

Record of proceedings Book for Champion Township Board of Trustees 2022-2025 *1:*

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in a special meeting on January 9, 2023 at 5:30p.m. at the Champion 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.

Trustee Fee made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of consideration of employment, hiring and compensation of a public employee. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Templeton made a motion to exit executive session and recess until the regular meeting at 7:00 at the Champion High School Community room.

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 met in Regular Meeting on January 9, 2023 at 7:00p.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 Fiscal Officer called for nominations for Chairman. Trustee Fee nominated Trustee Templeton. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Trustee Emerine nominated Trustee Fee. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-1** Sunshine Law Motion (see attached) Trustee Fee made the motion, Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-2** Trustee Fee made a motion to rehire all department heads and all part time employees at their current rate of pay. Templeton seconded. **Emerine no, Fee yes, Templeton yes.**

**G2023-3** Trustee Emerine made a motion to appoint the Township Legal Counsel Letson & Swader Co., LPA, Law Office of Cherry Poteet, Turner, May and Shepherd\_ 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 employees must have the permission of TWO (2) trustees to utilize legal counsel services.** Brief discussion on the way that department heads would know which attorney to contact and about the services of Tonya Rodgers, Baker, Beck and Wiley, who is on a special contract. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-4** Trustee Emerine 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. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-5** Trustee Emerine made a motion to establish the 2023 mileage reimbursement rate for approved travel expenses of Township Officials and employees. The current rate is set at \$.655 per mile, the IRS rate. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-6** Trustee Emerine made a motion to appoint the Audit committee for a one (1) year term commencing January 1, 2023 of, Trumbull County Budget Commission and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-7** Trustee Emerine made a motion to reappoint John Kiepper as alternate on the Zoning Commission for a two year term commencing January 1, 2023 and Laura Fike as alternate for a 5 year term to the Board of Zoning Appeals, terms commencing January 1, 2023.

**G2023-8** Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources in the amount of \$6,024,042.03 dated December 7, 2022. (Fiscal year 22022.) Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-9** Trustee Emerine made a motion to appoint the Township Records Commission for 2023: Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and the Trumbull County Auditor. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-10** Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources in the amount of \$6,049,344.79 dated December 19, 2022. (Fiscal year 2022.) Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**G2023-11** Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the 2022 Annual ODOT Mileage Certification in the amount of 41.385, reflecting no changes from prior years. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

The department heads gave their respective reports.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the resignations of part time fire fighters Kyle Maffitt, Thomas Rush, and Robert Hawk and thank each of them for their service to the department during their tenure.

Fire Department staffing issues remain critical. A recent Tribune article outlined Champion as fourth busiest but having the least amount of full time staff as well as the fewest buildings and small number of trucks to respond. Chief Dempsey was instructed to discuss financials with the Fiscal Officer and come to a workshop so that the Board could weigh the options to present to the public. Education payments for part timers was also discussed. Trustees unanimously turned down an education program for a part time firefighter to become a paramedic.

Chief Skaggs is concerned about long term continuing the Lexipol policies in his department at a rate of \$5,400 per year. Chief Skaggs also thanked Fire Department employee Quiggle for taking time to assist with some computer programming to save the Police department a significant amount of money. Trustee Emerine asked that Dempsey pass on thanks from the Board for this!

Zoning Inspector Fonce gave the Zoning Amendment book to Chairman Templeton to set a hearing date and outlined the process.

Trustee Emerine questioned a Zoning Variance Application submitted for 4050 Brookside.

Working Foreman Davis thanked Nancy Shafer for the use of her flush truck.

Working Foreman Davis reported that there has been no heat due to a broken gas line in the administration office area. Emerine and Fee gave permission for Trustee Templeton to make contacts to get it fixed ASAP, using the best quote method. Working Foreman David requested a ProLink scanner. Trustee Emerine, considered an expert in vehicle maintenance and repair, spoke on the pros and cons of the equipment and the high cost of the equipment.

Under Old Business, an architect update was given about the addition of an area for administration and the cost would vast increase due to the need for fire suppression systems, etc. so the decision was made to return to the original layout. Trustees acknowledged the receipt of the December Financial statements and approved the minutes from November 2022 and December 2022.

Trustees Emerine and Fiscal Officer Hatt will attend the TIRc Meeting in March.

Request by Julie Green to be available for having a YARS representative come in to the meeting prior to April 1. Now that our meeting dates are approved, send her a list and let her pick the date.

JED LLC Services contract and GovDeals motions were presented to trustees for approval. Tabled until next meeting as they were not available to review earlier.

Trustee Emerine made a formal request to the Board to have the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Resolution match. There are companies interested in working with Champion but the path forward is unclear due to the mismatch between the Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission and the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber are working with Kent State to bring industry to the community but there is conflict because of the mismatch.

**Public Comment:**

Russ Banks, 6097 Mahoning, questioned why a trustee would vote no on an issue and not be requested to give an explanation. Applauded Trustee Emerine for scrutinizing the department heads. Trustee Emerine indicated that he would like to see some changes in the way things are being done.

Silas Dozier, 5168 Shafer, question the progress at the property he has requested demolition on because it has been a long time. Zoning Inspector Fonce said that it could take months.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman requested a vote to adjourn the meeting. Emerine made the motion, Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met at 6:30 PM on January 17, 2023 at the Champion High School Community room to conduct township business, with Fiscal Officer Hatt Absent, pro tempore Jennifer Kusmierek.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept November and December minutes 2022, Trustee Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Chairman Templeton announcement YARS (Youngstown Air Reserve Station) presentation by Julie Green at February 6 meeting. Trustee Fee Stated they are going around to the townships giving a presentation on the requirements because of the radius to the base.

Trustee Fee motion to accept the Amended Official Certification of Estimate Resources dated January 6, 2023 in the amount of \$6,078,404.21. Trustee Emerine Second, passed unanimously.

Trustee Templeton accepted the resignation of Vanessa Teuscher and thanked her for her service, Fiscal Officer Hatt to send a Thank you.

Trustee Emerine, Wanted the people of champion to be aware of the Trumbull County Emergency Notification System, ran by John Hickey. There is a QR Code to sign up for the system. Thank you John Hickey for putting this together.

**G2023-12** Trustee Templeton read to accept the Ohio Revised code 505.10 into the minutes, see attached GovDeals.gov motion

Chief Dempsey reported on the year end and needs of the Dept. Projections are that calls will not slow down. It is only going to get busier with the department being the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest call volume now. Chief Dempsey would like to see 2 more full time and 2 more-part time at this time with continuing discussion about adding more in the future. This is an ongoing conversation on the needs and stresses of the dept.

Trustee Emerine stated go down the road the township needs to really look at this issue. Staff can make more money elsewhere, running less calls and make more in other communities. Champion is a higher volume than most surrounding communities with staff vs call. If the department does not start addressing these issues of needing additional staffing, the township will have problems finding people to come work here. The department needs to start looking at the staffing issues now, cannot wait. The department cannot let everyone's safety in this community go down because the township did not act fast enough. With the aging community it is stressing the services.

Discussion continued on the Fire Dept. staffing and equipment issues and possibility placing a future levy on the ballot. .

**Public comment:**

Mr. Fenstermaker, 393 Center Street Came to the meeting to tell the trustees what Shawn did for him and what a great help Shawn was in the Cemetery. He needed help with 4 little cemetery markers that where wore out, 2 markers where in the civil war era. Two of the markers were laying on the ground and needed to be picked up and replaced properly. Shawn did it and did a wonder job, so Thank you Shawn.

No further comment, the Chairman requested a vote to adjourn the Meeting. Emerine made the motion, Fee seconded, Passed unanimously.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer