

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on May 1, 2023 at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community Room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Thank you to the Road Department and the CHS NHS members who came and volunteered to make the event successful. There is a possibility of getting a second grant and having another clean up day in the Fall.

Announcement: Cemetery clean up, please taking all the old faded flowers and Christmas off the grave by Friday May 5. If there is something that you may want returned to you must put your name and phone number on the bottom of the wreath

Announcement: Reminder that there will be a public hearing on light manufacturing on May 5, 2023 in the Champion High School Community Room.

Announcement: Memorial Day Parade stay tune to the website and more information forthcoming from the rotary.

Trustee Fee added that There will be a 102-year-old veteran attending the Memorial Day Parade this year. Trustee Fee addressed the Eagle Scout Candidate, Brayden McElhinny, the trustees cannot place the project near the old Schoolhouse due to the Memorial Day Parade presentation being there.

Trustees Fee and Emerine believe it will be better off by the Chapel.in the Township Cemetery.

Approval of the minutes was tabled due to Trustee Fee having several typographical corrections.

Announcement: Champion Community Garage Sale Dates set May 17-21. Champion Community Calendar is coordinate this as in the past. It will also be posted on the champion website.

Announcement: Continue negotiation for the police contact will be on Tue May 2 at Attorney. Letson's office, Courthouse Square. (*The previous information, although incorrect, appeared on the agenda. Attorney Letson's office is at 160 E Market St, Warren. Negotiations are set to start at 2pm.)

OPWC Bid packet is back, needs reviewed. Discussing in Tuesday 5/16 meeting. There is an increase of \$14,000 over the original Engineer's estimate. Working Foreman Davis will discuss with the Engineer's office prior to the 5/16 meeting.

GoDaddy is recommending an update security on the email accounts for the township. The quote is for three separate addons, at a cost of \$18/email/month. GoDaddy's quote is for 20 emails, but Fiscal Officer Hatt believes we only have 17 emails. Let's review the email addresses we have and see what true number is and if any can be eliminated. Tabled until 5/16 meeting.

The Department Heads gave their respective reports, absent Chief Skaggs due to his son being a Valedictorian and a scheduling conflict and absent Chief Dempsey, whose family could use some good thoughts headed their way. Also, if needed while Chief Dempsey is away, Captain Bland is able to assist.) The Chairman read the Police Department report aloud.

Old Business:

Park update

Trustee Templeton spoke about a meeting he had with a gentleman whose father was a park maintenance person for a long time and how he believed that this man could help Champion Township. Templeton will put together information and pass it on to both his colleagues to move the park forward. Templeton also agrees with Working Foreman Davis about sprucing up the Central property to make it a park.

Trustee Emerine spoke on misinformation on Facebook and said that people who want a park need to understand the money has to come from them as there is about \$54,000 in the park fund right now. He turned the floor over to Fiscal Officer Hatt who gave out a handout of where tax dollars in Champion Township go ...how the Township uses our portion of the funding and what comes out of the different funds. The first half 2022 tax bill for 5090 Calla was used as an example.

Public Comments: on Park update

T. Hart, Bristol Champion Townline Rd, got a park committee packet from Assistant to the Fiscal Officer Kusmerek and had questions about where a park committee should go from here, the comprehensive plan and what the trustees really wanted out of a park.

B. Johnson, 4681 Verona, are the trustees going to put on a park levy or not? Templeton responded that he pledges to continue to work on upgrading the Central property.

Old Business (resumed)

Architect update—Trustee Fee invited Tim Sexton to come to our meeting on 5/16 to discuss further. The projected price still sits at \$100/sq. ft.

While he had the floor, Fee addressed the widening on Mahoning Ave that Mr. Besse asked about last meeting. ODOT states that they did a study in 2022 and the road has not hit capacity. They also stated that although there is a high crash rate on the road, there is a low injury rate, so the project is not slated.

Public Comment:

Jason Kish, 5110 Sabrina Lane, had comments on the par Trustee Emerine defended moving the park, referencing the BBS report. Fee replied with comments about the blue print being necessary for the park to get grants and had comments about the politics of grant writing.

J Latimer, 1025 Prentice, inquired from all three trustees their individual opinions on the park project if moving forward on Central property.

R Potyonek, 118 Cleveland St, represented YAYSL, "Champion Golden Parachutes" competitive league, discussion with a difficulty in working with CYSL. Trustees and Fiscal Officer Hatt outlined the process to reserve the fields.

Richard Durst, 5585 Chapel Hill North, and Thomas Hart, 408 Bristol Champion Townline Rd, had questions about the park update.

M Chapin, 5085 Mahoning, had further comments about the YAYSL and CYSL dispute. Asked rules and regulations on the usage of fields and stated he wanted to host a tournament. Trustees stated complete process, get schedule, we can contact CYSL and let them know you want a meeting. Field can be shared, but need to look into it further.

B Johnson, 4681 Verona, on behalf of Cub Scout Troop 4025 would like permission to host a Fourth of July Parade this year. Trustee Fee gave her the contact information for OSP about closing the road and asked about the path they would travel, especially if on Mahoning. Also need to contact safety service Chiefs.

Silas Dozier, 6158 Shafer, had comments about the Eagle Scout project. Also upset that the house 6148 Shafer has not been torn down yet.

T Hart and R Dearth, had further comments about the park committee duties and where to begin.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of the consideration for employment, discipline, termination or promotion of a public employee or elected official. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

22023-38 Trustee Templeton made a motion to appoint Cynthia Mines as an alternate to the Zoning Commission for the remainder of 2023. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Special Meeting on May 2, 2023 at 2:00p.m. at the office of Attorney Dan Letson, 160 E Market St, Warren, OH to conduct negotiations with the OPBA and Police Department Union Representative. The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Trustee Fee made a motion to enter executive session for contract negotiations under ORC 122.22(g). Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Hearing no further comment, the Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing on May 5, 2023 at 4:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community Room for the purpose of amending the zoning text. The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order absent Trustee Templeton.

The Fiscal Officer showed proof of publication.

The Vice Chairman read the proposed amendment aloud.

The Vice Chairman called three times for proponents.

The Vice Chairman swore in the proponents.

R. Berry, 5171 Calla, extensive research has gone into this by the commission. Since it is conditional, it easily vetted to ensure the township will benefit from their business. He is in favor of moving forward.

C. Antonelli, 553 Fairlane, a fifty-year resident who states that honestly the only time noise has been an issue is occasionally during power outages, the companies in that area have run generators, which is an understandable, temporary noise. Is there a bypass exit an option, especially with the possibility of the hospital coming and these new businesses? Also had questions on the storm runoff and other maintenance concerns for Educational Highway. (Later on, states Actually, her family enjoys all the wildlife that the retention pond Aptiv put in has brought to their backyard, and his drainage was improved by the addition as his property is adjacent to Aptiv.)

G. Antonelli, 553 Fairlane, questioned whether the new companies coming in if this was approved would be applying for a TIF?

A. Dunbar-Spencer, Bral Corp representative states that they are an importer/exporter of locomotive parts, a small family owned business generating traffic of 4-6 trucks per day. They do have plans for retention ponds the sides of the property to address runoff concerns. Plans for the site are 700' off the back property line, concrete parking site, stone or other aesthetically congruent modern construction, not yet decided. Plan to host about 30-40 employees in this facility.

J. Kish, 51110 Sabrina, believe this zoning amendment is going to be a positive for Champion. He also believes with the current job market gap, this is will be a good fit.

C. Mines, 207 Glendola, seconds everything previously stated by Mr. Kish and Mr. Berry.

D. Wylie, Campbell Ohio, a representative of the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce, is glad to see a local business which cares about jobs is not a foreign company. Thinks it is a positive move for Champion to match the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Resolution. Believes this will help diversity the job market in Champion.

M. Harvey, 4739 Copeland, I support the current zoning amendment change, with nothing else to add to what everyone else has stated.

B. Kruppa, 418 Durst, Bral is a good company which he has consulted with for 20 years. They have nothing but good reputation and good prospects. Kruppa is Champion resident and he is happy to see them coming to bring good things to Champion.

G. Antonelli, asked about the starting of the project and when the comprehensive plan changed.

B. Kruppa Baker, Bednar, Snyder is doing the design of the site. The cement pad is just lying there. If this zone change does not happen, the pad will go away. There are no fumes, very little to no noise, and the plant will not run 24 hours. To start out, there will only be about 5-7 employees. There will be no deliveries after 3:30pm.

B. Minton, 778 Champion East, has questions about the lighting of the facilities that will go in, including those that support the hospital.

D. Wiley, the Mercy project is all inclusive and will not need acreage on the Research Drive area.

B. Johnson, 4651 Verona, just came to hear about the noise but after hearing that this will be conditional and statements from Bral, her noise concerns were alleviated. In full support of the amendment.

R. Fee, also a resident of Fairlane, initially shared the additional concerns that others have had, but feels much more comfortable having heard from Alison and Mr. Kruppa.

R. Berry, 5171 Calla, stated that a letter in support of the Zoning Amendment and Bral Corporation, from Jason Gray, Superintendent of TCTC, really put him at ease.

Vice Chairman Fee read the letter from Superintendent Gray aloud for the record.

Vice Chairman called for opponents to the Zoning Amendment three times.

The Vice Chairman swore in the opponents.

K. Hopkins, 4896 Jonathan Lane, not against Bral project just has unanswered questions, for example. He received a copy of the amendment, but it refers back to section 26 and he did not have a copy of section 26. Does the Trumbull Metroparks not being residential mean that the company does not have to comply with the setback?

Trustee Emerine read aloud section 26 as well as addressed the setback question of K. Hopkins.

J. Streitferdt, 5172 Calla, confirms that the Trumbull County Metroparks land is a part of the residential district.

J. Kish, 5110 Sabrina, were lighting addressed in section 26?

K Hopkins, would light questions go to the Board of Appeals, such as with page 3 of the amendment.

D. Berry, explained the YARS district concerns will be addressed at an upcoming meeting and if applicable to this area, appeals board will consider.

C. Antonelli, YARS light pattern questions.

J. Streitferdt, the hearing for YARS is set for July.

K. Hopkins, Google maps shows Jonathan Lane connecting to Research Dr, is that accurate on the Zoning? Are there future plans to address finishing Jonathan Lane to connect to Research?

Emerine explained Paper Roads and that Jonathan's developer would have to come back and propose finishing it, but does not see that as plausible.

S. Dozier, 6158 Shafer Rd, has one last question, not against Bral but has an issue with the area. Would like to not see another dead site in the future, like General Refractories. Also has some traffic concerns Emerine addressed Dozier's concerns and stated that there was a lot of red tape to clean up those areas and the Board is working on getting that done, but in the meantime businesses still need to move in to Champion.

B Johnson, asked about the ownership of the General Refractories site that Mr. Dozier spoke about needing cleaned up. Welcome to this small family business, Kent State is also backing this business. Any business can go under.

Emerine stated that there was previously interest in another piece of land, by L. Hartman and that Kent did not support it and the Zoning Appeals Board denied that request.

Alison Dunbar-Spencer, Kent toured our facility and vetted us before they would back us.

K. Hopkins, Kent didn't come to the local residents before they started this deal. They did before and it was unpleasant about three years ago. Kent has not been a good neighbor to Jonathan Lane, so it was best to come and address concerns before the project got moving. (Kent owns the gas well and four wheelers were cutting in.)

B. Johnson, Kent was at another meeting to back this project and residents were in attendance.

Trustee Emerine stated that the new dean wants to be a good neighbor. Kent has been easier to work with now and Emerine attributes that to fallen enrollment in the wake of the pandemic.

Trustee Fee was aghast that folks would use trucks and four wheelers on the property near Jonathan Lane.

S. Dozier, If this amendment passes, will offices still be allowed to go there or will this change be just light industrial moving forward? Why the sudden interest in the property?

Emerine, Yes, offices will still be allowed there.

S. Dozier, then you have settled in and I am now in favor of it.

G. Antonelli, questions about the wooded property in the area.

Trustees stated that the wooded area is not included in the rezoning.

J. Kiepper, 5289 Sabrina Ln, questioned the trustees on whether or not they had the financial implications of the project yet.

Fee and Emerine said it was unknown as valuations had not been completed yet, also, it would bring in more than nothing, which is what the property was bringing in before.

Fee thanked the Zoning Commission for their work. He was against this project at first, but the owners participating in the discussion really helped. It's time for Champion to move forward from being a "bedroom community". Howland, Weathersfield and Lordstown woke up and look at what they have. The Boards have spent countless hours on researching this. Trustees have done their due diligence on this project.

Trustee Emerine echoed Trustee Fee, Thank you to Attorney Finamore and the Commission.

C. Antonelli, respect Fee and Emerine's comments about joining the 21st century and bring inn economic development.

Emerine responded that we have been cautious in the economic impact to this project. We heard the residents say that their taxes are high due to no commercial influx, so we're moving forward.

Z2023-39 Trustee Fee made a motion to amend the Zoning Resolution as presented. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Hearing no further comment, the Vice Chairman adjourned the hearing.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on May 16, 2023 at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community Room to conduct the business of the Township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Architect Tim Sexton presented information to the Board on the road department garage. He will return with the bid packet and finalized drawings in about 4-6 weeks. Trustees authorized him to proceed to this next phase. The bid packet will need submitted to the attorney for review prior to publication.

Trustee Templeton asked which general contractor was picked and whether or not the general contractor will apply for the permits. Mr. Sexton indicated that a general contractor could not be picked until the bid packets came back and were reviewed by the trustees. He indicated that the permits can be applied for by the township while the bid packet is out so as to keep the process moving.

Questions were asked about ground preparation and vapor barriers, etc.

BWC deadlines have been missed so Chief Dempsey brought that up.

G2023-62 Trustee Templeton made a motion to remain utilizing Sedgewick for May 2023 BWC with the Group Retrospective rating plan for one year at a cost of \$6,322.00. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously. Trustee Templeton was going to take the paperwork and turn it in with Sedgewick, Rob Green broker.

Chief Dempsey gave his report in which he requested the trustees hold a meeting to discuss levy options to fund the fire department and dd staffing. (He had been absent for the first meeting so his report was given this meeting.) A meeting was scheduled for May 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Templeton wants a printer and internet available in case we need more scenarios printed. Levy due date is August 9, 2023 but the prosecutor's office has a lot of other work going on so getting the information earlier than later. Champion is a busy department so part timers are working fewer shifts as they all have full time jobs elsewhere where they work a 24-hour shift. Also, private ambulance companies are going out of business and leaving cities high and dry. The 9-1-1 center is also having major challenges.

Chief Skaggs gave his report. An active shooter training was held the previous day and there were major concerns with communications inside.

Several issues with Zoning were discussed. The trustee phones are ringing off the hook as it seems that none of the calls are being returned. No zoning person is currently in the position. Zoning Inspector interviews will be held at 5:30 prior to the levy meeting on May 23, 2023, which is pushed back to 6:30. There are five applicants. Applications came in slowly.

Z2023-40 Trustee Fee made a motion to extend Jennifer Kusmierek as Interim Zoning Inspector effective immediately until June 1, 2023. Templeton second. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mike Ady, 6591 N Park Ave, zoning address issues on Shafer with property not abutting the street. He is building a very large home on a lot of acreage but due to property dead ending on the bike trail, he has been unable to get an address. There is a private road there. Trustee Emerine said he would make

some inquiries with the Zoning Appeals Board, but in the meantime, he was advised to apply for a variance packet.

Jim Latimer, 1025 Prentice, zoning inspector questions.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on May 23, 2023 at 5:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community Room to conduct the business of the Township. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of ORC 121.22(G) to consider the employment of a public employee official or regulated individual for the Zoning Inspector and part time police officer positions, interviews. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

P2023-41 Trustee Emerine made a motion to hire David Schwartz as a part time police officer effective pending background check and drug screen at a rate of \$15.00 per hour with a purchase of one (1) set of uniforms. OPOTA certificate and PRADCO testing is complete. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Extensive conversation was held with Chief Dempsey on the need for a new levy for the fire department. Chief Dempsey recommends a 3.5 mill levy at a cost to a taxpayer of a \$100,000 home \$122.50 per year, which includes funding for capital improvements and addition of three full time staff members. This would allow for the funding of another ambulance or a match to grant funds for capital projects, plus the purchase of gear and other items regulated by the state. The department has brought in over \$700,000 in grants since 2005, but grants cannot be relied on for everything and the department is already one of the lowest funded departments in the County. Additionally, there is a shortage of part time staffing and many times the department is running with two paramedics on site, which is unsustainable at our call volume. A much higher levy was needed three years ago, but the influx of money from the pandemic was used to prop the department during the time as well as a much smaller levy that passed.

Jim Latimer, 1025 Prentice, interjected questions throughout the meeting. He was the only resident present.

Trustees Fee and Emerine wanted to make motions to put the levy on the ballot. Trustee Templeton wanted more time to digest stating that the township had until August. Trustee Fee stated that he will make a motion on June 5 and he would hope that Trustee Templeton would have digested it by then, considering this topic has been up for discussion on multiple occasions.

Extensive conversation was held with Chief Skaggs on the need for a new levy for the police department. Chief Skaggs would like to hire ideally two more officers, one detective and one afternoon officer. He also wants to bring the police officers up to a competitive wage compared to other departments. There are several equipment related items he feels the department needs. Placing a levy on the ballot allows the residents to determine what kind of services they want. Since the union contract is in negotiations, he is asking the Board what their projections are. The Fiscal Officer prepared projections with moderate salary increases and both a 2 mill and a 3 mill levy projection. The Board will make a decision and put it in front of the public at the June 5 meeting.

G2023-42 Trustee Emerine made a motion to renew the contract with Brenda Coffey of Constellation Energy as the township broker for the Natural Gas Aggregation program. The contract is currently

existing with no rate due to the County having access to better rates. Ms. Coffey will continue to shop for the Township and make us aware if a good price is available to attach to Champion aggregate. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-43 Trustee Fee made a motion to add GoDaddy backup services to the current township emails at a rate of \$5 per email address, per month \$1,260.00 for one year of service.

R2023-44 Trustee Fee made a motion at the request of Working Foreman Davis to purchase labor and materials from the Trumbull County Engineer at a cost not to exceed \$11,000.00 for milling and paving on Richard and Cross Creek for the 2023 Mill and Pave project. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

OPWC2023-45 Trustee Emerine made a motion to award the low bid to Shelly and Sands not to exceed \$458,000 for the 2023 OPWC Road Resurfacing project. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

OPWC2023-46 Trustee Fee made a supplemental appropriation of OPWC project cost not to exceed \$270,000 in the 2193 Road Levy fund, which is approximately 61.37% of the township share of the project. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

OPWC2023-47 Trustee Fee made a motion to accept and appropriate the OPWC grant in the amount of \$149,999 in the 4401 OPWC fund. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Fiscal Officer Hatt presented a healthcare cost initiative for setting a look back period as required by the Affordable Care Act for when part time employees are promoted to full time positions. Trustees will take it under advisement.

Trustees held a discussion on COBRA paperwork. Due to the new pricing of the current plan, a letter needs sent to former employees on COBRA and the recent retiree. Benefits Administrator Templeton stated that he gave the paperwork to Fire Captain Bland to complete and send to the former employee on COBRA. He also said he will get with the broker Rob Green and have the retiree paperwork sent out. Fiscal Officer Hatt requested copies of the paperwork be given to her so she can place them in the personnel files for the township records.

Trustee Fee made a motion to enter executive session for ORC 121.22 (G)1 to consider the employment of a public employee. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Z2023-48 Trustee Fee made a motion to remove Jennifer Kusmierек as Interim Zoning Inspector effective immediately. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Z2023-49 Trustee Fee made a motion to hire Gerry Brown as Part time Zoning Inspector pending background check and drug screen at a rate of \$15 per hour to work between 20-25 hours per week, effective immediately upon completion of background check and drug screen, position to include a ninety (90) day evaluation period. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-50 Trustee Emerine made a motion to contract with Becdel Controls Inc for electrical upgrades to the electrical service in the administration building at a cost not to exceed \$4,675.00 from the ARP funds. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Brief discussion was held on the MOU for AFSCME Union. Trustee Fee will contact the union with the terms. Trustee Templeton believe no MOU was needed and directed Fiscal Officer Hatt to execute the pick up of Timothy Fenton.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer