

The Board of Liberty Township Trustees met in a Regular Meeting on March 18, 2019 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.

Recognition of Liberty Township Police Officers Chad McGarry, Pete DeAngelo, Dave Rankin and Captain Steve Shimko for their investigation of the April 24, 2017 homicide of lifelong Liberty Township resident Mrs. Jan Larue Brown.

Fiscal Officer's financial report discussed township finances and budget.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Ungaro discussed possible growth along Belmont Avenue.

Fire Department – Chief Gus Birch presented his report to the Board.

Police Department – Interim Chief Toby Meloro presented his report to the Board.

Road Department – Senior Road Foreman Timothy Monroe presented his report to the Board.

Zoning Department – Zoning Inspector and Code Officer Jim Rodway presented his report to the Board.

Discussion: Republic Trash and Recycling Contract Representative Brent Bowker

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Stoyak. Second: Mr. Cizmar

Roll Call: Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve warrant/eft expenditures for the month of February 2019 in the amount of \$443,885.40 warrants #18372 through #18545 inclusive.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Then and Now Purchase Order Certificates for the month of February 2019. (The chairman has a copy).

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

19-44 Motion to approve the settlement of the lawsuit *Julian Gibson v. Liberty Township et al*, Case No. 18CV 01952, US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, and to appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars from the Police District Fund to pay the Township's share of the settlement.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

19-45 Motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding to amend the contract between Liberty Township and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Sergeants and Captains, effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019, regarding the promotion of the acting Captain.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

19-46 Motion to adopt the Lexipol policies as modified by the Fire Department, as the official Policy Manual of the Liberty Township Fire Department.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

19-47 Motion to accept the resignation Shane Uhrain Part Time FF/Medic resigned effective 3/4/19.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Trustees remarks.

This month has been busy with meetings, a ribbon cutting for Tim Horton's tomorrow, and our Annual Civic Day.

I attended the Liberty Historical Society Meeting on March 7. That same day in the evening I attended the Citizen's Advisory Board meeting at Eastgate. I am not sure if I plan to continue to attend this meeting because I don't see any advantage for me or the township to attend. Liberty in Bloom met with Andy Kish, owner of 3 Flags, to discuss the main flower bed at I-80 and Belmont Avenue. We plan to call all local landscapers once we have a more concrete idea of how we want to reconstruct the bed. Andy's idea is to

try to get these landscapers to donate their soil, mulch, trees and shrubs for this project. We hope this is possible. This bed is one that everyone passing through Liberty Township sees and we plan to make it stunning!

Tim Horton's first business located in Ohio will be opening in Liberty Township with a ribbon cutting tomorrow evening at 5:00. I plan to attend.

Mobile Meals "March for Meals" is Wednesday at 10:30. Mr. Ungaro will drive me while I deliver the meals. I have been volunteering for this organization over the past 15 years. It is a terrific organization that provides meals to shut ins in Liberty and Girard and all areas in Trumbull County.

The Senior Watch grant will be coming out this month and I am on the lookout in the legal news for this. Once I see it I will pick it up at the Commissioner's office and provide it to Martha to fill out.

Civic Day is also this month, March 29th. It is a great time for our staff to show students in Liberty High School what we provide to our community.

A very important meeting was set up by our Law Director, Cherry Poteet and myself, with Girard officials, Jerry Lambert, Safety Services Director, Brian Kren, Law Director and Sam Zerafi, Auditor on February 27<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was set up because Atty. Poteet had sent a public records request in December and had not received the public records requested. On March 7, 2019, a second letter request for public records was sent to the City of Girard regarding their water that services Liberty Township. Previous to these two requests I sent three public records requests that I, too, did not receive the information requested. It is imperative that we receive the information that has been requested in order to see their water department records regarding revenue and expenditures. If the information that has been requested for the 5<sup>th</sup> time is not received by this board we should consider other means to retain these records.

A date has been set for our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Liberty Community Litter Clean Up. It will be held here at the Township Administration Building on April 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 p.m. Giant Eagle has been providing the snacks for this event over the past 25 years. A big thank you to them and to Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste who provides the bags, gloves and other items for our volunteers.

Lastly, in the Governor's Operating Budget Proposal that was provided to us by the Ohio Township Association, the Local Government Fund will be increased by 9.1 percent in 2020 and 1.8 percent in 2021, which is an additional \$40.2 million over the biennium. This fund goes directly into our General Fund at the Township and, if passed, will assist the township in getting out of fiscal caution.

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Cizmar. Second: Mrs. Stoyak.

Roll Call: Mr. Cizmar, Yes. Mrs. Stoyak, Yes. Mr. Clebone, Yes. Motion carried.

Next business meeting: March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

Special meeting March 25, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. to approve the permanent appropriations for 2019.

Next evening business meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

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STEVE SHELTON, FISCAL OFFICER

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ARNOLD CLEBONE, CHAIRPERSON