

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2025 @ 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Fiscal Officer Shawn McFarland called the meeting to order.

OFFICIALS ATTENDING:

Evan Stump, Gene Stump, Shawn McFarland and Gene Cole

ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS:

Fiscal Officer opened the floor for nominations for 2025 Chairman. Gene Stump moved to nominate Evan Stump to be Chairman. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump – yes, G. Stump - yes. Motion carried. Evan Stump moved to nominate Gene Stump to be Vice Chairman. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: G. Stump – yes, E. Stump – yes. Motion carried. The meeting was turned over to the new Chairman, Evan Stump. The Trustees are the Audit Committee.

ADOPTION OF 2024 SALARIES, MEETING DATES, ETC.

Regarding the Zoning Committee and Zoning Appeals Board, discussion was held regarding keeping pay at \$50 per meeting. Gene Stump moved to keep the pay per meeting for the Zoning Appeals Board and the Zoning Committee at \$50 per meeting. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: G. Stump – yes, E. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved to keep the hourly pay for general labor and leaf pick-up labor at \$19.00. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: G. Stump – yes, E. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved to set the hourly pay for snow plowing labor at \$22.00 with CDL. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: G. Stump – yes, E. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump stated that Jim Holley and Brandon Andrews are already on the list for snow plow drivers from 2024. A Letter of Interest was submitted by Stephen Arnott to assist with snow plowing and Zoning Appeals Board. Evan Stump stated that Stephen has his Class B CDL. Evan Stump moved to hire Brandon Andrews, Jim Holley, and Stephen Arnott as snow plow drivers for 2025. Gene Stump seconded. Vote: G. Stump – yes, E. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved to enter Executive Session for personnel matters to consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official with the Trustees, Gene Cole, Jeff Janes (not in attendance), Fire Chief Joseph Morton (not yet in attendance), and resident Ken Clark. Gene Stump seconded. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Evan Stump – yes, Mr. Gene Stump, yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved to come out of Executive Session. Gene Stump seconded. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Evan Stump – yes, Mr. Gene Stump - yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved to appoint Ken Clark as Trustee to fill the open position vacated due to the resignation of

former Trustee. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: G. Stump – yes, E. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer swore in Trustee Ken Clark with the Oath of Office and Ken Clark took a seat at the table with the other Trustees.

Fiscal Officer Shawn McFarland presented the Trustees with Resolution 1-2025: Certificate of Appointment to Fill Vacancy In Office Of Trustee for Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio. The Resolution was read aloud. Evan Stump moved to adopt the Resolution. Gene Stump seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Evan Stump – yes, Mr. Gene Stump, yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump stated that regarding bond for the new Trustee, legal counsel Cindy Landy advised to contact OTARMA to see if we needed bond. Fiscal Officer McFarland stated he spoke with Wendy French at Acrisure (company who underwrites our OTARMA insurance policy), and she stated that our policy has Faithful Discharge of Duty coverage, which would be in lieu of needing a bond. Legal Counsel is drawing up a Resolution to be signed at the February Trustees meeting. Gene Stump reiterated that this coverage will take place for any elected official and no bonds will be purchased going forward as long as this coverage is in place. Mr. Gene Stump also confirmed that the Resolution and Oath of Office will need to be taken to the Hancock County Board of Elections. Mr. McFarland stated that he will take that to the BOE once signed.

Gene Stump moved to keep the yearly salary for the Assistant Fire Chiefs at \$2500.00. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding pay for the Fire Captains and Lieutenants. Ken Clark asked if the current salary was typical with other departments. Evan Stump stated that with the run volume and budget, Liberty Township pays a little more than others, but with good cause. Ken Clark moved to keep the Captains pay at \$750 per year. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved to keep the Lieutenants pay at \$750 per year. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump - yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved to keep the run/fuel reimbursement for the Fire Department at \$15.00 per run, with the chance to re-visit if fuel prices increase. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, E. Stump – yes, G. Stump – yes. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Zoning Inspector's Contract. Gene Stump moved to give Gene Cole, Zoning Inspector/Operations Manager a 3% pay raise effective immediately, revisiting with new contract when current contract expires. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Regarding Jeff Janes and his current rate of pay, Evan stump asked what current pay rate is. Mr. McFarland advised \$23.00 per hour. Gene Stump made a motion to keep current pay of \$23.00 per hour and revisit in 6 months. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Zoning Commission and Zoning Appeals Board. Gene Cole stated that Tom Kocheiser is interested in staying on Zoning Commission. Dean Zeisloft is also interested in staying on the Zoning Appeals

Board. Evan Stump made a motion to appoint Stephen Arnott and Scott Jones to the Zoning Appeals Board and reappoint the Zoning Appeals Board and Zoning Commission members. Vote: E. Stump -yes, K. Clark – yes, Gene Stump – abstain. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved for the Fiscal Officer salary to be the maximum permitted per the Ohio Revised Code. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Ken Clark moved for the Trustees salary to be the maximum permitted per the Ohio Revised Code. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Discussion on setting the meeting dates for the year. Evan Stump presented the Trustees with a proposed schedule for the meeting for the year. Evan Stump moved to set the meeting dates per the proposed schedule presented. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved to appoint Ken Clark as the safety Chairman. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump - yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved to appoint Gene Stump as Road Chairman. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer McFarland pointed out that the proposed November date of November 11 is a federal holiday (Veteran's Day). Evan Stump made a motion to amend the November meeting date to November 10 due to November 11 being Veteran's Day. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved for Township employees to follow the 2025 Holiday Schedule that Hancock County employees follow. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer McFarland has hired Hannah Brown as a Fiscal Officer Assistant. ORC states that while a Deputy Fiscal Officer is required to reside in the township, an Assistant Fiscal Officer does not have to be a resident. Discussion was had regarding hours needed and rate of pay. Trustees spoke to Hannah about the work she is currently doing with Marion Township and the County Engineer's Office. Gene Stump made a motion to pay the Fiscal Officer Assistant at \$25 per hour. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump - yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

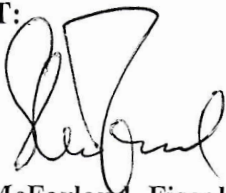
Evan Stump moved to enter Executive Session for personnel matters to consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official with the Trustees and Fire Chief Joseph Morton. Ken Clark seconded. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Evan Stump – yes, Mr. Gene Stump – yes, Mr. Ken Clark - yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved to come out of Executive Session. Gene Stump seconded. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Evan Stump – yes, Mr. Gene Stump – yes, Mr. Ken Clark - yes. Motion carried.

Gene Stump moved to set the yearly salary for the Fire Chief at \$10,200.00 with a six-month review. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

With no further organizational business to come before the Trustees, Gene Stump moved to adjourn the organizational meeting. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: E. Stump -yes, G. Stump – yes, Ken Clark – yes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



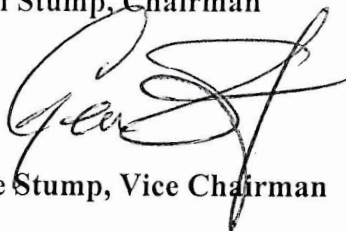
Shawn McFarland, Fiscal Officer



Ken Clark, Trustee



Evan Stump, Chairman



Gene Stump, Vice Chairman



Liberty Township Trustees

7692 County Road 140
Findlay, Ohio 45840
419-957-4625

Shawn C. McFarland, Fiscal Officer



NEWS RELEASE

“BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW”

The Liberty Township Trustees met in special session on January 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to elect officers and re-organize for the Year 2025. The slate of officials will be as follows:

Chairman, Evan Stump

Vice Chairman, Gene Stump

Kenneth Clark, Trustee (appointed to complete the remainder of the term vacated by Jeff Hunker)

Fiscal Officer, Shawn McFarland

In other action taken by the Trustees, Gene Cole remains the Township's Zoning Inspector/Operations Manager. Hannah Brown was hired as Part-Time Fiscal Officer Assistant.

Trustees regular meetings will be advertised each month in The Courier and will also be posted to the township website.

The Zoning Commission will meet monthly at the township house on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Liberty Township's Board of Zoning Appeals will meet as necessary and all meetings will be advertised in the Legal Notice section of The Courier.

All unscheduled meetings for the Trustees and Zoning Commission will be advertised in advance and public hearings will be published in the Legal Section of The Courier.

The General Public is welcome to attend all meetings.

Shawn McFarland, Fiscal Officer

BILL TO: 7692 CR 140, Findlay, OH 45840