

Liberty Township, Licking County, Ohio

Regular Trustee Meeting Minutes

May 12, 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 the April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting were available for inspection.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 14, 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 April report. There were four permits, two variances and one violation issued which totaled \$2292.50.
 - 2025-P-013 Kenneth & Kendra Glenn \$150.00
8580 Northridge Rd.
Deck
 - 2025-P-014 Tammy Baron \$367.50
8885 Crouse-Willison Rd.
Accessory Building
 - 2025-P-015 Kenneth & Kendra Glenn \$75.00
8580 Northridge Rd.
Pool
 - 2025-LS-005 David Priest \$100.00
7853 Concord Rd
Lot Split
 - 2025-VAR-001 Christian Solomona \$800.00
9821 Cooper Rd.
Variance
 - 2025-VAR-002 Heath Bullock \$800.00
8201 Northridge Rd.
Variance
 - 2025-Violation-001 Jacob & Alicia Anstaett \$0.00
8001 Nichols Lane Rd.
Violation for set backs
- Woody Fox, Reviewed current zoning violations in the township

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- 4328 Hardscrabble Road – Woody is keeping an eye on it.
- 3634 Sportsman Club Road – Houcks’ Junk Yard – Using self-help, notification letters were not accepted so notice was placed in newspaper and posted on structures on the property. Removal of vehicles could have started April 25, 2025 and second audit of vehicles was performed April 25th showing that 8 vehicles still remain, 5 of which can be removed per trustee resolution.
- 9821 Cooper Road – Variance hearing is schedule May 22nd at 7:00 pm.
- 8001 Nichols Lane has built an accessory building within the setback and without a permit. Woody has sent a violation (2025-V-001) to Jacob & Alisha Anstaett. They have now filed for an Agricultural Exemption with Licking County. Woody said that the building is truly being used for Agriculture.
- Melodie stated that Zoning Resolution Update 2025-01 which updated our Zoning Resolution time frames to match with Ohio Revised Code is currently in effect and copies of the updated Zoning Resolution have been distributed.
- Melodie stated that the Zoning Commission has been working on Zoning Resolution Update 2025-02 which will allow for zoning public hearings to be advertised on the township website and Facebook page instead of in the Newark Advocate. The Licking County Planning Commission (LCPC) gave the change a non-binding recommendation of approval. (The LCPC actually sent the change to all the zoned townships in Licking County for them to consider similar changes in their Zoning Resolutions.) The Zoning Commission is hereby recommending the change to the Trustees. The Trustees agreed to have their public hearing on the change at the June 9th, 2025 regular meeting at 6:30.
- Melodie stated that the Housing Technical Assistance Program (HTAP) is a \$1.5 million grant program that we would use to update our Zoning Resolution to agree with our Comprehensive Plan. The application became available April 22. Melodie turned in the application on the 24th. The application window was closed on the 25th since they had already received over \$2 million worth of applications. We applied for \$50,000. We will hear by the end of May if our application was accepted.
- Bill stated that we have an alternate position open on both the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission. Melodie added that alternates do not need to be appointments of five years, per conversation with Peter Griggs, township legal counsel.

Old Business

- **New Administration Building Update:**
 - Doug stated that the building is done. He also mentioned that the aerator failed but has been repaired. Doug has also requested a sign design for the township administration building.
 - The trustees discussed the smell of the water, and Doug agreed to look into a water filter system to remove the sulfur smell.

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- Roads:
 - Bill presented the estimates for the proposed road work for 2025.
 - **Bill Bogantz made a motion to put the 2025 Road Work out for bid and open bids at the June 9th Regular Trustee Meeting at 6:30pm. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
 - Jeff has starting mowing the sides of the township roads.
 - Bill stated that the suspension of the Chevy 3500 needs to be redone. The cost is about \$2600. With the new springs the load can be 14,000 pounds. The parts are on order.
- Sign Grant – Doug stated that he had the paperwork for the sign grant and he was approved for a login to apply for the grant. Doug gave Jeff the list of signs that can be ordered and requested that Jeff fill out the number of each sign the township has to be replaced with the updated reflective signs. The application is due by June 6th.
- Status of New Truck – Doug said that the new truck should be ready in August. The trustees discussed getting rid of the red dump truck when we get the new truck.
- Cemeteries:
 - Ed stated that there is a tombstone being placed in the Concord Cemetery.
 - Melodie presented the paperwork for buying back 3 of the 4 cemetery graves from Bill & Marilou Rowley and reissuing a deed for the fourth grave.
 - **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve the buyback of the 3 graves from Bill & Marilou Rowley, which are Liberty Church Cemetery, New Section, Lot 30, Graves 2, 3 & 4 for \$240, and reissuing the Deed for Grave 1. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Doug presented some text he would like to use to update the cost of conditional use permits, appeals, and variances. Melodie agreed to ask legal counsel about the change.
- Fire Protection –
 - Doug stated that since the St Albans levy passed, Liberty Township doesn't have to worry about fire/ems coverage for that section of the township. In Doug's discussion with Monroe Fire Chief, he learned that Monroe Township Fire Dept. is not interested in increasing their territory by covering the portion of our township currently covered by St Albans.
 - The trustees agreed that when Monroe and St Albans come to request levy renewals from our township, that they need to have a good presentation of facts.
 - Doug stated that it seems that the plan is for St Albans to transition to Southwest Licking Fire District over the next 5 years.

New Business

- MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) – Bill stated that he looked into MORPC membership for the township. It is generally \$1200 per year, but they gave Bill a

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free Pilot Membership which is good for the first year. They have a series of 6 classes that regularly cost \$1000, but is discounted for \$750. Bill asked if the trustees were ok with him taking the classes. Ed said he was ok. Bill said he would sign up.

- Licking County has begun work on a Comprehensive Plan. Bill was asked to join the effort, and has started attending meetings.
- Melodie mentioned that the trustees received a utility permit request from Spectrum for the west side of Forbidden Lakes Ct. The trustees signed the permit.
- Melodie gave an update on the requests she has made for finding someone to scan in the file cabinet full of zoning permits. We have received quotes from GBS Document Conversions and ScanWorks. Melodie needs to get some follow-up questions answered before proceeding.
- Bill & Melodie went through their notes from the OTARMA Risk Assessment that was performed a week ago. Some of the items are already being address. We have not yet received the official report from the assessment.
- Melodie was looking into getting a better interest rate on township funds with STAR OHIO when Park National Bank (where are money is currently) called and asked if there was anything they could do for the township. Melodie asked about getting a better interest rate. They were able to increase the interest to 3.5% for the township on the Money Market Account and said that if we increase the amount in the account to \$1 million, then we could get 3.9%. The trustees agreed that Melodie should move more money to the Money Market Account. The money is still liquid.
- The tenants of the township property at 7111 Northridge Road are on a month-to-month lease. The trustees discussed getting the tenants to sign a new 1 year lease. Bill agreed to provide Doug with a copy of a lease.
- Melodie mentioned that the Ohio Township Association has a YouTube channel that will have weekly updates on *The 1308 Report* (there are 1308 townships in Ohio). Melodie said that the report has some good information.
- It was mentioned that the township should get panels to absorb sound in the meeting room. Doug will look into sound panels. It was also mentioned that maps should be put up on the walls.

Correspondence & Financials

- Melodie read the Credit Card Charges of \$1,607.28.
- Melodie read Correspondence from the last month.
- Melodie read the Payment Report for \$502,876.10.
- Melodie read the Receipt Report for \$73,465.02.

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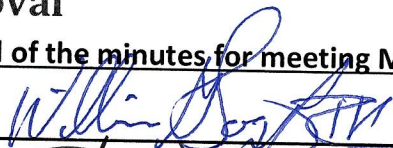
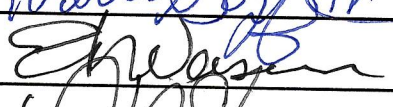

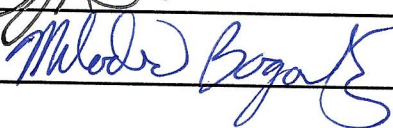
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Closing

- Next monthly meeting is June 9, 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 7:36 pm.
- The Trustees Signed Credit Card Summary, Bank Reconciliation, Minutes, Reports, Warrants, Resolutions, etc.

Approval

Approval of the minutes for meeting May 12, 2025:

Trustee:		Date:	6/9/2025
Trustee:		Date:	6-9-25
Trustee:		Date:	6-9-25
Fiscal Officer:		Date:	6/9/25

