

Liberty Township, Licking County, Ohio

Regular Trustee Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Opening

- Bill Bogantz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He stated that the meeting was being recorded and is 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 February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting were available for inspection.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 10, 2025 meeting. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

Resident/Public Input

- none

Zoning

- Woody Fox, Zoning Inspector, presented the January zoning report. There were six permits totaling \$840.00.
 - 2025-LS-003 David Priest \$200.00
7871 Concord Rd
Lot Split
 - 2025-LS-004 Eric M. Weersing \$100.00
8060 Concord Rd.
Lot Split
 - 2025-P-002 Brooks & Kendra Arbogast \$240.00
6817 Northridge Rd.
Accessory Building
 - 2025-P-003 Scott & Angela Snyder \$75.00
105 Liberty Ridge Ct.
Pool
 - 2025-P-004 James Dew \$150.00
116 Timber Creek Dr.
Pavilion
 - 2025-P-005 Jacob & Haley Burke \$75.00
4993 Hardscrabble Rd
Pool
- Woody Fox, Reviewed current zoning violations in the township
 - 9821 Cooper Road – this property is now down to 3 trailers and still has not requested a variance. The owner is trying to get approval for their septic system from the health department. Woody will discuss the issue with the Health

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Department since we don't feel the owner should get a permit for a septic system for the campers when the campers are a zoning violation. Woody will also send the owner a letter stating that they need to apply for a variance within 14 days or the township will be moving forward with the violation with the prosecutor's office.

- 8001 Nichols Lane has built an accessory building within the setback and without a permit. Woody has not been able to connect with the owner. He will proceed with sending a violation letter.
- Houck's Junk Yard – There are currently about 17 vehicles plus a tractor on the property. That is down from around 30 vehicles a couple weeks ago. Bill Bogantz has discussed with legal counsel how to proceed with cleaning up the junk vehicles on the property. Bill described and reviewed Resolution 2025-03 which would allow the township to review those vehicles. Part of the discussing was around defining extensive damage which is the wording required to remove the vehicles in the resolution. The trustees reviewed the list of 29 vehicles and their damage that Woody provided after his last visit to the property. The Trustees agreed that 18 of the vehicles should be included in the proposed resolution based on their extensive damage.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 A Resolution Declaring Motor Vehicles Located at 3634 & 3617 Sportsman Club Road, Johnstown, Ohio 43031 In Liberty Township, Licking County, Ohio, Junk Motor Vehicles and Ordering Their Removal Pursuant to O.R.C. 505.871. Bill Bogantz seconded the Motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Woody stated that Liberty Township's fees for Variances/Appeals/CUPs are lower than St Albans and Monroe and don't cover the costs of the proceedings.
- Melodie presented to the trustees, Zoning Resolution 2025-01 from the Zoning Commission. This update changes timeframes in the zoning resolution to match with ORC. The trustees agreed to have their public hearing on March 31, 2025 at 6:30 pm.
- Melodie informed the trustees that the Zoning Commission is also working on another Zoning Resolution Update, 2025-02, which would make updates that would allow the township to advertise zoning meetings on-line (township website and facebook page) instead of the newspaper (Newark Advocate).

Old Business

- **New Administration Building Update:** Doug stated that the water test has been done, but that the water in the new building did not pass even though the water from the outside spigot did pass.
- **Building Maintenance:** Doug presented an estimate he received to replace the garage door on the one salt bay. The trustees agreed that an insulated door was not needed.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve the estimate for the uninsulated door from Buckeye Overhead Doors of \$4465. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

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- It was mentioned that the outside hydrant by the shop is leaking. Doug will let Slabaugh Construction know about the issue.
- Roads
 - It was noted that a lot of plowing and salting of the roads has been done the past month.
 - Bill stated that the tree on a fiber cable has been removed by Brightspeed.
 - Bill stated that he and Jeff have driven the township roads and think the following roads should be resurfaced this coming summer: Nichols, Riley, Dutch Ridge & Bailey. The following roads need some patchwork: Timber Creek & Liberty Church. They will be connecting with Bob Smalls after April 1st to get his opinion on these roads.
 - Mowing Equipment: Bill stated that the bearings are out the flail mowing. Rebuilding the roller costs about \$2000, replacing the roller costs \$2100. There was also discussion on getting a brush hog for the tractor, but it would require a different arm. The new arm would also work with a new ditcher. The old ditcher that the township has only works on an old tractor that the township has, and that is the only use for that tractor. A total for new arm, new brush hog and new ditcher is about \$50,000. Parsons also has a pull behind road reclaimer that we could use to fix the ditches/berms of our roads. Bill said he presented all this information to begin discussion on whether the township should invest in some new equipment.
 - **Doug Strait made a motion to approve fixing the mower by replacing the roller for \$2100. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
 - Bill stated that the township can get a demo of the reclaimer.
 - A couple of the trustees and the Road Supervisor have been contacted about flooding on Pine Hills. It was determined that residents have covered ditches without permits and created the issue. It was mentioned that maybe the township needs to talk with the residents and have them cover their ditches correctly. Bill will look into the correct process to follow to fix the issue.
 - It was also mentioned that there is some yard repair work that needs to be done on Timber Creek where the plow went off the road.
- Status of New Truck – No new updates, but Doug will follow-up to get the status.
- Cemeteries: There is a burial next week. Melodie noted that she is working on the buy-back that was mentioned at last month's meeting. They want us to buy back 4 graves. One of the graves already has a burial, so only 3 can be bought back. Ed will be working with the owners to get the proper paperwork signed.
- Doug is working on collecting information to make updates to the township's zoning fees and compensation.
- Doug is working on connecting with our Fire/EMS providers to put together a plan for if St Albans' upcoming tax levies fail. He is working on rescheduling a meeting with Chief Dudley that the chief had to cancel.

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New Business

- Melodie stated that she is still following up on the State Tax bill for 2009. She has scheduled a phone call with them to discuss the issue.
- Melodie stated that the Unaudited Annual Financial Report is available and has been advertised.
- Melodie presented the 2024 Township Highway System Mile Certification for the trustees to sign.
- Melodie stated that she has filed the online TIF Reports for 2024.
- The new UAN computer and printer have been received, though the transfer has not yet been completed.
- Melodie stated that OTARMA has not sent us an updated insurance policy, and will not mark us delinquent since we won't be able to get the signed documents to them until after the next meeting.
- Melodie is waiting for the Salt Contract for 2025-2026 to be posted. It should be posted by the next meeting.
- Melodie mentioned that she followed up on the note she found in the 2005 minutes about money being set aside for the township with LCPC for greenspace. The money was already dispersed.

Correspondence & Financials

- Melodie read the Credit Card Charges of \$1,220.84.
- Melodie read Correspondence from the last month.
- Melodie read the Payment Report for \$20,875.85.
- Melodie read the Receipt Report for \$22,949.69.

Closing

- Next monthly meeting is April 14, 2025 @ 6:30 pm.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.
- The Trustees Signed Credit Card Summary, Bank Reconciliation, Minutes, Reports, Warrants, Resolutions, etc.

Approval

Approval of the minutes for meeting March 10, 2025:

Trustee: _____

Date: _____

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Trustee: William Bezaft Date: 4/14/2025

Trustee: Edw... Date: 4-14-25

Fiscal Officer: JRS Date: 4-14-25

Melinda Bezaft 4/14/2025

