

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular session on September 11, 2023, at 6:30p.m. at the Champion High School Community room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Chairman Templeton called the meeting to order with a full board present.

The trustees observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of 9-11.

Vendor First Net and their partner AT&T Wireless presented a proposal to the trustees for services for the township cell and mobile data terminals. Scott and Holly Capron, 408 Atwood and Breanna Johnson, 4651 Verona, spoke in support of the service.

The Community Park Initiative was present to discuss their recent activity. Their goal is to raise \$5,000 to support a campaign for a 1.75 mill 5-year park levy for building infrastructure and a .50 mill levy for maintenance. They will ask the trustees to place these items on the ballot by the December deadline for the March primary election.

Working Foreman Davis interjected with information about the slide at the Central property. Trustee Templeton began to make a motion to repair the slide at a cost not to exceed \$1800 equipment from Playtime but rescinded/withdrew his motion until Working Foreman Davis could get the proper information.

G2023-79 A discussion was held on setting a date for trick or treat. Since Breanna Johnson was in the crowd, Trustee Fee asked her opinion as it is widely known that Halloween is her favorite holiday. Trustees agreed tentatively to October 31 from 6-8pm. If other communities go for a weekend date, the trustees may change so we are not flooded with people from surrounding communities. Fee made the motion, Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee gave an update on the Appalachian Community Grant Partnership application process. He was very impressed with the communication and attention to detail from the Environmental Design Group.

G2023-80 Trustee Templeton made a motion to repair the slide with a purchase from Gametime P O Box 208 Harrison, OH 45030 for the playground at the Central property in an amount not to exceed \$1800.00 from the account code 1000-120-323. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-81 Trustee Fee made a motion at the request of the Trumbull County Budget Commission to adopt the 2024 Rate Resolution, Inside Millage: County health .15; General Fund 0.90 and Road and Bridge 1.45; other millage as voted. Trustee Fee had Fiscal Officer Hatt explain that this was her recommendation for distribution. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously. (Full Rate Resolution on file.)

Trustee Templeton tabled the approval of July minutes as he believed there was an error in them but was unable to find it.

Trustee Fee made a motion to approve the August minutes. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the financial statements for the month of August 2023. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources in the amount of \$6,442,298,29, dated August 1, 2023, accepting changes to appropriation and revenue budgets from July 25. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-82 Trustee Fee made a motion to increase the revenue budget for the Zoning fund in the amount of \$47,000 and the Police Fund in the amount of \$19,000 to account for revenue not previously include in the budget. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the MORE Grant in the amount of \$500 and the Police and Fire Safety Grant in the amount of \$1000. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

F2023-83 Trustee Fee made a motion expend \$2,857.14 from the Ambulance Ground Transportation Grant to the seven full time members of the Fire department with the stipulation that if an employee leaves employment with the township prior to June 30, 2024, a prorated amount of the grant will be deducted from their final pay check per the grant guidelines that no compensation shall be made to an employee who leaves employment prior to the end of the performance period of the grant since it is a retention premium pay grant. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

G2023-84 Trustee Emerine made a motion to enter the street light Ohi Edison account into an aggregate rate of \$0.056 per KWH for a 48-month term, effective with the October billing cycle. The current rate at Ohio Edison is \$0.11 per KWH. The Trumbull County Aggregate does not have a street light rate. After quite a lot of discussion, it was determined that \$0.056 was half the current \$0.11 rate and was a good rate to keep for 48 months. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Z2023-85 Trustee Emerine made a motion to declare ORC505.87 on six properties, as recommended by the Zoning Inspector. Addresses are: 6149 Shafer; 5827 N Park; 272 Eldon; 356 Cleveland 534 Eldon; and 6039 Downs. Templeton seconded. Passed unanimously.

There was no update on the CYSL meeting. Trustee Emerine will reach out again. The Township will continue to mow for the rest of this year.

The TCEMA meeting scheduled for September 13, 2023, is designated for Trustee Emerine to attend. There is going to be a rate increase.

The trustees did not want to forward a resolution to the Zoning Commission to have them consider changing the Zoning Text Amendment for Section 5:21, Prohibited Uses Metal Shipping Containers, because of all the legal costs incurred from the last time the trustees sent something to them. There were requests by the planning commission to discuss solar farms and EV charging stations, so Trustee Fee would have a discussion with Chairman Streitferdt on the topics and ask them to look at these during their next meeting, rather than making an official formal resolution. The Zoning Inspector believed that adding commercial rather than replacing industrial may be a better option.

A request for a motion to replace the sign at Mahoning Ave for the Cemetery was tabled as the signs presented were unacceptable to the trustees. The look they wanted was more sophisticated, professional and classy. Cemetery Sexton Davis informed them that the current sign was damaged and needed to be replaced soon.

Discussion was held on removal of a tree in the cemetery. Four vendors were asked to quote. The low bid stated not responsible for damage to lawn and driveway, so Davis was unsure if he would be responsible for damage to headstones. Two other vendors failed to provide quotes. The other bidder was about \$1,302.

Silas Dozier, 6158 Shafer, stated that he had a licensed, bonded vendor of twenty years who would take it down responsibly. Trustees wanted to give the other vendors a chance to get in the proper paperwork, but not wait too long due to the potential for damage.

C2023-86 Trustee Fee made a motion to approve an expenditure up to \$1500 toward the removal of a large tree with a crack in the Cemetery, vendor to be determined, upon providing proof her is bonded and insured. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

R2023-87 Trustee Fee made a motion to pave 700' of Shafer Road where it is bowing, in the amount of \$21,500 vendor Shelly & Sands, with supplemental appropriation from 2193-760-740, address at center of project is approximately 6790 Shafer road. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2023-88 Trustee Fee made a motion to repair Unit #54 at Mark Thomas Ford at a cost not to exceed \$2,800 to replace water pump, which requires dropping the engine, a job which Chief Skaggs feels should be under warranty. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

P2023-89 Motion to grant Tonya Rodgers, Baker Dublikkar permission to create a contract to share equipment purchased mutually with opioid funds between Champion PD, Cortland PD and Bazetta PD. The Board will hold off on purchasing the equipment until the contract is drawn up. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee complimented the Fire Department on the Open House that they held on September 9. Fee felt the residents were quite impressed and there was a lot of positive feedback.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the additional monies from the EMS Equipment Grant, totaling \$3,415.50. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

F2023-90 Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Ohio EMA ARPA First Responder Grant, totaling \$28,489.66. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

F2023-91 Trustee Fee made a motion to replace the transmission in Medic 21 at a cost not to exceed \$7,200 from Ford. Trustee Emerine stated that he desired the part to come directly from Ford and have a Ford dealer work on it because it is a warranty issue, and he wants to ensure the township is not out a warranty because a secondary vendor installed the transmission. Ford stated they could not give a timeframe when they could get the part. Trustee Emerine stated that there is one at the dealership that is for one of his vehicles and he will wait and give his up to the township. . Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously, under the conditions that Trustee Emerine set.

Public Comment:

B. Johnson, 4681 Verona, Halloween, FirstNet comments

H. Capron, 408 Atwood, FirstNet comments.

S. Dozier, 6158 Shafer, inquiring about the house on 6149 Shafer demolition.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Vice Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Special Meeting on September 14, 2023, at 10:00a.m. at the office of Letson and Swader, 160 E Market St, Suite 250 for the purpose of conducting interviews. Vice Chairman Fee called the meeting to order absent Trustee Templeton.

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

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

Chairman

Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on September 19, 2023, at 6:30 at the Champion High School Community Room for the purpose of conducting the business of the township.

Trustee Fee opened with an extension of condolences to Browns fans due to injury of a good player in the previous night's game against the Steelers.

Working Foreman Davis provided an update on the road paving projects. Shelly and Sands will be here within about two weeks to do Pierce, Emerson and Shafer.

The Drug Free Workplace Safety Program documentation is due by September 30, 2023, and we do not have someone appointed to handle it. Emerine volunteered but mentioned that there were still some employees that he knew of who needed the training. He would contact Murphy Lewis and set up training and work on the filing.

Trustee Fee gave an update on the water line running to the administration building via the new garage. Discussion on rates and size of pipe versus distance, which had not yet been calculated was discussed. Trustee Fee provided the rates based on pipe diameter. Discussion was also held on whether or not to use a plumber to do the main building hookup and whether or not to replace some of the internal pipes.

Trustee Fee gave an update on the Appalachian Community Grant Partnership, which will have a meeting held by Eastgate on September 20, 2023. The design group has had very positive feedback for our township. Trustee Fee is hopeful our project will qualify for the next round. Trustee Emerine had comments on the Central property location. Working Foreman Davis mentioned that the slide was going to cost more than allotted and was going to take 6-8 weeks to come in. He was instructed to board it up and order the slide, with the original motion amended once ordered and cost finalized.

R2023-92 Trustee Fee made a motion to AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP ROAD DEPARTMENT TO ENTER ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY TO CLEAN OBSTRUCTIONS ON A PRIVATE DRAINAGE COURSE CAUSING DAMAGE TO A TOWNSHIP ROAD, AND CREATING A SAFETY HAZARD TO THE TRAVELING PUBLIC

WHEREAS, the Township has received complaints from private property owners, on, on near or in the area of Champion Township Road Dalton Drive, of severe drainage problems that are causing damage to the Township Road, and creating a safety hazard to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined it is in the interest of the Township to clean and remove obstructions in nature drainage course over private property lots, to keep the Township Road from being damaged and causing a safety hazard to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RC§5571.02 – Control and Maintenance of Township Roads; the Township has the authority with the permission of the private property owners to enter upon private property lots to clean obstructions on a private drainage course that are causing damage to the Township Road, and creating a safety hazard to the traveling public, at the Township's expense;

WHEREAS the Township has received executed "Grant of Temporary Work Easement and Right of Entry from the owners of the following private property lots over which the obstructed drainage course flows:

Auditors Parcel No. ID# 46-903976:	824 Dalton Drive
46-903978:	804 Dalton Drive
46-903979:	790 Dalton Drive
46-903980:	744 Dalton Drive
46-903975:	836 Dalton Drive
46-903974:	813 Dalton Drive
46-903973:	803 Dalton Drive
46-903972:	787 Dalton Drive
46-903971:	775 Dalton Drive
46-903981:	763 Dalton Drive
46-903977:	Dalton Drive (empty field)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Road Department be and is authorized to the enter upon the above private property lots to clean and remove obstructions in nature drainage course over private property lots, to keep the Township Road from being damaged and causing a safety hazard to the traveling public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the costs thereof be paid from Township Funds Appropriated and available for that purpose. Emerine seconded. **Fee commented that the drainage district was never passed and signed off on by the residents or the Board prior to the work being done and that was an issue. The entire project was done backwards and that is not the way to conduct business. Requests for the drainage district to be taken care of and recorded properly so that if there is an issue when these board members are long gone, the new Board will not have any liability. He also requested a review of Cross Creek. Trustee Emerine and Working Foreman Davis made comments on Cross Creek as well. These are the two areas where the township storm water is possibly being diverted into the pond to flow to the creek.** Passed unanimously.

Trustee Fee made a motion to accept the Amended Official Certificate dated August 25, 2023, in the amount of \$6,462,298.29 Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Zoning Inspector Gerry Brown gave an update that the last mowing cost the township \$885 but this time the Road department mowed and spent 4.5 hours mowing those properties, so he felt he saved a lot of money. Working Foreman Davis interjected that the next time they mow it may take longer because they did these houses when they were out doing their normal roadside mowing.

There was much discussion on the removal of the old Copperweld House at the corner of Rt 45 and Rt 82 interchange. The house was demolished. Trustee Emerine was upset that Cindee Mines had gone online and stated that it was offered to the trustees, when that had not been the case as far as any of the sitting board knew and it was tied up with the federal courts in bankruptcy.

Trustee Emerine also reminded the rest of the Board that the police department is currently down three cruisers and that there would probably be a request for a cruiser coming to the next meeting. He also warned that the pool of vehicles may be very limited if the UAW strike lasts very long, and the Board drags their feet.

Announcement: There will be a Fall Fest on October 4, 2023, from 10-1 at the Yellow Gym at the PreK school which will be for seniors citizens. Call the school to make reservations.

Announcement: The Pride Council is collecting items until October 22, 2023, for warm clothing items for people in need.

Public Comment

Jack Besse, 381 Durst Drive, appreciated the opportunity to use the safe zone in front of the PD for some online sales transactions.

B. Johnson, 46501 Verona, had comments about the old CMS property having tires on top of an old bonfire remains.

After recess, Trustee Fee made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of ORC 121.22(G)4, full purpose read aloud. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Upon realizing that there was an item not covered under ORC 121.22(G)4, Trustee Emerine made a motion to exit executive session and reenter for the purpose of ORC 121.22(G)1, compensation of a public employee Fee seconded. Passed unanimously, with Templeton objecting, believing it would be OK to just continue the conversation.

Trustee fee made a motion to exit executive session. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously. The trustees agreed to have Trustee Emerine contact Rob Green, Insurance broker, regarding the compensation issue.

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 special session on September 29, 2023, at 9:00 am at the Champion Township Administration Building. The Chairman called the meeting to order with a full board present.

G2023-93 Trustee Fee made a motion to pass the updated rate resolution as provided by the Trumbull County Budget Commission with the allocations recommended by Fiscal Officer Hatt (G2023-81) at the previous meeting. This had to be passed no later than October 1, 2023, as read in full by Trustee Templeton. The budget Commission had previously adopted the rate resolution under the old rates. Motion to adopt the 2024 fiscal year rate resolution to total 15.35 mills, \$2,446,255.00 - outside millage as voted, inside millage amounts: 1.45 Road and Bridge, .15 County Health, .90 General Fund, and forward to the County Auditor and Budget Commission.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5705.281 RC, previously provided the alternative tax budget information for the next seceding fiscal year commencing January 1, 2024; and

Whereas the Budget Commission of Trumbull County OHIO, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without and what part is within the ten mill limitation; therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Champion Township, Trumbull County, OHIO that the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the proposed are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said Township the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as attached, see Schedule A and B: And be it further

Resolved that the Fiscal Officer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of Said County. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussion on solar farms but the resolution that was provided lacked something so Trustee Fee wanted to get clarification and hopefully pass at the next meeting. He asked if anyone had heard what the Zoning Commission had done. Trustee Templeton stated that it would be at least 30 days before something could be passed, according to Chairman Streitferdt.

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

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

P2023-94 Trustee Fee made a motion to extend the contract of Police Chief Larry A. Skaggs until December 31, 2023, at the same stipulations as set forth in the original motion. Emerine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. Fee seconded. Passed unanimously.

Chairman

Fiscal Officer