

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on July 10, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Vice Chairman Fee called the meeting to order absent Chairman Templeton.

**O2023-63** Trustee Emerine made a motion, per ORC 5705.09(F), establish an Opioid Fund and transfer all funds received from the OneOhio Opioid Settlement(s) into the fund and appropriate the same for OneOhio Opioid Settlement MOU purposes. Amounts received since disbursements began are \$9,616.95. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the State of Ohio Department of Public Safety EMS Grant in the amount of \$731.00 in the Fire/EMS Fund. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**R2023-64** Trustee Emerine made a motion to adopt the OPERS Motion affective July 23, 2023, Head Mechanic PERS Pick Up 5%, Salary Reduction 5%, effective 7/23/2023:

Whereas, pursuant to Federal and Ohio laws, the Champion Township Board of Trustees, may offset future salary increases and “pick up” (assume and pay) the contributions statutorily required by such elected officials and covered employees to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and such individuals will not be required to pay federal and state income taxes on such contributions; and Now therefore be it resolved by the Champion Township Board of Trustees, Ohio, that:

**Section 1:** Effective July 23, 2023 half the amount of the statutorily required employe contributions to OPERS, five per cent (5%) shall be picked up and paid as a fringe benefit by the Champion Township Board of Trustees for each person within any of the classes established in Section 2 herein. The pick-up shall be an offset against future salary increases. This “pick up” by Champion Township Board of Trustees shall be designated as public employee contributions and shall be in lieu of contributions to OPERS by each person within any of the classes established in Section 2 herein. No person subject to this “pick up” shall have the option of choosing to receive the statutorily required contribution to OPERS directly instead of having it “picked up” by the Champion Township Board of Trustees or of being excluded from the “pick up”. The Champion Township Board of Trustees shall, in reporting and making remittance to OPERS, report that the public employees’ contribution for each person subject to this “pick up” has been made as provided by the statute. Therefore, contributions, although designated as employee contributions, are employer-paid, and employees do not have the option to receive the contributions directly. All contributions are paid by the employer directly to the plan.

**Section 2:** The “pick up” by the Champion Township Board of Trustees provided by this resolution shall apply to all persons that are employees of the Champion Township Board of Trustees who are or become contributing members of OPERS with the job title of “Head Mechanic”.

**Section 3:** Under the fringe-benefit method of employer pick up, salary is not modified; however, the employer will pay half (5%) the employee’ statutorily required contribution to OPERS

**Section 4:** Whereas, pursuant to federal and Ohio laws, the federal and state income taxes on a portion of the wages of salaries of the employees of Champion Township Board of Trustees will be deferred if Champion Township Board of Trustees “picks up” (assumes and pays) the contributions statutorily required to be made by such elected officials and covered employees in the OPERS; Whereas the Champion Township Board of Trustees will not incur any additional costs in the picking up of such contributions, under the salary reduction pick up method for the remaining employee share of the statutorily required contributions to OPERS; Whereas the total salary for each employee shall be the salary otherwise payable under the Champion Township’s policies. Such total salary of each employee shall be payable by the Champion Township Board of Trustees in two parts. (a) deferred salary and (b) cash salary. An employees deferred alary shall be equal to half the required statutorily required contributions (5%) which is required from time to time by OPERS to be paid as an employee contribution by that employee, and shall be paid by the Champion Township Board of Trustees to OPERS on behalf of that employee as a pickup in lieu of the OPERS employee contribution otherwise payable by that employee. An employee’s cash salary shall be equal to that employee’s total salary less the amount of the pickup for that employee, and shall be payable, subject to applicable payroll deductions, to that employee. The Champion Township Board of Trustees shall compute and remit its employer contributions to OPERS based upon an employee’s total salary. The total combined expenditures of the Champion Township Board of Trustees for the employees’ total salaries payable

under applicable Champion Township Board of Trustees policies and the pickup provisions of this resolution shall not be greater than the amounts it would have paid for those items had this provision not been in effect.

**Section 5:** The fiscal officer is hereby authorized and directed to implement the provisions of this resolution to institute the “pick up” of the statutorily required contributions to OPERS for those persons reflected in Section 2 herein so as to enable them to have their employee contributions paid by the employer. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

The trustees acknowledge receipt of the financial statements for June 2023

Trustee Emerine made a motion to approve Minutes May and June 2023. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

**SS2023-65** Trustee Emerine made a motion to adopt the Prosecutor’s Motion to proceed including the Auditor’s Certification of Valuation for SS2023-55R. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

The trustees tabled adjustments to appropriation and revenue budgets based on historical use YTD until such time as they could review further.

**O2023-66** Trustee Emerine made a motion to purchase an Opioid cage from TriTech Forensics in the amount of \$7388.97 plus shipping, total not to exceed \$7600, from the OneOhio Opioid Settlement fund for processing fentanyl and other opioids, compatible with purposes outlined the MOU in the OneOhio Settlement Agreement. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

The trustees tabled a motion to authorize Fiscal Officer Hatt to pay the road department employees 40 hours each from the General fund for work performed in all the other departments year to date. They would like to review the legality of the practice.

**R2023-67** Trustee Emerine made a motion to approve the purchase of a used woodchipper from Bickel Landscaping in the amount of \$12,500.00 and make supplemental appropriation of the same from 2031-760-740. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously. Working Foreman Davis stated that he spoke with Trustee Templeton and he was in approval for the purchase.

The department heads gave their respective reports.

Chief Skaggs would like to further discuss the communication issues and the trustees possible use of ARP money. Chief Dempsey stated that the repeaters made a huge difference for his department.

The Zoning Board of Appeals hearing on light manufacturing is on July 18, 2023 at 7pm in the Champion High School Community Room.

Working Foreman Davis stated that the soccer group is having difficulty finding someone to mow and the Road Department has been asked to help. They estimate about 10 hours per week to mow. Discussion was held on having a meeting with CYSL and on the possibility of taking the salary out of the park fund. Road crew spent 4.5 hours with three members cleaning up graffiti. The trustees authorized WF Davis to remove the broken slide.

Per Ron Watson, the township can run water through the township land to the admin building and the new road garage if they combine all the parcels as one. The road crew is authorized to run the water line from the road themselves. Trustee Fee requested that WF Davis also find out what the minimum bill would be because the pipe size may differ and that could cause an increase.

Trustee Fee made a motion to appoint himself as the main OTARMA proxy. Trustees noted that since Trustee Templeton was absent they were unable to volunteer him for the proxy. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee believes that the bid documents have gone to the prosecutor’s office for review and is awaiting their finalization

Trustee Fee provided an update that the Appalachian Grant is expected to be awarded by December 1, 2023. The State and the Metroparks are working cooperatively. The park committee formed a PAC and is starting to advertise on Facebook. All money not used in getting a park levy passed will be transferred in to the Township-held Park fund.

**Public Comment:**

D. Christ, 400 Lauder, questions what the school is doing to help with the communication issue that the police is facing. **Chief Skaggs addressed this.** Christ also asked if there would still be having emergency response services if the levy doesn't pass as she is concerned that residents are being fear-mongered. **Chief Dempsey and Trustees answered that services may be limited, services may be slower than usual, or services may come from another township.** Christ also asked if we could alter the portion of the school's millage to accommodate our safety services? **No, that is illegal the money has to be used for the purposes for which it was passed and the inside milage is already designated.**

B. Johnson, 4681 Verona, what types of calls are we addressing? Elderly is the highest usage, but it can vary by the day and weather. Time is an important factor to consider when funding safety services means that response time is slower. **Emerine reminded folks that it is going to be a matter of priority for other townships, there will come a time when the other townships start screaming about how much they come to Champion when their tax dollars are from their residents. Fee stated it was important to note that the elderly in our community support our schools and consistently pass levies even though they have no children or grandchildren in the district.** Johnson wondered if anyone asked the school for the money to support the communications. **Chiefs stated that it was not just the school that was a problem so getting their money would be illegal.** Johnson wanted to know why Templeton had not been at the last two meetings, when they were so clearly important to the safety services in this community. **Fee and Emerine stated that they had been informed that he was ill.**

S. Capron, 408 Atwood, stated that he felt that it seemed like Templeton did not want to show up and do his job.

D. Christ, 400 Lauder, wanted people to understand that the Trumbull County Auditor/Treasurer's office plans on doing a 30% re-valuation and that should be something that they think about when deciding whether or not they can afford this levy. **Emerine rebutted that it was illegal for the levy to bring in any more than the stated dollar values. FO Hatt concurred and cited Bud McDermott from the Trumbull County Auditor's office, who had made such a comment on Facebook recently.**

Holly Capron, 408 Atwood, inquiring about the status of the sound barrier. **ODOT states 2025-2026** She also questioned the status of the tearing down of the house at Copperweld. **No update.**

S. Dozier, 6158 Shafer, inquiring the house on 6149 Shafer demolition and stated that Gina at the Trumbull County Treasurer's office had said there was \$185,000 in back taxes owed to Champion and we should be pursuing it so we don't need a 5.5 mill levy, so he should not have to carry the burden for deadbeats. Fee and Emerine wanted to give an update but had none. They indicated that the \$185,000 was not all due to the Township and it was a one time shot, whereas the 5.5 mill levy was \$1+ million a year for 5 years.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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Vice Chairman

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Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special meeting on July 24, 2023, at 9:00a.m. at the Attorney Letson's office, 160 E Market St, Warren for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Trustee Templeton called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Trustee Fee made a motion to enter executive session for purpose of 121.22(G)4, full purpose read aloud, inviting OPBA and Attorney Letson. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

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 June 25, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community Room. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

The trustees acknowledged the receipt of the Zoning Amendment Packets on the YARS Compatibility Overlay and set a date for the public hearing August 15, 2023, at 6pm in the Champion High School Community Room.

**G2023-68** Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the increase in revenue and appropriations for the 2023 fiscal year. Revenue budget increase in the amount of \$202,073.00 and appropriations of \$371,165.09, across all funds. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

The Board is still awaiting information on the attorney's approval for the architect update.

The trustees opened the floor to discuss the water problem due to a retention pond on Marshall.

P. Freer 284 Marshall and D. Kittle, 292 Marshall, interchanged information with the trustees about the water retention pond behind the dance studio and the vet clinic on Mahoning/Marshall. Freer stated that he had previously contacted Trustee Templeton and got a load of crap instead of solutions.

WF Davis will get specifications for Marshall about the retention pond.

WF Davis described the penetrate patching process and asked for patience they will come back and clean up on lower traffic roads. The next roads to get penetrate patching are Old Tyme Lane, "the wedge" (Hummel-Woodrow), Airport to fill in the potholes.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter executive session for purpose of 121.22(G)1 and 4, full purpose read aloud. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

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Chairman

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Fiscal Officer