

Liberty Township, Licking County, Ohio

Regular Trustee Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Opening

- Bill Bogantz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and will be a public record.
- Bill led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Melodie Bogantz took roll call with the following answering present: Bill Bogantz, Ed Wasem & Doug Strait.
- Bill stated that the minutes from January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting were available for inspection.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 13, 2025 meeting. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

Resident/Public Input

- Mark Harger, 9717 Crouse-Willison Road, expressed his support of Woody Fox, the Zoning Inspector for both Liberty and Monroe townships. He invited everyone to attend a Monroe BZA public hearing for an appeal of a decision by Woody this Thursday (2/13/25) at 7:00pm.

Zoning

- Woody Fox, Zoning Inspector, presented the January zoning report. There were three permits totaling \$350.00.
 - 2025-LS-001 Joseph Havens \$100.00
5807 Loudon Street
Lot Split
 - 2025-P-001 James Dew \$150.00
116 Timber Creek Dr.
Addition
 - 2025-P-002 Sharon Milner \$100.00
4712 Dutch Lane
Lot Split
- Woody presented his list of incoming applications and issued violations
 - Kenneth Belczak, 6912 Nichols Lane: moving forward with LCPC Major Development process.
 - Lauri Thompson, 4328 Hardscrabble Rd: Woody is keeping an eye on the progress.
 - Houcks Auto Parts, 3634 Sportsman Club Road: Woody made a list of 28 Junk Vehicles.
 - 9821 Cooper Road: waiting on the land owner to file a variance request. The owner has all forms necessary.
 - 8001 Nichols Lane: Woody noticed a structure has been built and Woody has not received a building permit for that address. Woody will follow up.

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- Woody mentioned the Harmony Church Road Airport appeal in Monroe Township that is Thursday.
- Junk Vehicles at Houcks: The trustees discussed a resolution that Bill received from legal counsel that would allow the township to have the junk vehicles removed. The trustees reviewed Woody's list of 28 vehicles and viewed pictures of all vehicles to decide if they could be declared "junk" vehicles. The trustees agreed to table the resolution and collect more information.
- Melodie mentioned that the BZA approved two variances this past month and the Zoning Commission has started the process for another zoning resolution change which Melodie described to the trustees.

Old Business

- New Administration Building Update: Doug discussed a few items that still need to be addressed. The big item is the cracked concrete pad for generator.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to pay Slabaugh Builders for the building but to hold back \$10,000 until the work is completed. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Roads
 - Bill thanked Jeff for his winter road work of plowing and salting.
 - Bill got a message that there is a tree on a fiber cable. Bill has contacted Brightspeed to take care of it.
 - Jeff & Bill will ride the roads before the next meeting to see what roads should be addressed in the 2025 Road Work Project.
- Status of New Truck & Loan – The truck has been delivered to the outfitting company.
- Cemeteries
 - Ed said that the cleanup will be done later this year. Dave Ward, a resident, expressed concern on how the small trees would be taken care of. He stated that if they are just lopped off, many new shoots will develop. Ed agreed to talk to the contractor and have them put round-up on the stumps.
 - Doug stated that he received a call from someone wanting to sell back cemetery graves back to the township. He referred the call to Ed.
- Miles Estate: Bill summarized the status of the case and said that he had worked with legal counsel and provided the information for the subpoena that he received which included two years of trustee meeting minutes, sale contract, 3 text messages and 3 emails.

New Business

- OTA Conference
 - Bill & Melodie summarized some of what they learned at the Ohio Township Association Conference which was the end of January including BZA.

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- Melodie stated that OTA has worked out a deal with Amazon and all townships that are a part of OTA can sign up for a free PrimeBusiness account. This is also supposed to include special government pricing.
- Melodie talked to two companies that scan in documents. She got a rough estimate of \$2000-\$3000 for a deep 5 drawer file cabinet. That would include indexing the information. The trustees agreed that Melodie should move forward with getting formal bids.
- Bill learned that all townships can sign up for the Sign Grant. In the past it was based on the number of traffic accidents in your county/township.
- Bill stated that the BZA should always have 5 seated members for all cases to prevent legal issues. He was also told that BZA members, and Trustees, should not drive by a property involved in a case to get visual information. All information should be presented at the hearing.
- Melodie gave an update on the tax bill we received from the State for 2009. The bill appeared on the state website after they did a website upgrade. It said that we didn't file the year end report for 2009. Melodie has since filed the report. Melodie requested an abatement which lowered the bill by \$500. Currently they say we owe about \$950.00 which, as far as Melodie can tell, is interest on the \$500 penalty for not filing. Melodie has a call scheduled next week to talk to a person about the bill.
- Melodie presented the temporary appropriations for 2025 and suggested a few account code changes that should be made. This would not affect the total amount appropriated. Melodie proposed that the temporary appropriations be made the final appropriations with the two account code changes.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 Annual Appropriation Resolution as presented. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Bill presented a list of building maintenance that he compiled. Fixing the garage door on the salt bay was added to the list. Doug Strait will address this list.
- Zoning Appointments
 - Beth Warner's term on the Zoning Commission is expiring March 1st and she does not wish to continue.
 - Wendi Zigo's term on the BZA expires on March 1st and she is willing to continue serving on the BZA.
 - Melodie contacted everyone on the Technical Review Committee and they are willing to continue serving for another year.
 - **Bill Bogantz made a motion to appoint Wendi Zigo to the BZA for another five year term. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

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- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to appoint the following people to the Technical Review Committee for the coming year: Bill Bogantz, Trustee; Alan Huet and Rob Broehl, Zoning Commission; Robert Moore and Wendi Zigo, BZA. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Bill mentioned that we need to meet with Monroe Fire to establish a plan if the St Albans Fire levies don't pass. It was mentioned that St Albans may become part of the South West Fire District if their levies fail.
- Doug Strait presented a table comparing the zoning costs in Liberty Township compared to surrounding townships. Doug suggests no changes to the fees.
- Woody suggested that the township make the Variance application available online. Bill will put it on the township website.
- Bill stated that we have an opening on the BZA and the Zoning Commission and if anyone is interested please contact him.

Correspondence & Financials

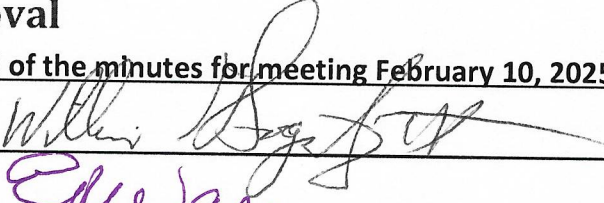
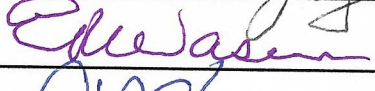
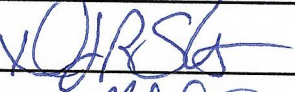
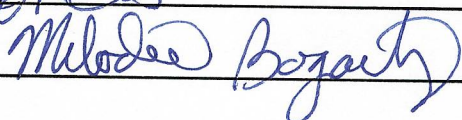
- Melodie read the Credit Card Charges of \$930.80.
- Melodie read Correspondence from the last month.
- Melodie read the Payment Report for \$261,551.03.
- Melodie read the Receipt Report for \$24,364.55.

Closing

- Next monthly meeting is March 10, 2025 @ 6:30 pm.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.
- The Trustees Signed Credit Card Summary, Bank Reconciliation, Minutes, Reports, Warrants, Resolutions, etc.

Approval

Approval of the minutes for meeting February 10, 2025:

Trustee:		Date:	<u>3/10/2025</u>
Trustee:		Date:	<u>3-10-25</u>
Trustee:		Date:	<u>3-10-25</u>
Fiscal Officer:		Date:	<u>3/10/2025</u>