LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION – APRIL 7, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:
Chairman Ken Clark called the meeting to order.

OFFICIALS ATTENDING:
Ken Clark, Evan Stump, Gene Stump, Shawn McFarland and Gene Cole.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Gene Stump moved to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2026 Regular Meeting. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump moved to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2026 Special Meeting. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

GUEST ATTENDING:
Stephen King with Trebel provided an update on the aggregate program and a forecast. Savings were noted for those who have enrolled in the aggregate program. Mr. King is looking to lock residents into a fixed rate for the natural gas program and is seeking authorization to act on the township's behalf to do so. After discussion, Gene Stump moved to accept Trebel's addendum #2 to the Energy Consulting and Management Agreement. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried, and the Trustees signed the addendum granting Trebel signing authority to lock in a rate for the community for natural gas service as they feel appropriate.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:
Gene Cole presented the Trustees with his monthly report (see attached).

Mr. Clark asked if the Zoning Fees are posted on the website. Mr. Cole stated that he will get something put up regarding what residents need permits for.

Evan Stump brought up data centers and stated that putting verbiage through zoning would be the township's best way to go about restricting them. Justin Kahle with the County Prosecutor's office was present and agreed with Evan, stating that the township would be covered. Gene Cole said that he would work with Justin on how to word the Resolution. Ken Clark asked if there was a place to look to see other townships and how they had done this. Mr. Clark also asked if we should have another zoning meeting to help this along.

COMMUNICATIONS:
Oral Communications:
None

Written Communications:
From Mr. McFarland:
SLFRF Reporting is completed
OTARMA Insurance Renewal Questionnaire is completed
Ohio Department of Commerce Letter – Objections to Renewal of a Retail Liquor Permit
Resolutions for Annexation for Darway, Brandeberry, Northtowne Condo Villas, and Greenbriar

OLD BUSINESS:

Evan Stump brought up the Enterprise Zone, referencing the letter that was received from Matt Gilroy and the forwarded proposal from Superintendent Bruce Otley from Liberty Benton Schools. Evan Stump then turned things over to Matt Gilroy from Hancock County Economic Development, who gave a brief overview of the proposal.

After discussion between the Trustees, it was determined that the Trustees would meet at 3:15pm on April 15 to finalize.

Evan Stump also brought up a residents landscaping hit by a snowplow. Per legal counsel, the township can reimburse the resident but is not required to. Gene Stump said that although the resident placed the property in the township's right of way and the township is the one that struck it, he is not keen on paying out but said it is okay to get a quote. Gene Cole said that he would reach out to get a quote.

Evan Stump brought up the township website. Our current webmaster is retiring. STG is a company that was at the OTA Winter Conference and is offering updated website with security, ADA compliance, etc. Mr. Evan Stump made a motion to enter contract with Shumaker Technology Group (STG) for a new township website, Gold package, at a cost of $2,295 for the year. Ken Clark seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Regarding the Water and sewer District, Gene Stump stated that he was told that they will not give us numbers until we sign an agreement with them. He did speak to someone from the Township Association and Gene advised them that a decision had not been made and that it was still open for discussion.

Regarding Kohl's Annexation, Evan asked Mr. Kahle for an update. Mr. Kahle said that there is a potential that there should have been a sharing of taxes. Evan stated that three years ago when there was a massive push for annexation by the City of Findlay, then Trustee Jeff Hunker hired legal counsel Albers and Albers and they found that Liberty Township had received no tax monies. Mr. Clark mentioned that according to the documentation he has that the City of Findlay had agreed to pay 1.6 mills of tax from the assessed valuation of all property annexed to Findlay for twelve years after the annexation occurs. Potentially the start of the twelve years is delayed until such things as a TIF have expired. The township records indicate that no money has ever been received. Evan advised Mr. Kahle to investigate this further, as our constituents' money is on the table and we would like them to have it. Gene Stump said that we would have to have our outside legal counsel (separate from the county Prosecutor's Office) review as well.

Gene Stump has updated SOP numbers 1-30 (Chain of Command) and 1-31 (Duties of each Officer) for the Fire Department. Mr. Clark stated that he disagrees with the Fire Chief picking the EMS Chief. Evan asked Justin for his thoughts. Mr. Kahle stated that if the Fire Chief picks the EMS Chief there is no conflict of interest because Trustees have no decision. Mr. Clark said that he is still in disagreement. Chief Morton said that there are budgeting issues with having the EMS division separate. Fiscal Officer Assistant Hannah Brown asked what budgeting issues they were referencing, since to this point all monies spent on EMS have come from the General Fund and not the Fire Department funds. Chief Morton said he was not aware of that. Mr. McFarland reminded Chief Morton that the $100,000 that was allocated for EMS was approved by the Trustees to be from the General Fund. Evan Stump asked Mr. Kahle if it would be a problem to have them separate if a new levy was written. Mr. Kahle said that if the verbiage "Emergency Services" was used in the levy, it should not be a problem.

Gene Stump made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 4-2026 Establishing Updated Guidelines of Authority Regarding The Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department. Evan Stump seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
Gene Cole advised that Fire Catt will be doing hose testing for the Fire Department on May 1.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF INTERVIEWS:
Chief Morton presented the Trustees with his monthly report.

Regarding PS Trax, Chief Morton would like to disable any modules through ESO that PS Trax would be taking the place of. Mr. Cole said that he would contact ESO to have that done. After some discussion on pricing and comparison to ESO's inventory/asset tracking vs. PS Trax, Gene Stump made a motion to cancel the Asset/Inventory module on ESO and purchase PS Trax subscription. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump made a motion to purchase two iPads (one for 595 and one for Squad 551). Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump made a motion to take a two-minute recess. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Evan Stump made a motion to return from recess. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Chief Morton's request for turnout gear. Evan Stump asked about the grant that Assistant Chief Starcher applied for with MSA/Globe and also said that he would not be opposed to getting a second quote. This issue has been tabled for now.

Regarding Chief Morton's request for MARCS radios. Gene Stump made a motion to pay for up to $800 for the MARCS radio slings. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was had around radios for the squad. Mr. McFarland recommended one mobile and one portable. Evan Stump agreed that a mobile unit is necessary and wants to have two portable radios. Gene stump made a motion to purchase two MARCS portable radios for Squad 551. Evan Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

Shawn McFarland provided an update from the EMS Committee.

Mr. McFarland also mentioned that there is currently legislation being proposed that would make ambulance service mandatory for government entities throughout the state and the state would also provide a financial benefit for those that consolidate services with other entities.

Mr. Clark stated that he would like to pack up the glasses that are in the kitchen and store them until they can either be displayed or sold.

Mr. Clark asked Chief Morton when he plans to have Officers picked. Chief Morton stated that he will have Officers picked by May 1.

Gene Stump made a motion 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 legal counsel from the County Prosecutor's Office, Justin Kahle. Evan Stump seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump –

yes. Motion carried, and the Trustees and Justin Kahle entered Executive Session at 8:10pm.

Evan Stump made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Gene Stump seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried, and the Trustees and Justin Kahle came out of Executive Session at 8:17pm.

Gene Cole asked for bereavement pay for Jeff Janes for his grandfather passing away. Evan Stump made a motion to pay Jeff Janes two days of bereavement pay (not PTO/Vacation). Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS:
Mr. McFarland passed around the financial reports to the Trustees.

Mr. McFarland gave updates on STAR Ohio Account and Fifth Third account interest earned.

Gene Stump made a motion to authorize the Fiscal Officer to prepare warrants and pay bills. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:
With no further business before the Trustees, Evan Stump moved to adjourn. Gene Stump seconded the motion. Vote: Ken Clark – yes, Evan Stump - yes, Gene Stump – yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

ATTEST:

Shawn McFarland, Fiscal Officer **Evan Stump, Vice Chairman**

Kenneth Clark, Chairman **Gene Stump, Trustee**