

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in a Caucus & Regular Session on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the township Administration Building with the following members present, Mrs. Jodi K. Stoyak, Mr. Gregory Cizmar, and Mr. Arnold Clebone, presiding.

Open Caucus Portion of Meeting: The Board will conduct discussions among themselves regarding issues concerning township business.

Caucus Discussion:

- Potential for Township to Utilize Solar Panels Guest: Mr. Dan Quinlin, Principal, Valley Solar Energy
- Change in Township Law Director
- Change in Regular Meeting Times
- Tethering Ordinance
- Purchase of Ambulance
- Cemetery Fee increase: Grave Purchase: Resident \$700 (from \$600); Non-Resident \$900 (from \$800.00); Interment: Weekdays after 2 p.m. \$700/\$300 (from \$600/\$200) Saturdays after 1:00 p.m. \$900/\$500 (from \$800/\$400) Additional fees: Foundations \$150.00 (from \$75.00) All other fees will remain the same.
- Park Fee Increases (2019 season) Resident Lg. Pavilion. \$175 (from \$125) Non-Resident: \$275 (from \$225) Small Pavilion: Resident \$100 (from \$50) Non-Resident \$125 (from \$75)
- Becoming a Member of COG

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Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Recognition to Liberty Police Department Officers:

The following officers received certificates for their contribution to the Liberty Police Department and the Community they serve Congratulations on a job well done!!

Detective Sergeant Ray Buhala – Excellence in Investigations

Sergeant Mick Janovick – Administrative Excellence

Sergeant Dan Kovach – Administrative Excellence

Sergeant Michael Shuster – Administrative Excellence

Patrolman Dave Rankin – Patrolman of the Year

Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018, February 20, 2018, February 21, 2018, February 22, 2018, February 23, 2018 & the March 15, 2018 Regular Meetings. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, NO Seconded by Mr. Clebone. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of February 2018 in the amount of \$359,978.72 warrants #16490 through #16663 inclusive.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18-49 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to accept the resignation of Attorney Mark Finamore as the Township Law Director.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. No second. Dies for a lack of a second.

18-50 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to retain Attorney Cherry Poteet as Law Director for Liberty Township. See addendum file for full agreement.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. No second. Dies for a lack of a second.

18-51 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to make a change in schedule for Regular meetings, as follows:

On every Thursday Morning at 7:30 A.M. Informal sessions to discuss township business where: No formal actions will be expected to be taken unless considered urgent. The Township administrator will be expected to be present and trustees or fiscal officer may request the presence of department heads. Department heads may also request being heard during these weekly sessions. The first regular weekly meeting will take place on Thursday, March 29th and thereafter unless canceled at the request of two of the Trustees. Continue having Regular meetings on the third Monday of every month starting at 6:30 PM as follows: From 6:30-7 P.M. - citizens shall have the opportunity to address the board on an issue of their choosing. At 7:00 PM the board will conduct regular meeting including the taking of formal actions.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, NO. Seconded by Mr. Clebone. Motion carried.

18-52 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to pass the following resolution authorizing the Township of Liberty, Trumbull County, to enter into agreement for the establishment of the Trumbull County

Council of Governments.

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code ("ORC") Chapter 167 authorizes certain political subdivisions to enter into agreements establishing a regional council of governments (COG) for the purpose of providing certain public services on a cooperative basis, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of, Liberty Township or Council of the Political subdivision of, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, Ohio now desires to enter into, and to authorize the execution of the COG Agreement for the Year 2018.

Whereas, there will be dues collected established for the year of 2018, based upon the population of the Township, City or Municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the elected officials of: Liberty Township in Trumbull County, State of Ohio, concurring that:

This resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon passage in accordance with all applicable provisions and sections of the charter

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18-53 Motion made by Mrs. Stoyak adopt the following appropriations for the year 2018:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 500,000.00
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FUND	\$ 210,000.00
GASOLINE TAX FUND	\$ 240,000.00
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	\$ 650,000.00
CEMETERY FUND	\$ 15,000.00
POLICE DISTRICT FUND	\$2,250,000.00
FIRE DISTRICT FUND	\$2,025,000.00
DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND	\$ 24,000.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND	\$ 2,000.00
ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION FUND	\$ 10,000.00
AMBULANCE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND	\$ 350,000.00
LIGHTING ASSESSMENT FUND	\$ 135,000.00
C.O.P.S./PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	\$ -0-
PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ -0-
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (ISSUE II)	<u>\$ 150,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$6,561,000.00

Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mr. Cizmar. Motion carried.

18-54 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to accept the resignation of Phillip Pelley, part time firefighter medic effective 3/7/18.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18-55 Motion made by Mrs. Stoyak to pass the NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (NEC GRANT(S))
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S)

WHEREAS, the Township of Liberty, Trumbull County, Ohio (the "MUNICIPALITY") is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC") and is eligible for one or more NOPEC Energized Community Grant(s) for 2018 ("NEC Grant(s)") as provided for in the NEC Grant Program guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the MUNICIPALITY wishes to enter into a Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. in the form attached to this Resolution to receive one or more NEC Grant(s) for 2018, and to authorize the Fiscal Officer to execute the Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. in the form attached.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF TRUMBULL COUNTY, AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. This Board of Trustees of the MUNICIPALITY (the "Council") finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the MUNICIPALITY to accept the NEC Grant(s) for 2018, and authorizes the Fiscal Officer to execute the Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. in the form attached.

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the MUNICIPALITY; wherefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Board of Trustees of the MUNICIPALITY.

Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mr. Cizmar. Motion carried.

18-56 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to hire Robert Bowker, 3272 Solar Dr NW, Warren, Oh 44485 as a part time Road Employee at \$11.83 per hour, no benefits, 25 hours or less per week. 1st day worked is hire date.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18-57 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to hire Roland Wilson, 2230 S Raccoon Road, Youngstown, Oh 44515 as a part time Road Employee at \$11.83 per hour, no benefits, 25 hours or less per week. 1st day worked is hire date.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18-58 Motion tabled to pass the following Amendment to Township Dog Control Resolution, ORC §955.221(B)(2)) **RESOLUTION TO AMEND TOWNSHIPS DOG CONTROL RESOLUTION (ORC §955.221(B)(2))**

WHEREAS, the Ohio Revised Code Section 955.221(B)(2) authorizes the Board of Trustees to adopt and enforce resolutions to control dogs within the Township that are not otherwise in conflict with any other provision of the Revised Code, if the Township is located in a county where the Board of County Commissioners has not adopted resolutions to control dogs within the unincorporated areas of the County under this section; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Trumbull County has not adopted a resolution to control dogs within the unincorporated areas of the County under this statutory section; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 955.221(A) states that a resolution to control dogs includes, but is not limited to resolutions concerned with the ownership, keeping, or harboring of dogs; the restraint of dogs; dogs as public nuisances; and dogs as a threat to public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, this statutory section exempts the use of a dog which is lawfully engaged in hunting or training for the purpose of hunting while accompanied by a licensed hunter when actually in the field and engaged in hunting or in legitimate training for such purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that the current statutes do not protect dogs from being tethered in an inhumane manner and that it has the statutory authority under Ohio Revised Code 955.221 to adopt this resolution with respect to the ownership, keeping, or harboring of dogs to fill this vacuum; and

WHEREAS, this resolution may be enforced through the criminal justice system, as Ohio Revised Code Section 955.221(C) states that “no person shall violate any resolution adopted under this section” and Section 955.99(K) provides that whoever violates Section 955.221(C) is guilty of a minor misdemeanor, with each day of continued violation being a separate offense; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has previously adopted a Dog Control Resolution pursuant to the authority granted them by ORC §955.221(B)(2) in Resolution No. 95-130, approved and adopted on; September 11, 1995 and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to amend said Resolution to include protection for dogs being tethered in an inhumane manner as is authorized herein,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Liberty Township, Trumbull County that the following resolution be and hereby is adopted:

- 1) No person shall negligently allow a dog to be tethered outdoors in any of the following circumstances:
 - a) For a total of more than six (6) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period and for not more than two (2) consecutive hours without at least an hour (1) between tethering;
 - b) If a heat or cold advisory or a severe weather warning has been issued by the national weather service of the area in which the dog is kept or harbored;
 - c) If any of the following applies to the tether:
 - i) It is less than twenty (20) feet in length.
 - ii) It allows the dog to touch a fence or cross the property line of the owner's, keepers, or harborer's property.
 - iii) It is attached by means of a pinch-type, prong-type, or choke-type collar, or the collar to which it is attached causes pain or harm and or is unsafe or is not properly fitted.
 - iv) It may cause injury to, or entanglement of, the dog.
 - v) It is made of a material that is unsuitable for the dog's size and weight or that causes any unnecessary discomfort to the dog.
 - d) If the dog is not provided with a sanitary environment that is free of an accumulation of feces or other waste and insect or rodent infestation and of foul odor;
 - e) If no owner or occupant of the premises where the dog is kept or harbored is present.
2. As used in this resolution, "tether" means a rope, chain, cord, dog run or pulley, or similar restraint for holding an animal in place that allows a radius in which the animal can move about.
3. a) As used in this resolution, "outdoors" means the dog is not being tethered inside a house or principal building. The term "outdoors" includes a dog tethered inside an accessory building, a porch (open or closed), a breezeway, a garage, and a carport.
 - b) As used in this resolution, "accessory building" means a subordinate building, the use of which is customarily incidental to that of the main building, and which is located on the same lot or parcel of land. A shed is included in this definition.
 - c) As used in this resolution, "porch (open)" means a roofed structure, having one or more unenclosed sides, projecting from front, side or rear wall of the building, while "porch (closed)" means a roofed structure, having one or more enclosed sides, projecting from the front, side or rear wall of the building.
 - d) As used in this resolution, a "breezeway" means a roofed passageway connecting two (2) buildings, sometimes with the sides enclosed.
 - e) As used in this resolution, "garage" means a detached accessory building or portion of a principal building for the parking or temporary storage of automobiles, boats, and/or trailers.
 - f) As used in this resolution, a "car port" means a roofed structure not more than fifty (50%) percent enclosed by walls or doors and attached to the principal building for the purpose of providing shelter to one or more motor vehicles.
- 4) This resolution shall be enforced under R.C. 955.221(C) and 955.99(K) by the appropriate law enforcement officers.
- 5) Violation of the Township's Dog Control Resolution as amended constitutes a criminal violation, punishable by a Court of law as follows:
 - (a) If not involving a nuisance dog, dangerous dog, or vicious dog the violator shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) on a first offense; and
 - (b) On each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) or more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and;
 - (c) May be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days; and
 - (d) And such other penalties prescribed in ORC §955.99 et. seq.
 - (e) Each day of continued violation is a separate offense.
- 7) The clerk of the Girard Municipal Court shall collect the fines levied and collected for violations of this resolution and shall distribute them to the Fiscal officer in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 1907.20(C) for credit to the general fund of Liberty Township.
- 8). If any paragraph, provision, or section of this resolution is held to be invalid by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, then that decision will not affect the validity of the remaining paragraphs, provisions, or sections of this resolution. The Board declares that it would have adopted this resolution and each paragraph, provision, or section thereof despite the fact that one or more paragraphs, provisions, or sections would be declared invalid.
- 9). The Board of Trustees finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board of Trustees concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Trustees, and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including R.C. 121.22.
- 10) This resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the structure located on the following premise, being previously inspected and declared **unfit for human habitation** by the Trumbull County Health Department; be and are hereby is declared **unfit for human habitation** and is ordered removed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this Board's intention to **remove** said structure(s) be given in accordance with **Section 505.86 (B) O.R.C.**

OWNER OF RECORD: **VC LARNEY LLC**
PROPERTY ADDRESS: **1950 TIBBETTS WICK ROAD**
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY OHIO
AUDITOR'S PARCEL ID#: **12-043315**

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18- 60 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to pass the following resolution declaring property to be insecure/structurally defective ordering abatement:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the structure located on the following premise, being previously inspected and declared **insecure, unsafe, and structurally defective** by the Trumbull County Building Inspector; be and are hereby is declared **insecure, unsafe, structurally defective** and is ordered removed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this Board's intention to **remove** said structure(s) be given in accordance with **Section 505.86 (B) O.R.C.**

OWNER OF RECORD: **Robert L. Rea**
PROPERTY ADDRESS: **1770 LINCOLN STREET**
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, TRUMBULL COUNTY OHIO
AUDITOR'S PARCEL ID#: **12-455550**

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

18-61 Motion made by Mrs. Stoyak to accept the resignation of Part Time Firefighter Barry Finley effective 2/22/18. Congratulations on your appointment as the Youngstown Fire Chief. We wish you the very best of success!

Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mr. Cizmar. Motion carried.

18-62 Motion made by Mrs. Stoyak to approve the 2018 Amended Certificate as provided by the Trumbull County Auditor.

Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mr. Cizmar. Motion carried.

18-63 Motion made by Mr. Cizmar to purchase 2018 STS Type III Ford E350 P90 Ambulance at \$104,256.00 through Penn Care Inc. price in accordance with Ohio STS Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Seconded by Mrs. Stoyak. Motion carried.

Trustee Remarks, Jodi K. Stoyak

- On March 9 Liberty Township participated in the 33rd Annual Trumbull County Educational Service Center Civic Day. I want to thank the department heads for speaking to the 3 seniors from Liberty High School about their jobs and positions.
- Today Mr. Ungaro and I attended the annual meeting at Eastgate Council of Governments. Last year I made numerous visits up and down Belmont Ave. with the director of Eastgate, Jim Kinnick and representatives of ODOT showing them the condition of our road and imploring upon them the need to refurbish our curbing. Mr. Ungaro followed up with phone calls to both organizations and we were able to procure an extra million dollars for new curbing on Belmont Ave from Gypsy Lane to Rt. 304. Much thanks to the State and Eastgate for their help with this important Liberty Township thoroughfare!
- This Wednesday Mr. Ungaro and I will be attending the March for Meals at Trumbull Mobile Meals. This is an annual event that brings attention to this very important need for food delivery in our Trumbull County Community for shut-ins.
- I would like to commend our officers and police chief for earning the distinction of one of the safest communities in the State of Ohio. This recognition is from the National Council for Home Safety and Security, a lobby group and national trade organization in Washington, DC. It is a reflection on our proactive policing and the hard work and dedication of our members in the police department.
- Liberty in Bloom is in its 17th year with over 30 volunteers and has begun to plan its plantings in key areas of the township. Rose bushes at I-80 were pruned yesterday. We are looking forward to a great growing season!
- Earth day is April 22nd. The Liberty Community Litter Clean Up is in its 23rd year. We will be participating with the Great American Clean up and will be provided bags and gloves through

Geauga-Trumbull Waste Management. I will be contacting Belmont Giant Eagle to provide volunteers with snacks and water. I will also be visiting the high school once again to get kids to sign up to help clean our community. Your participation is welcome! The cleanup will be held on April 21 and 22 from 12-5p.m. meeting here at the township building with a rain date of April 29th.

- Clear, unambiguous and timely communication between Board members is a critical requirement for any public body. The efficacy and smooth functioning of a public board can be assured only when all Board members are open and transparent with their thoughts and actions regarding issues related to the Township. Open communication is necessary; NO-a REQUIREMENT of the State's open meeting laws and to assure the public that all activities and decisions are open to public scrutiny. Anything less will invite valid criticism that decisions are made behind closed doors and may not be in the best interest of the public. What do we have to hide?
- Some issues: Trustees all attended the annual Trumbull County Engineers meeting on March 6, 2018. At that meeting, I asked if we could get help from them to fill pot holes and do crack sealing. Randy Smith said for us to talk to the Teamsters about it first but that he could afford a few days to send his guys out to assist us. This would allow Liberty to play some catch up as our staff is too low right now to accomplish all the work that needs to be done. I know that Mr. Ungaro has met with the Teamsters but I am unaware as to what the board is planning to do about this and certainly hope they jump on this help that has been offered. Additionally, we were told that the county will be chip and sealing the lower part of Colonial Drive (5th Avenue to Logan), Logangate, Crew Hood, Sodom Hutchings from Tibbetts Wick to Vienna, Warner Road from Logan Way to Brookfield and Shannon Road from Tibbetts Wick to Girard. The section of Logan Way to Warner Road will be resurfaced as well by the county and the upper part of Colonial from Belmont to Fifth Avenue. The roads to be milled and asphalted by Liberty Township this year will be Royal Arms Drive, Academy Drive and Euclid from Hadley to the dead end. I also provided the county with a list of 10 roads to be chip and sealed – they are Mt. Everett, Overbrook, March, McArthur, Pinecrest, West Montrose, Oakwood, Maplewood, Elmwood and Oakland but again, I have received no information or response from the Board as whether or not they plan to move forward with these. A prompt response is necessary to assure the timely application of Issue 1 money and for the county to proceed with these roads.
- On February 20, 2018 and again on March 13, 2018, a request was sent to Mr. Jerry Lambert, Director of Public Services, regarding a Public Records request pertaining to a section of our township that is provided water by Girard. A contract between the County Commissioners and Girard dated May 8, 2000 defines this service. The contract will be up in 2020 and the residents provided water in this section of Liberty pay an additional 40% surcharge, more than any other surrounding community. These water charges not only affect our residents but our business community. I have asked for specific information related to the cost, infrastructure and repairs that relate to this contract. This letter was provided to the Board but I received no response from them regarding this issue. I had an opportunity on Thursday to mention this issue to both Commissioners Polivka and Fuda and it is my intention, and should be the entire board's intention, to work for our residents who have Girard water and try to reduce the cost and improve the water pressure.
- I also put together a letter that could be utilized to communicate to the community about our need for another road levy. My personal idea would be to put an additional 1.25 mills on for this November as our renewal for the other 1.25 mills will be up next year. Each levy would generate approximately \$250,000/year or \$500,000 total to resurface our roads. With Issue 1 monies included we could potentially have about \$800,000/year which could resurface 8 miles of roads every year. The roads we have been able to resurface and money we have spent from our existing road levy can be found on our website, www.libertytwp.com This would allow us to get on a schedule to resurface our roads every 8-10 years. To date, I have had no response from this Board regarding this proposal or on the information contained in the letter. My concern is that this decision needs to be made soon or we will miss the date when levy information needs to be submitted to be put on the ballot in November which is the middle of May. There are also monies for grants through Eastgate Regional Council of Governments that Mr. Ungaro has always applied for that could be utilized to upgrade areas of Belmont with additional pedestrian oases and decorative lighting. The time is running out to apply for these grants as well. The township already has the plans established for this and it was my understanding that Mr. Clebone had an interest in helping to enhance the appearance of Belmont Avenue. To date, all I know is that he wants solar panels on our township buildings. I am not against solar lighting as I put one at I-80 with grant funds on one of our new signs but we have had difficulty keeping the battery re-charged because we don't have enough sunlight here to keep it lit. I would much rather see us utilize funds to continue the quest of beautification of Belmont Avenue and our business sector.
- Mr. Clebone and Mr. Cizmar met privately in our offices with a potential replacement for Atty. Finamore while I was on vacation during the week of February 21-28. It was an unscheduled meeting not held in an Executive Session in conjunction with a Regular Meeting. I found out this information on March 13 (last Tuesday) in an email from Mr. Clebone stating that "Greg and I are

considering requesting Attorney Finamore for his resignation and name in his place Attorney Poteet at our next regular trustees meeting on Monday, March 19". I responded asking when the two trustees met and where this decision was made and why the decision was made without me. I never received a response. Could it have been made in one of the three meetings that Mr. Cizmar and Mr. Clebone scheduled and held in the one week I was out of the country?? Or possibly the meeting they held on March 15 at 7:30 am? Quoted from the Attorney General's Website on the Open Meetings Act "A public body may not take any formal action, such as voting or otherwise reaching a collective decision in an executive session. Any formal action taken in an executive session is invalid. A public body may only discuss matters identified in ORC. 121.22 in executive session and may only hold executive sessions at regular and special meetings. I informed both Greg and Arnie that I am unable to make any 7:30 am meetings but they are choosing to have them anyway and once again I never received a response. I explained to them that the public may presume the board is not being transparent by having 7:30 am meetings and our law director, administrator and fiscal officer echoed my fears. In January, we scheduled our regular meetings for the third Monday of every month at 7:00 with a 6:30 caucus and an additional meeting on the first Thursday of every month at 11:00 am. When I returned from vacation on February 28th, I found out that Arnie and Greg cancelled the March 1 meeting without any explanation. This method of changing meeting times confuses not only the community but the staff and the press as WKBN was here on March 1 expecting that meeting. Being informed that the two board members decided in a private session without me to make a major change in our administrative personnel and hire a new attorney is disturbing! Mr. Ungaro was also NOT aware of this decision or change. Atty. Finamore has counseled our township for 27 years. During his tenure he has been successful in all aspects of our township regarding litigation, zoning and property maintenance enforcement. He does not charge the township a retainer fee and charges \$100 per hour for any use of his time. Atty. Finamore's experience and expertise in Township Law is recognized not only by local governments he has counseled but by State of Ohio associations as well. The Board's decision to hire another attorney baffles me and they have provided no rationale for Atty. Finamore's discharge and replacement. How could they possibly evaluate him thoroughly in less than three months? The new attorney's contract was provided to me via email with a March start date. She requests a retainer of \$36,000 per year. Atty. Finamore's fees averaged \$20,000 over the last four years versus a guaranteed retainer of \$36,000/year. The residents should be aware that money paid from the general fund takes away from potential funds that could and should be utilized for road repair. A township that is still in fiscal caution and is in desperate need of road repairs and resurfacing should be more focused on continuing to conserve finances for those road repairs and maintenance that we so sorely need. I inquired to the board for a change of date for the July meeting as I will be out of the country and once again, received no response. Could you please let me know if we could change the July meeting to the 23? Thank you!

- There are many issues open in our Township that can only be resolved through deliberate, careful and public discussion. This is how the Board of Liberty Trustees has always operated and what the residents of this community deserve. It is my sincere hope and desire that my colleagues will take this to heart, pursue these issues in a public forum that is made available when I and most people can attend. I would appreciate the Board to allow me the opportunity; I feel I have earned, to contribute my input. All future decisions by this Board should be based on facts and data and not on personalities and opinion. Thank You.

Motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Next business meeting Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.

STEVE SHELTON, FISCAL OFFICER

ARNOLD CLEBONE, CHAIRPERSON