

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on June 5, 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 Park Committee gave a presentation. Tom Hart and Richard Dearth gave a ten slide PowerPoint on bringing a park to Champion. Their goal is to get a levy passed to support the park prior to the trustees having to finalize a decision on the ARP money of which \$250,000 has been set aside as a footprint to start the park. Requested a "shepherd" to guide them from amongst the Board. Trustee Fee thanked them for doing this. He would like further discussion on the soccer fields. Emerine stated that the Central property could be sold should the soccer fields be moved. Fee stated that there may be a need to direct some usage questions to the Prosecutor. Templeton stated that they should ask other park committees about legal counsel. Fee stated that the park committee needs to maintain communication with the Board on their meetings. Their meetings have currently been at Longboyz but they will look at different locales once they grow. Emerine stated that if two or more trustees are present it becomes a formal meeting, so beware inviting the entire board even though it is important to get the whole trustee board's input. Templeton asked if they would have more committee positions as more members come on board. Fee warned against issues of liability as well as the rumor mill and misinformation that will get spread when discussing these issues. Fee agreed to be the "shepherd" aka board liaison.

Chairman Templeton did not bring up the approval of minutes for February, March, and April.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the First Energy Civic Grant in the amount of \$14,437. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to deposit the First Energy Civic Grant in the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund for 2023. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources dated May 26, 2023 in the amount of \$6,236,763.73, accepting the OPWC revenue and appropriations from the May 23 meeting. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

R2023-51 Trustee Fee made a motion to purchase from the Trumbull County Engineer's office 120 ton of limestone at a cost of \$9,000 and tar at cost of \$3.35 per gallon, not to exceed \$5,000. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Thank You for the hard work on the Memorial Day Parade by the Rotary Club of Champion and thank you to all the participants! Thank you to the employees who worked the holiday to make this a success.

Police Chief Skaggs stated that they were already up 1,000 calls over last year and the department needs more staffing. He is advocating for 2 mills. The wages are not crazy high, the department has cut corners for years and needs badly updated. We are the third most populated township and we should have the third highest number of officers. Skaggs went on to list department and staffing in other areas. Skaggs outlined an issue with a 2011 Crown Victoria with 199,000 miles on it and how it was unsafe to drive it 90 miles an hour. Trustee Emerine stated that the Board had infused just short of \$200,000 in Covid relief funds and the department would be broke right now without having done that.

Fire Chief Dempsey stated that the department is doing OK with equipment right now, mainly thanks to former Chief Hickey obtaining hundreds of thousands in grants. The Fire Department problem is staffing. Chief outlined a proposal for a 3.25-3.75 mill levy, which would add three full time staffing. Currently, they are operating unsafe because of short staffing. Chief Dempsey stated that Instead of a levy, other options are to eliminate EMS and just make them a firehouse. But there are no private companies to hire. Another option is proposing a joint district. Fee stated he knows that the

department is running ragged and Chief is passionate from running ragged and concerned about his staff. This is not a Champion only problem. Staffing is an issue and the voters need to decide and the trustees need to give them the option by placing it on the ballot.

Emerine states that we are going to lose staff from running ragged on a shift. There should have already been a levy on the ballot. Joint fire district is the future of EMS but that will take a long time to get up and running so we need to do something now. The We have done all we can.

Templeton is not in favor of combining the levies into one.

Fee states that safety services levy is the way to go because there is more ability to oversee it easier. Emerine thinks a 5.5 mill levy to allow for the purchase of equipment on a rotation.

Templeton is not in favor of sharing the pot between the two departments. These departments need to live within their means.

Fee says that the trustees need to be responsible and not favor one department over the other.

SS2023-52 Trustee Fee motion to declare the necessity of a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation in the amount of 5.5 mills for a 5 year period of time under ORC 5705.19 (JJ) For any or all of the purposes set forth in divisions (I) and (J) of this section. This division applies only to a municipal corporation or a township. (I) For providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; AND (J) For providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, other equipment, buildings, and sites for such buildings used directly in the operation of a police department, for the payment of salaries of permanent or part-time police, communications, or administrative personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.33 of the Revised Code, for the payment of the costs incurred by townships as a result of contracts made with other political subdivisions in order to obtain police protection, for the provision of ambulance or emergency medical services operated by a police department, or for the payment of other related costs; Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Templeton read aloud a statement that stated that he did not feel this was the direction that he wanted them to go but he felt the residents of Champion decide so his vote was simply to allow it on the ballot.

Z2023-53 Trustee Emerine made a motion to declare worthless and remove from Zoning Inventory one lateral 2 drawer filing cabinet, transferred to Fire department. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-54 Trustee Emerine made a motion to declare worthless and remove from fiscal inventory one beige three drawer filing cabinet, one table on wheels, and two black two drawer legal size filing cabinets. Fee seconded. **Trustee Templeton did not want to discard anything fireproof, but Fiscal Officer Hatt declared it unusable as the handles were broken and drawers were difficult to get into. The black fireproof filing cabinet was not declared.** Passed unanimously.

Z2023-55 Trustee Emerine made a motion to declare worthless and remove from zoning Inventory two metal shelves, two partitions and three two drawer vertical filing cabinets. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2023-56 Trustee Emerine made a motion to declare worthless and remove from police inventory a twenty-seven-drawer filing cabinet. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Thank you to Sherrod Brown, the U S EPA and the Trumbull County Land Bank for all of the time spent in providing impressively thorough documentation in order to help obtain the Brownfield grant to

clean up the property at Old Refractory Dr. in the amount of \$918,000.00 to come later this year. Trustee Emerine thanked former trustee Brian Bugos for his review and diligent work in moving the project forward.

G2023-57 Trustee Fee made a motion to abandon the electric aggregate. Since the County's program has been so unbeatable, the broker is recommending this course of action. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

The department heads gave their respective reports. **Templeton had questions on the 1033 (Federal Surplus program.) There was much discussion between the Police chief, Fire Chief and Trustees about the MARCS radio system and communications with the Trumbull County Sheriff's office in emergency situations.**

Public Comment:

G. Lazar, 174 Aspen Dr, questions on aggregation

B. Stocker, 5260 Sabrina, are we paying a part time police officer less than cemetery worker?

B. Johnson, 4651 Verona, questioned EMS wages

Silas Dozier, 6158 Shafer, wanted an update on 6149 Shafer. Has safety concerns about vandalism and liability on the 6149 property. Congratulations and thank you to Brayden McElhinny on the AWESOME flag display that he did for his Eagle Scout project. **Trustees Emerine and Fee stated that it was in just the right spot and it was very well done and a great addition to the Cemetery.**

S. hart, 408 Bristol Champion Townline Rd, believes the trustees made the right decision with the safety services levy on behalf of she, her husband, and the Dearths, who were there as the park committee.

J. Kiepper, 5285 Sabrina, has comments about grass on both sides of Alva and why are we only doing the minimum (Davis interjected that the ORC only requires two mows a year.) Also, questioned what is going on with the black vehicles in the police and fire department. **(Emerine interjected that that was all that was available at the time because the vehicle market was behind when those vehicles were purchased. Many other departments used Covid money to get vehicles and the majority of them were black.)**

J. Kish, 5160 Sabrina, is there some other organization that can get involved in the Shafer situation?

B. Johnson, 4261 Verona, can the trustees turn 6149 Shafer over to the land bank.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on June 9, 2023, at 9:30a.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)6, full purpose read aloud. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special Meeting on June 13, 2023, at 11a.m. at the Champion Township Administration building for the purpose of contract negotiations. Trustee Templeton called the meeting to order with a Trustee Fee calling in understanding he had no ability to vote by not being physically present. Attorney Letson was present to discuss negotiations.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter executive session for purpose of 121.22(G)6, full purpose read aloud, including Attorney Letson. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Attorney Letson and the Board set up a negotiation meeting at Letson's office, tentatively with OPBA representative Jeff Perry for June 26 at 1pm, pending Sgt Wasko's schedule. Board to meet one hour prior.

An intense discussion was held on the healthcare proposal sent in by Rankin & Rankin this morning. This proposal could affect negotiations if it was accurate. The Board will continue to consider it and may hold another meeting to discuss.

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

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on June 16, 2023, at 3:30p.m. at the Champion Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Trustee Templeton called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Broker Rob Green, Alberini Insurance was present. There was intense discussion with broker about the proposal Rankin and Rankin sent in. Rob Green states that he can do everything that Rankin can do but he is local and loyal. Also that a level funded plan is way more risky than a traditional plan.

Trustees question whether or not they could even accept a proposal with a different date. Concerns over changes in health conditions in the group since the original forms were filled out.

Issue of COBRA needing completed by June 30 for two former employees. Green stated that he was unaware of this. One former employee received the paperwork but it was blank, so the wrong amount was collected. Also one employee had not yet been terminated from the plan. Green stated he did not know it needed done. He would do that from his car after the meeting.

Templeton requested a motion to put this to bed so Rankin would stop coming for our business. Emerine says no motion is needed to tell the vendor no.

G2023-58 Trustee Fee made a motion to authorize Benefits Administrator Templeton to tell Tony Palandrani of Rankin and Rankin that the Board was not interested in going with his plan and did not want him to do anything further with the benefits until the Board put out for new proposal requests. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee motioned to adjourn the meeting. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on June 20, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Champion High School Community Room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order absent trustee Templeton.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to accept the February, March, and April Minutes. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the financial statements for March and May. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

SS2023-52A Trustee Emerine made a motion to rescind the SS2023-52 passed at the June 5, 2023 meeting due to administrative changes requested by the prosecutor. Passed unanimously.

SS2023-52R The Board of Trustees of Champion Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, met in regular session on the 20th day of June, 2023 at 5976 Mahoning Ave. NW, Warren, OH 44481 with the following members present:

Mr. Douglas Emerine

Mr. Rex Fee

Mr. William Templeton- absent

Mr. Emerine moved for the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, this Board finds, determines and declares that the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of said Champion Township, which is located exclusively in Trumbull County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, a resolution declaring the necessity of levying an additional tax upon the electors of Champion Township in its entirety under R.C. 5705.03, 5705.19(JJ), and 5705.191 outside the ten-mill limitation must be passed and certified to the county auditor of Trumbull County in order to permit the board of trustees to consider the levy of such a tax and must request that the county auditor certify to the board of trustees all information required by R.C. 5705.03; and

WHEREAS it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with law; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Champion Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring, being Resolution No. **SS2023-52R** _____, that it is necessary to levy an additional tax in excess of the ten mill limitation for the benefit of and upon the entire territory of said Champion Township, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.03, 5705.19(JJ), and 5705.191 for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of

fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; and for the purpose of providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, other equipment, buildings, and sites for such buildings used directly in the operation of a police department, for the payment of salaries of permanent or part-time police, communications, or administrative personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.33 of the Revised Code, for the payment of the costs incurred by townships as a result of contracts made with other political subdivisions in order to obtain police protection, for the provision of ambulance or emergency medical services operated by a police department, or for the payment of other related costs, at a rate not exceeding **5.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, for a period of 5 years**; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the levy be placed upon the tax lists **commencing in 2023**, first due in calendar year 2024, if a majority of the electors voting thereon vote in favor thereof; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fiscal Officer of this Board of Trustees of Champion Township is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor with the request that said County Auditor certify to this Township Board of Trustees all information required by R.C. 5705.03; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with R.C. 5705.03, 5705.19(JJ), and 5705.191, that the provisions of said tax levy be submitted to the electors of the entire territory of said Champion Township, in the general election to be held on the 7th day of November, 2023; and

Mr. Fee seconded the Motion and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Douglas Emerine	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. Rex Fee	<u>AYE</u>
Mr. William Templeton	<u>absent</u>

Trustee Emerine made a motion to adopt the Alternative Tax Budget for fiscal year 2024 and submit to the Trumbull County Budget Commission. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

2023-59 Trustee Emerine made a motion to set the Zoning Office Hours M, W, F 7am-12pm., Tuesday 11am-4pm and Thursday as needed for appointments and inspections. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously. Chief Skaggs will order a new sign to show the new hours and ask Working Foreman Davis to scrape the old hours off the window.

Mike Ady would like to purchase and tear down the 6149 Shafer Rd property. Trustee Emerine advised him to attend the court hearing on June 21, 2023 to follow the proper procedure for doing such.

Z2023-60 Trustee Emerine made a motion to declare 505.87 on the following properties: 5243 Craig Ave, 161 Marshall, 6149 Shafer, 6039 Downs Rd, 6033 Mahoning Ave, 307 Champion Ave W, 5827 n Park, 272 Eldon, 356 Cleveland, and 534 Eldon. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously. Trustees did not declare 6051 Downs because of the notation of Junk Vehicles. They wanted to clarify if there was also high grass there, prior to declaring as Junk Vehicles is 505.871.

R2023-61 Trustee Emerine made a motion to approve the MOU with AFSCME Ohio Council 8 Local 74A Pension pickup for Timothy Fenton. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

The Red Maple Barn got a permit to build, but the building is not going up on the correct lot. The Red Maple Barn is not owner of the property that the building is going on. A phone call was placed to Attorney Mark Finamore to find out what the trustees should do. Trustees believe they should pull the permit and declare it void and/or issue a stop work order.

Public Comment:

Richard Kadvan, 14 Abbington Dr, asking about publication of information getting out to the residents. Problems with approval of minutes.

Bob Stocker, 5329 Sabrina, concerned about junk on curb for an extended period of time. Concerned about a trustee spending hours at the township building in a work area without steel toes, but there are signs up requiring steel toed shoes. He understands when you just stop in and give instructions and leave but he has witnessed trustee up there for long periods of time in the work area. Comments on general zoning, including on Red Maple Barn and administration concerns.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman

Fiscal Officer