

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of
September

Meeting
21

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held _____ 20 _____

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in special session at Southington Town Hall with a full Board present (Trustee Templeton arrived late) on September 22, 2021 at 6pm. Southington Trustees, Southington Fire Chief Plott, Ed Anthony, Warren Township Trustee, Tom Shay and Jeff Tucker, Braceville Township Fiscal Officer and Trustee, Shawn Davis, Working Foreman, and Randy Smith, Trumbull County Highway Engineer were also in attendance.

Each township spoke on issues surrounding Anderson Anthony and Randy Smith spoke to action his office had taken as well as preliminary cost estimates, etc. surrounding a possible joint project between the present townships on Anderson Anthony Rd (about a 3 mile stretch).

Discussion surrounded whether to pave or chip and seal, whether to break into two or four projects, whether or not Champion and Warren Townships having the Enterprise Zones and Champion having the permissive Motor Vehicle Tax would be mutually benefitting to Southington and Braceville and whether or not there was going to be weight given to joint projects, such as when submitting to OPWC.


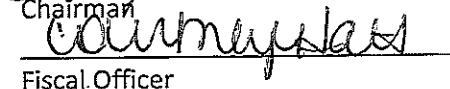
Another meeting was set for October 13, at 6pm bac at the Southington Towns Hall to follow up once the ODOT Representatives had answered the questions and the Highway Engineer's office had completed the engineering studies to nail down costs.

The Southington Township Board addressed whether or not Champion Board was interested in continuing the mutual aid contract for EMS. The Champion Board indicated an interest to continue, but outlined many issues the EMS field is facing as well as issues within the Champion department. Items outlined were the need for a levy due to s large expected shortfall, the difficulty in finding candidates for part time shifts as they had been leaving for full time work, the high call volume, as well as the upcoming departure of Fire Chief John Hickey to the Trumbull County Emergency management Agency, which had just been announced on September 13. Chief Hickey had a passion for helping our neighbors in Southington and did his best to personally ensure there was staffing to help Southington when he could.

Southington felt that there needs had been being met to a high standard and were very sad to know of Chief Hickey's impending departure. Southington Trustees and Fiscal Officer inquired about the differences in salary for the current union negotiations, the cost of one full time employee, the benefits that Champion pays, etc. They genuinely felt that no other department could help them at this point in the game as the same issues that Champion faces are being faced by other departments.

The Boards and Fire Chief discussed the difficulty in separating out calls with so much overlap between the townships to estimate the amount of money that Southington residents' insurance is contributing, questions within the Meidcount billing contract and other items regarding the billing and servicing of residents in both townships.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.


Chairman

Fiscal Officer

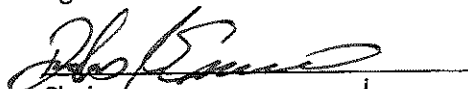
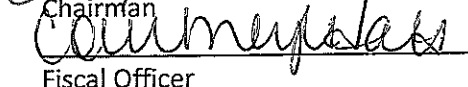
The Champion township Board of Trustees met in special session September 27, 2021 at 4:15pm (late start) with a full board present at the Champion Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting the business of the Township. Cory Wilson, IAFF representative and Attorney Dan Letson were present with members of the fire department for union negotiations.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to enter executive session for collective bargaining agreement negotiation. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to exit executive session. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Templeton ensured that Fiscal Officer Hatt was aware that Matthew Mines had his anniversary date the next day and went up to full rate. Fiscal Officer Hatt was aware.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.


Chairman

Fiscal Officer

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The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Meeting on October 4, 2021, at 6:30pm, absent Trustee Templeton, who may be arriving late due to illness, in the Champion Township Administration Building for conducting the business of the Township.

The September minutes were not approved as the trustees had not had time to review them.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the financial statements for the month of September.

G2021-96 Trustee Bugos made a motion to increase the revenue budgets for the following funds:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ General \$19,250 | ○ Permissive \$7,000 |
| ○ Motor Vehicle \$900.00 | ○ Zoning \$10,000 |
| ○ Gas \$16,000.00 | ○ Police \$5,100 |
| ○ Road and Bridge \$9,000.00 | ○ Fire/EMS \$3,700 |
| ○ Cemetery \$5,000.00 | |

Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

G2021-97 Trustee Bugos made a motion to increase appropriations in the following funds: Cemetery \$9,000, Zoning \$3,500 and Permissive \$36,750. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to allow Austin Gebhardt to carryover 100 hours sick time from Boardman Township Fire Department. Emerine seconded. Emerine would have preferred to do this at the time of hiring, but it was noted that Austin had asked and the message was inadvertently not passed on to the Trustees. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

G2021-98 Trustee Bugos made a motion to declare worthless the Ricoh Aficio 2800 and spare toner and to place out for bid on GovDeals.com auction site for a minimum bid of \$750.00. WF Davis made a suggestion to keep it for Zoning Inspector Fonce to make her color copies on. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

A motion to pay Coronavirus premium pay to Earl Huff and Jacob Burnfield in the amount of \$200 for work in the Cemetery during 2020 **was tabled**.

A motion to approve the IAFF Contract retroactive to 6/1/2021 **was tabled** as the final version of the contract had not been received from the union yet.

A motion to adopt a policy in accordance with ORC3.061, to utilize "Employee Faithful Performance of Duty" coverage rather than surety bonds, to cover loss by fraudulent or dishonest actions of employees and failure of employees to faithfully perform duties. This statute was passed in late 2019 and our insurance company is now recommending that we make the switch to this coverage on our insurance renewal rather than surety bonds **was tabled** due to Trustee Templeton's request to not address until he was present.

G2021-99 Trustee Bugos made a motion to approve the lease for the Champion Presbyterian Church parking lot. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Announcement: Reminder that Champion Townships Trick or Treat night is set for October 30, 2021 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. The Board would like to wish all children a safe Halloween. The Champion Township Police Department will be on patrol with three officers on duty during this event.

Workshop date: Champion, Warren and Braceville Township Trustees will meet with Southington Trustees for discussions on cooperative projects at Southington Town Hall on October 13 at 6pm. A representative from the engineer's office will most likely attend as well.

C2021-100 Trustee Bugos made a motion to increase the rates for Cemetery cremations and full internments after 2pm and/or Saturdays to account for the increased costs. At the time the current rates were set, the Cemetery Sexton was a salaried employee and that position has been made hourly. Most likely due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Cemetery has seen an increase in requests for these "off hours" burial times. Rate changes are as follows: Cremations: Res \$400, NR \$600 Full Interments: Residents \$800, NR \$1200. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

C2021-101 Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept the Ohio Professional Development and Real Estate Cemetery Grant in the amount of \$3,237.50 for cemetery improvements. A brief discussion was held on fencing in the cemetery which is the purpose of the grant. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

A brief discussion was held on purchase of an excavator for the road department. The Trustees directed WF Davis to have a demo unit brought to the Township and they would inspect it prior to making a decision on a machine.

A brief discussion was held and a date set to meet Friday, October 8, at 3:30pm with the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association to staff the open position of fire chief.

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As the new IAFF contract has not been formally approved, the discussion and possible motion to pay premium hazard pay to retired Fire Chief Hickey at the same rate of pay as the full time members of the IAFF, \$500, for his work during the Coronavirus pandemic **was tabled**.

Old Business

The Board was pleased to announce that the Trumbull County prosecutor provided an opinion that the Zoning Commission and zoning Appeals Board should be W2 employees, not subcontractors and therefore the Fiscal Officer will take the necessary steps to inform them and get their documentation in and set up, as well as notify the brokers so that the Township qualifies for the large group for the health care benefits. The estimated savings to the township is projected near \$30,000.00 per year.

The department heads gave their respective reports, absent Zoning Inspector Fonce, whose report was given by Chairman Emerine and absent Interim Chief Maffitt who was on an emergency call.

WF Davis requested to have Truck #4 fixed at the County but that he would need to purchase up to \$2,500 in parts. The Board told him to do what needed done to get the trucks ready for snow! WF Davis asked if that included the 12 plow blades he needed at \$3,780 total. Chairman Emerine said as long as he was not going with blades that were less than the ¾" that former Head Mechanic Meikle had been using. WF Davis said that he was going with better blades that the County recommended. WF Davis was going to touch base with Warren Township about the paving on Woodside and Brookside.

Z2021-102 Trustee Bugos made a motion at the request of zoning Inspector Fonce to declare 505.87 on the list of high grass/debris properties. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to accept all the donations for the Fire Department (see attached list) from 8/5/2021-9/27/2021, as submitted by former Fire Chief Hickey, and thank the community for their generous support. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes.

Correspondence


The Engineer sent the paperwork for the first disbursement for the paving project on Gertrude and Copeland and the trustees will need to sign off on it prior to OPWC paying their share.

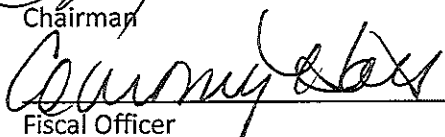
Champion Presbyterian Church issued a letter of gratitude for the lease payment.

Public Comment:

D. Christ, 400 Lauder, had questions for the trustees about the .95mill levy and the Southington contract. Trustee Emerine responded vehemently to her about how well respected former Fire Chief Hickey and his crew were throughout Trumbull County and how they provided such services on a very tight budget, the least mills and the least employees serving the fourth largest run population and covering the most square miles. He told her that if the levy did not pass, the residents would most likely see a reduction in services immediately.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.


Chairman


Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met on October 8, 2021, at 3:30pm, at the Champion Township Administration Building for conducting the business of the Township. The Chairman did not call the meeting to order until after Trustee Templeton arrived at 4:15pm because Trustee Bugos was also absent.

Chairman Emerine and Interim Chief Maffitt listened to the presentation by the OFCA representatives and asked questions. Trustee Templeton asked questions about conducting a performance audit of the station prior to or as part of the search upon his arrival.

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The OFCA would return a quote no later than Monday. The OFCA emphasized that trustees are not giving away any authority by entering into a contract with the OFCA; they set the pay scale and job parameters. OFCA guides and recommends.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.


 Chairman


 Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Special session on October 13, 2021, at 6:00pm at the Southington Township Town Hall for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. Southington Township, Braceville Township and Warren Township Trustees were also present, along with Gary Shaffer of the Trumbull County Engineer's office.

The Boards all received estimates on the Anderson Anthony project. The project would be split with Warren Township-Braceville submitting one, Warren as lead. Southington Champion would be a second and Champion would lead.

All Boards were in agreement to submit to the ODOT Township Stimulus, with a project completion date of no later than 12/31/2024, per the guidance. If awarded, money would be sent directly to the lead township and any overage would be able to be retained and spent by the township for another project of similar scope.

Mr. Shaffer said that he would be happy to help with the grant application but that the townships would be providing most of the information themselves, so just call if needed. He left the meeting. A brief recess was held.

Champion thought they were staying to work on the EMS contract negotiation, but this was Southington's regular meeting night so they scheduled the EMS contract meeting for 10-19-2021 at 6pm.

Champion Trustees left the building and conversed briefly with the other trustees outside.

Upon the Chairman asking for adjournment, the Fiscal Officer requested they discuss other items. The Board agreed.

The board discussed the quote for the OFCA to conduct a Fire Chief search. Trustee Bugos wanted to authorize the search immediately. Trustee Emerine had concerns about advertising nationally, concerned a candidate from another state or area would not stay long. Trustee Templeton asked Fiscal Officer Hatt to advertise on the news. Fiscal Officer Hatt wanted more direction on such a task.

Fiscal Officer Hatt asked about the faithful performance of duty information she had previously provided to Trustees in another meeting. Trustee Templeton had not yet reviewed.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.


 Chairman


 Fiscal Officer

The Champion Township Board of Trustees met in Special session on October 19, 2021, at 7:00pm at the Southington Town Hall with a full board present. Southington called their board to order absent Marlene Russomano, who is in grave condition. A benefit for her and her family was briefly discussed, to be held Saturday at the Trumbull County fairgrounds.

Chairman Emerine reviewed the data on the contract and the history.

Southington believes that they should not pay for a single full time man as that position was already included when they came on board.

Trustee Bugos spoke about the fact that former Chief Hickey had done a lot of Champion by bringing grant dollars, filling in shifts just to make sure Southington had coverage, etc.. With Chief Hickey gone there may be increased costs as well as the inability to cover those shifts for Southington contract.

Tietz asked how we would fund our department if champion didn't renew the Southington contract.

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Emerine stated that cutting staffing is a real possibility if the Southington contract doesn't renew and the levy doesn't pass.

Templeton asked questions about the Southington census and millage.

Tietz and Southington Fiscal Officer Hall stated that revenue in the general fund was about \$800-900,000 annually and the Fire was about a half a million overall.

Emerine made mention of not being sure exactly what the contract from Southington brings in or costs and Fiscal Officer Hatt had just found out that we can get a button in the software that allows us to find out. He suggested perhaps doing a one year renewal and then coming back to the table.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to go in to executive session to negotiate the contract. Emerine seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Trustee Emerine made a motion to exit executive session. Trustee Bugos seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Emerine made a proposal of \$45,000 and one year with adding Southington as a branch on the EMS software to allow us to track expenses leading up to a renewal next year.

Bugos would like to see the contract signed and was willing to do a multi-year agreement. Templeton doesn't want to do anything without being solvent and without having a Chief. He confirmed that Southington would receive \$184,000 in 2021 and 2022 in ARP monies.

Emerine said that mutual aid calls dropped because prior Board had stopped Hickey from going to many other places and that meant without the Southington contract, there was a possibility of not needing the fourth guy.

Southington asked if \$45,000 was the number where Champion was requesting.

Templeton said no, from his point the contract was not renewal with the money we had and no chief.

Southington asked why Champion couldn't figure out the chief position without getting a new job description when we previously had a chief.

Bugos attempted to explain how irreplaceable a man like John Hickey is to Champion Township, to which Southington acknowledged.

The two parties agreed to meet again after Southington discussed with legal counsel how the ARP monies could help Southington get up to the number Champion wanted. A meeting was set for October 27, 2021 at 6pm at Southington Town Hall.

G2021-103 Trustee Emerine made a motion to supplementally appropriate funds for the OTARMA Renewal in the amount of \$27,864, if needed. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Z2021-104 Trustee Bugos made a resolution at the request of Zoning Inspector Fonce that legal notice of the Board's intention to remove the structure(s) on **287 Center Street East, Warren, OH 44481 (46-309400)** being given in accordance with Section 505.86 (B) O.R.C., and thirty (30) days having passing, without compliance of the property owner, the Board of Trustees hereby orders commencement of the removal of said structures; Be it further resolved that **Holton Inc.** be hired to provide for the security and demolition of said property to be paid in the amount of \$12,000.00 for said services. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer

The Champion township Board of Trustees met in special session at Southington Town Hall on October 26, 2021 at 6pm for the purpose of conducting the business of the township. The Chairman called the meeting to order absent Trustee Templeton.

Southington Trustee Chairman Speaker stated that they had heard back from legal counsel about the use of ARP funds for the use toward the contract. Trustee Tietz said that their legal counsel stated that they could use ARP monies for the increase in the contract IF the amount of Covid calls that Champion experienced was more than 50%, tested once monthly.

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Bugos stated that he would prefer a multi year contract for the stability of the departments and communities.

Emerine stated that he would prefer a single year contract since he will have the ability to track the Southington calls going forward.

Trustee Templeton arrived. He asked about the ARP monies. Trustee Bugos attempted to explain to him a recap of what Southington had said. Ms. Christ was present and asked Brian to speak up. He lost his train of thought and she got snippy with him.

Fiscal Officer Hatt reminded her that the Board was not open for public comment. Southington confirmed that they had not opened the floor for public comment either.

Southington Fire Chief Pott was very distraught by Emerine's comment about tracking the calls cost and gave Emerine documents that showed what Southington runs brought in to Champion. Templeton had these documents and he pulled them out of his brown folder.

Emerine asked Plott where he obtained these from since he had been asking for this data for 4 years. Plott said that Dave Woodford gave them to him two weeks ago.

Trustee Bugos made a motion to go into executive session for the purposes of contract negotiation. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

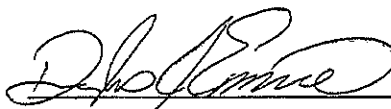

Trustee Bugos made a motion to exit executive session. Templeton seconded. Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton yes.

Southington Chairman Speaker proposed they would like to renew with a three year agreement at \$35,000, \$40,000 and \$40,000 respectively.

Trustee Bugos and Templeton inquired as to the process that Chief Plott uses for answering calls himself.

F2021-105 Trustee Bugos made a motion to renew the Southington EMS Contract with the following updates: 2022-\$35,000; 2023-\$40,000; 2024-\$40,000 plus changes to the billing for Mutual aid from \$150 to \$200, and payments to be made at January and July intervals. **Bugos yes, Emerine yes, Templeton no** due to his conversation with legal counsel that recommended that we not renew until there was more stability in the department and a chief was in place and because Fiscal Officer Hatt had retrieved data from Medicount and had not told him about it before the meeting but she relayed it to Bugos and Emerine since they had called her while she was compiling it. Templeton asked Southington not to be offended at his no vote but he felt Champion needed to take care of its own house first before caring for their residents.

Hearing no further comment, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.


Chairman

Fiscal Officer