The Board will handle giving directions to Bednar through Rex Fee, due to his current position as seated trustee and his engineering background; this job was previously former Trustee Brian Bugos'.

The Park Advisory Board topic was forwarded by former Trustee Bugos as looking for direction on picking members.

Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint Justin Martin to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Point Of Order- Templeton- Motions can't be made in workshops, discussions only. Fiscal Officer Hatt stated that there is no such thing as a meeting where you cannot vote, should you choose. Trustee Templeton stated since Fiscal officer Hatt was confused, she better call the prosecutor in the morning and get it straightened out. Fiscal Officer Hatt stated she had no confusion, she had the legal opinion already and it did not need to be postponed.

Fiscal Officer Hatt stated that the Trumbull County Auditor Rate Resolution due to updated information had to be passed ASAP, and could not wait. Trustees agreed to hold an emergency meeting to handle these agenda items if acceptable to the prosecutor for having meetings. Fiscal Officer Hatt stated that again, there is no problem with the advertisement of the meetings and there is no problem with voting in any meeting. The problem lied in the scheduling of the next meeting because Trustee Templeton was unavailable for meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Trustee Emerine was unavailable for meetings on Friday and the deadline for the auditor to send out bills and the election board and prosecutor for the police replacement levy was fast approaching and a second meeting would need held before February 1 for the levy.

Trustee Templeton agreed to allow Trustee Fee and Emerine hold an emergency or special meeting on these topics in his absence.

Information on the police levy was read aloud during this time.

Having found it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation a REPLACEMENT tax for the providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications and other equipment used directly in the operation of a police department, or the payment of salaries of permanent police personnel, including the payment of policeman's employer's contribution required under Section 742.33 of the Revised Code at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar valuation for a period of five years, beginning with the tax year 2022. Said tax REPLACEMENT levy shall be submitted to the electors of Champion Township in the PRIMARY election to be held on MAY 3, 2022.

Informational items not discussed but on the agenda: moving meetings back to school- approved by Superintendent Meeting with Soccer, February 1, 2022 @ 7pm- soccer Board available.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a Special Meeting on January 20, 2022 at 2:00 p.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.

G2022-9 see attached Trumbull County Rate Resolution.

G2022-10 Trustee Fee made a motion having found it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation a REPLACEMENT tax for the providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications and other equipment used directly in the operation of a police department, or the payment of salaries of permanent police personnel, including the payment of policeman's employer's contribution required under Section 742.33 of the Revised Code at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar valuation for a period of five years, beginning with the tax year 2022. Said tax REPLACEMENT levy shall be submitted to the electors of Champion Township in the PRIMARY election to be held on MAY 3, 2022. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Fiscal Officer Hatt expressed a desire for the board to act on the other agenda items from the previous meeting. Trustees Fee and Emerine stated that Templeton requested they only take action on the tax issues that were time sensitive without him.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion township Board of Trustees met in special session at the Township Administration Building on January 27, 2022 at 11:30am (meeting did not start until 11:50 due to Trustee Emerine misunderstanding information previously given him and needing to get it clarified before his arrival.)

Fiscal Officer Hatt presented the information from the Trumbull County Auditor on the Police Replacement levy. Trustee Fee stated that he felt that since Trustee Templeton was unable to attend either meeting and the Board needed to be in unison when placing a levy on the ballot, it was not a good idea to proceed now with the levy and to wait until the General Election in the fall. Trustee Emerine had several calls about the meeting today to find out what the price difference was with the current levy and this levy, which was not information that had been requested from the auditor's office yet. Trustee Fee also felt that this discussion on a replacement levy had begun prior to his term and he did not feel he had been read in on the Board's plan for the COPS grant and wanted to see a spreadsheet to explain to the public why we were asking for more money, especially at a time when the school has such a large replacement on.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer