

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION – AUGUST 14, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gene Stump called the meeting to order.

OFFICIALS ATTENDING:

Gene Stump, Evan Stump, Shawn McFarland, Gene Cole & Joe Morton. Jeff Hunker was absent/excused.

GUEST ATTENDING:

See sign in sheet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Evan Stump moved to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2024 organizational meeting. Mr. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump – yes, G. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

GUEST BUSINESS:

Jared Brown asked about the asphalt needing repair at the corner of Westmoor and Springmill. Mr. Cole stated that it is on the schedule to be done and should be done shortly. Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Cole and said that he would follow up by the end of the year if it had not been repaired.

A guest in attendance was concerned about the township's position on marijuana grower/dispensaries. Mr. Gene Stump responded that no decision had been made, but when the time comes that there will be a public forum whereby residents can voice their opinions. She also stated she was concerned about the township's stance on wind turbines and if Liberty Township would have issues like Allen Township is currently seeing. Mr. Cole advised that while zoning doesn't prohibit wind turbines, they do restrict.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Cole presented the Trustees with his monthly report (see attached).

Mr. Cole reported that the site plan meeting for Liberty Estates had taken place, and so far, everything that was submitted was approved. There was no connector put in where the sidewalk ends.

The Liberty Benton Bus Garage site plan was approved. Construction will begin soon.

Eagle Estates 2nd addition issue has been tabled due to no representation from Flag City Development/Dennis Cramer in attendance.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Morton presented the Trustees with his monthly report (see attached).

Chief Morton stated that the grant was in process and that he is working with Gene Cole and Shawn McFarland to complete the application.

Chief Morton asked to enter into Executive Session with the Trustees to discuss some personnel issues.

Mr. Evan Stump made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Gene Stump seconded. ROLL CALL vote: Mr. Evan Stump: yes, Mr. Gene Stump: yes. Motion carried, and the Trustees and Chief Morton entered Executive Session at 1825 hours.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to exit from Executive Session. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. ROLL CALL vote: Mr. Gene Stump: yes, Mr. Evan Stump: yes. Motion carried, and the Trustees and Chief Morton exited Executive Session at 1830 hours.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to approve the purchase of five (5) *(sets of turnout gear)* from the general fire budget annually going forward. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. Vote: Mr. Gene Stump: yes, Mr. Evan Stump: yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to approve the purchase of Milwaukee power tools from the Chief's budget totaling \$2,542.88. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. Vote: Mr. Gene Stump: yes, Mr. Evan Stump: yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Evan Stump asked Chief Morton if, based on the reflective tape issues with Innotex, the department was still interested in using Innotex. Chief Morton stated that the issue was that the adhesive on the back of the tape did not stick to the dye in the turnout gear and it was an industry-wide standard that has since been corrected. Chief Morton said that otherwise the department was very pleased with Innotex and preferred to use them going forward.

Mr. Evan Stump stated that Andrew Straley has until one year from the date he was brought on to the department as a probationary firefighter to pass his 36-hour Volunteer Firefighter certification, or he will need to pay back the cost of the class that the township paid for (\$650.00). He asked Fiscal Officer Shawn McFarland to draft a letter and send to Mr. Straley to remind him of the agreement (letter drafted and attached, with a copy given to each of the Trustees as well as Chief Morton for Straley's personnel file. Original mailed to Straley's home address on 8/16/2024).

Mr. Cole advised that the hose testing by Fire Catt was a good deal financially and that they were thorough and efficient, taking them only ten hours.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to remove Nathan Dunbar from probation, as he has passed his class, state certification, and proved proficiency in the department-required practicals. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. Vote: Mr. E. Stump: yes, Mr. G. Stump: yes. Motion passed.

Chief Morton gave the Trustees an update on the parade truck, stating that the Association tabled a motion to sell the parade truck to Ben Wehl. Mr. Gene Stump cautioned that since the title of the parade truck is in the name of the Fire Department, the Association has no power to sell the truck. Furthermore, Mr. Gene Stump said he was against selling the parade truck in the manner indicated. He advised Chief Morton to have the Committee come to next month's Trustee's meeting with plans for what repairs they want done to the truck, storage of the truck, etc. Chief Morton said he would invite committee members to attend next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Oral Communications:

None

Written Communications:

OTARMA 2023 Annual Report

Email communication with Leah Alsept from The Courier regarding marijuana moratorium

OTA Grassroots Clippings e-newsletter

Email Advisory from Ohio Auditor of State re: opioid settlement

Email from Ohio Treasurer's Office regarding Fifth Third Bank utilizing Ohio Pooled Collateral System

Mr. Gene Stump brought up two applicants for the open full-time Maintenance position. Both candidates were advised to attend the Trustees meeting but only one is in attendance.

Mr. Gene Stump also stated that he received an email from a township resident about an employee complaint, which he wants to discuss in Executive Session.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Cole gave an update on the corner of Byrnwyck and Gleneagle. Estimate from Premier Patching for tar and stone would be a temporary fix and would cost \$670. Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to pay for the repair as proposed. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. Vote: G. Stump: yes, Mr. E. Stump: yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Cole stated that Heitmeyer Concrete provided a quote to replace the sidewalk at Ferndale and the curb at Delmonte/Edith at a cost of \$26,321.00. Mr. Gene Stump asked if any of the work that needed done sat on the landowner property for their responsibility. Mr. Cole replied that it was all on the township right-of-way. A second quote was given by Hub Services to do just the sidewalk for \$4,950.00. Mr. Gene Stump and Mr. Evan Stump agreed to table further discussion until next month when Mr. Jeff Hunker could be present to be a part of that conversation.

Mr. Cole mentioned that the hydrants were in and set at Delmonte/Edith and Northtowne/Villa West.

Mr. Cole also gave some updates on the work of some of the fire trucks being done.

Mr. Gene Stump reminded all about the Marbee Newsletter and to get articles in

Mr. Evan Stump mentioned that as of the time and date of the meeting he has not heard back regarding his questions to Cindy Land about the fire levy. He will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Cole stated that a resident at the end of Palm Dr. on Tiki purchased the lot of land at the end of the road and wants to put in a stone cul-de-sac for the purposes of allowing construction of a building on his land. The stone cul-de-sac will be removed after construction. Mr. Cole told the land owner that he would discuss with the Engineer's Office after he met with the Trustees. Mr. Gene Stump said he saw no reason why that wouldn't be permissible, but wants the land owner to be given a deadline to have construction complete and the cul-de-sac removed.

Chief Morton received an email about fire coverage on I75 regarding who is handling some of the calls. This may be a county dispatcher error. Findlay Fire Chief Josh Eberle told Chief Morton that he was fine with leaving coverage the way it is. Mr. Gene Stump said he would like to see more mapping information before agreeing to any changes.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS:

Monthly financial reports were distributed to the Trustees.

Mr. Gene Stump moved to adopt Resolution #11-2024, Authorizing payment of purchase orders. Mr. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump – yes, G. Stump - yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Evan Stump moved to authorize the Fiscal Officer to prepare warrants to pay the Township bills. Mr. Gene Stump seconded. Vote: E. Stump – yes, G. Stump - yes. Motion carried. See attached warrant register for bills that were paid.

Mr. McFarland advised the Trustees that the Budget Commission meeting on August 12 at 4pm at the Bruggeman Lodge was attended by himself and the Commission is encouraging all townships and villages to discuss moving to the Alternative Method that all counties are going to when determining Apportionment of Undivided Local Government Funds (ORC 5747.51). Power Point presentation from that meeting was shared with the Trustees for review along with the Resolution.

Mr. Evan Stump moved to adopt Resolution #12-2024 as presented. Mr. Gene Stump seconded. Vote: E. Stump: yes, Mr. G. Stump: yes. Motion carried.

Mr. McFarland reminded the Trustees that Liberty Township has their meeting with the Budget Commission on Friday August 16 at 11:00am at the Hancock County Courthouse Grand Jury room. Mr. Gene Stump said he would be in attendance with Mr. McFarland.

Mr. McFarland has the STAR Ohio application that will need a second signature from a Trustee so that he can get funds moved over to earn a higher rate of interest.

Mr. McFarland reminded all that the Ohio Auditor of State is requiring the completion of the Fraud Reporting and Training be completed and certificates be logged by September 27. Mr. Evan Stump, Mr. Gene Stump, and Chief Morton needed to complete theirs. It was discussed and decided that all Firefighters would need to complete as well. Chief Morton said that he would send the link to all members and have them complete on time. It was requested that everyone has it completed by the end of August and certificates be turned in, as the video is only 8 minutes long.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing hiring and disciplinary action. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. ROLL CALL vote: Mr. Gene Stump: yes, Mr. Evan Stump: yes. Trustees entered into executive session with Mr. Gene Cole at 1929 hours.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. ROLL CALL vote: Mr. Gene Stump: yes, Mr. Evan Stump: yes. Trustees exited Executive Session at 1940 hours.

Mr. Gene Stump made a motion to hire Jeff Janes as the full-time Maintenance employee, with all of the benefits and insurance offered to full-time employees at an hourly rate of \$23.00/hour with a start date of August 15. Mr. Evan Stump seconded. Vote: Mr. E. Stump: yes, Mr. G. Stump: yes. Motion carried.

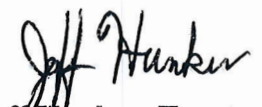
ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Trustees, Mr. Gene Stump moved to adjourn. Mr. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump – yes, G. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DISMISSAL, DISCIPLINE, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, OR COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OR OFFICIAL.

ATTEST:


Shawn McFarland, Fiscal Officer


Jeff Hunker, Trustee


Gene Stump, Chairman


Evan Stump, Vice Chairman

Liberty Township - Gene Cole

FROM	7/1/2024
TO	7/31/2024

DATE	PERMIT NO.	NAME - ADDRESS		VALUE	FEE	NOTES
7/1/2024	24-7-9	Rosalie Lenhart 9320 Hiegel Dr	280001032867	N/A	30.00	accessory building
7/8/2024	24-7-10	Carma Lehman 11228 Twp Rd 67	280000061590	\$93,000.00	200.00	accessory building
7/16/2024	24-7-11	Dan Rodesky 6695 st rt 186	280000056770	6,400.00	50.00	accessory building
7/16/2024	24-8-11	David Wright 11070 twp rd 67	280001032109	\$4,700.00	30.00	fence
7/16/2024	24-9-13	David Wright 11070 twp rd 67	280001032109	10,800.00	30.00	deck
7/18/2024	24-1-11	Vorst Builders lot 86 9730 smokies way	280001030864	\$673,000.00	\$250.00	New Home
TOTAL				\$787,900.00	\$590.00	

New Business

- I have submitted the contract for Ohio First Responder Grants. Thank you all for signing it mid month.
- We have been added to the Ohio First Responder Grants portal and the process is in motion. Cole, McFarland, and I will be working together to get the information input to the system.
- The Fire Department was awarded \$2,305.02 back from the eclipse coverage day. This is from the Ohio EMA agency. The amount is based on the personnel and runs during the coverage period.
- I would like to request that the 5 sets of turnout gear be paid out of the general fire budget annually going forward. Motion
- 533 was in the shop this month to diagnose the issues. G. Cole can explain farther.
- Fire Cat was here to perform hose and Ladder testing. One attic ladder failed and two hoses. I believe the damaged items are in the process of being ordered to replace failed test items.
- I would like to purchase Milwaukee tools out of my budget, that I went and had added to a wish list at Village Hardware. I believe it all comes to \$2500. Motion
- We have received all turnout gear back from Innotex. It all looks great.
- We had one apparatus in the parade for independence day.
- We hosted the County Fire Association meeting. I would like to reimburse our Association for helping us cover the cost of food and drinks for the event. Motion
- The association covered the cost during our structure fire we had this past month on township road 95. I would like to reimburse the association for the cost of the food and drinks for the firefighter that day. Our association has a motion to allow up to \$220 dollars in the event of a structure fire or long emergency event. Motion
- Last month we purchased medical supplies to replace what we've been using.
- Asst. Chief Starcher and Captain McFarland inventoried the medical supplies and will be ordering supplies to keep the cabinet stocked.
- Before purchasing the new backboard I would like to have an enclosure built behind the upper box on 533. Me and G. Cole can discuss the plan.
- Todd Lee has elected to go inactive with the fire department.
- The station decorating is complete.
- I would like to order extrication gloves out of my department budget.
- We had all but 2 members get their photos completed. Thank you for making time to get them done.
- We would like to purchase a second LZ kit for 533.
- We place the order to purchase our accountability system tags and two boards.
- We ordered and received road flares so they are now back on the trucks.
- Nathan Dunbar's bunker bottoms have been shipped back to Innotex for repair to the suspender holder.
- Andrew Strayley and Chris Weidelman have failed their state test. Chris can retest and is already scheduling. Andrew will have to reimburse the township or we will

withhold his run check to pay for the failed class. He has been advised he has one year to obtain a fire certification at his own expense.

- Braedan Johnson has passed his firefighter 2 certification.
- Nathan Dunbar has completed his probationary practical and has served his year on probation. I would like to request that he be released from probation by the board members.
- I would like to request to go into executive session for personnel issues of two members

Application For New Members

- I have a returning member, Tim Hackworth wanting to rejoin the department as well as two new members wanting to join. I plan to table Tim to check on his certification status. The other two members will be added to our waiting list.

Upcoming Training

- Fire Business Meeting: August 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Truck Checks: August 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Fire Training: August 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm
- Officer Meeting: August 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Medical Training: August 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Other events

- National Night Out August 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm
- Cleaning of the Fire Fair Building: August 14, 2024
- Bowling Green NTPA Pulls August 14 -17, 2024
- Millstream Speedway Race August 25, 2024 3:00 pm
- Fair KOI Drag Race August 30, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Fair NTPA Pulls September 1, 2024 at 6:30 pm
- Fair Figure 8 Derby September 2, 2024 at 12:00 pm

Chief Month

- 07/04/24 Independence Day Parade
- 07/07/24 Department Chiefs Meeting
- 07/09/24 County Chiefs Meeting
- 07/10/24 Trustee's Meeting

- 07/11/24 Fire/ Association Business Meeting
- 07/14/24 Department Chiefs meeting
- 07/15/24 Fire Cat at station hose testing.
- 07/18/24 Fire Truck Checks
- 07/21/24 Department Chiefs Meeting
- 07/23/24 Structure Fire
- 07/24/24 Department Officers Meeting
- 07/25/24 Department Training
- 07/28/24 Department Chiefs Meeting
- 07/30/24 Meeting with Mike Osborne

Trustee Papers

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION – AUGUST 14, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman to call meeting to order and recognize guests attending.

OFFICIALS ATTENDING:

Gene Stump, Evan Stump, Jeff Hunker (Absent-Excused), Shawn McFarland and Gene Cole

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to accept minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting.

GUESTS ATTENDING

Acknowledge any guests present.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Gene Cole to give his monthly report on activities.

Minutes of Zoning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals to be circulated (if any)

Zoning Amendments, etc., other zoning business

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Fire Chief to give monthly report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report on any Committee's and their actions.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Oral Communications:

Anyone present wishing to address the Trustees

Written Communications:

OLD BUSINESS:

Any unfinished business discussed at previous meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Any new business before the Trustees

FINANCIAL BUSINESS:

Fiscal Officer to submit monthly financial reports for Trustees to review.

Motion to adopt Resolution #11 -2024 Re: Authorizing payment of the listed and/or attached purchase orders

Motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to prepare warrants and pay bills.

Any other financial business to come before the Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before the Trustees, Chairman to call for motion to adjourn meeting.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Liberty Twp. Trustees

Meeting Date: 08/14/2024

Monthly Mtg.

Time: 6:00 PM

Name	
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Address	
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Phone _____

Bonnie August

2613 Sweetwater Rd

414-348-8005

Saved Brown

2401 Westmoor Rd.

419-619-9267

Jeff Jones

8226 Oakwood Dr

419-721-9667

[illegible]