

*Liberty Township, Licking County, Ohio*

**Trustee Regular Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm**

**Opening**

- Bill Bogantz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- Bill 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 January 12, 2026 minutes were available on the table at the entrance.
- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve the January 12, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

**Resident Input**

- none

**Open Mowing Bids**

- The township received two bids
  - Licking County Landscaping                      \$2,200 per month      \$17,000 total
  - Get Rizz'd Landscaping LLC                      \$1700 per month      \$13,600 total
- The trustees will review all paperwork and award the mowing contract at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Resident Input**

- Woody read the monthly zoning report totaling \$1700.65.
  - 2026-LS-001                      Jeff Irvin                      \$100.00  
4005 Stone Quarry Rd.  
Lot Split
  - 2026-LS-002                      Frances Messer                      \$100.00  
6337 Castle Rd.  
Lot Split
  - 2026-LS-003                      Jeff Holbrook                      \$200.00  
4573 Castle Rd.  
Lot Split
  - 2026-P-001                      Michael & Amanda Smith                      \$75.00  
101 Bailey Dr.  
Pool
  - 2026-P-002                      Runnymede Inc.                      \$150.00  
6155 Castle Rd.  
Upgrade Cell Tower
  - 2026-P-003                      David Wineland                      \$150.00

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- 8400 Concord Rd.  
Accessory Building
- 2026-P-004            Nicholas & Maria Fields            \$775.65  
6281 Castle Rd.  
Residence
- 2026-P-005            CRLD LLC            \$150.00  
5047 Dutch Lane  
Pavilion
- Woody gave updates on zoning issues
  - 2024-V-002    9821 Cooper Rd.            Solomona
  - 2025-V-001    6895 Sportsman Club Road    Blenk.
  - 2025-V-002    8490 Cooper Road            Christian Mejia
  - Woody also gave an update on the complaints he has received for the airport on Harmony Church Road. Woody stated that there is no violation.
  - The trustees reviewed a letter Woody had prepared to send to the Blenks.
- Melodie stated that the zoning staff members whose terms are expiring have all agreed to continue serving. End dates will be slightly adjusted to get the boards back to having only one member's term expire each year.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to appoint, to the Zoning Commission, Sara Sparhawk to fill a term to expire March 1, 2030 and Fred Schwarz to fill a term to expire March 1, 2031. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to appoint, to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Dale McCombs to fill a term to expire March 1, 2029 and Robert Moore to fill a term to expire March 1, 2031. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to appoint, to the Technical Review Committee, Alan Huet, Greg Behnke, Robert Moore & Wendi Zip, for another term ending 2/28/2027. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 In the Matter of Permitting Suit Against Cristian Mejie for Violation of the Liberty Township Zoning Resolution. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- **At 6:54 pm, Bill Bogantz moved to enter into executive session under ORC 121.22(G)(3) to conference with an attorney for the Township concerning disputes involving the Township that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- **At 7:04 pm, Bill Bogantz made a motion to return from executive session. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

## **Correspondence & Financials**

- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve the January Credit Card Charges totaling \$474.22. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

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- **Doug Strait made a motion to approve the past month's payments totaling \$23,468.55. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Melodie stated that receipts received in the past month were \$26,218.30.
- Melodie mentioned the notable correspondence:
  - **OTARMA newsletter for Winter 2025/2026**

## **Old Business**

- Doug stated that we are still waiting for the signs from the sign grant.
- Ed had no updates on the cemetery.
- Melodie stated that she is working on the Concord Cemetery transfer of two lots. She has sent out paperwork to be completed.
- Melodie also stated that there was a burial for Lora Maxine Bailey in the Concord Cemetery, New Section, Lot 33, Grave 1.
- Melodie is still working the Moorehead Hill Cemetery issue trying to get the township to be the legal owner of the cemetery. Melodie has given the prosecutor's office some contacts to help establish the fact that the township has been maintaining the cemetery for a long time.
- **Building Maintenance**
  - Doug presented 2 estimates for installation of a flag pole on the township property.
    - Liberty Flies \$4,400
    - Sign-Lite \$4,180
  - **Doug Strait made a motion to go with Sign-Lite for the flag pole if they can do the installation by July. Bill Bogantz seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
  - Jeff informed Doug that a downspout on one corner of the shop is coming off. Doug will look into getting it fixed.
- **Roads**
  - Bill thanked Jeff for his work on the roads especially with the recent snowstorm.
  - Jeff stated that we are good on salt for the rest of the winter.
  - Bill stated that he feels like the township could benefit from another part time road employee when we have big snowstorms, so that the township can have 2 trucks out plowing at a time, or the employees could take shifts
  - Bill presented information to the trustees on upgrading equipment for mowing and ditching which could include a new tractor.
  - Bill informed Jeff that he got a request to do another pass with the snowplow on Harmony Church Road. Jeff said he'd take a look.
- Woody gave a response to an email that came in during the meeting referencing the township's airport CUP.
- Field tile under Harmony Church Road – Bill stated that the field tile on the north side of the road has been repaired by the landowner

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**New Business**

- Melodie stated that the books for 2025 have been closed and she has advertised that the unaudited annual financial reports are available for review upon request by appointment (2/5/26)
- Updates from Ohio Township Association (OTA) Conference
  - Melodie mentioned that township needs to complete their Cyber Security procedures by July 1 and that Ohio Cyber Range Institutes has free helps for townships to complete the requirements
  - Melodie described new legislation that gives the County Budget Commission new powers
  - Melodie stated that there is a BWC Safety Grant that is a 3-1 match that we could use to help pay for a post driver for installing the new road signs
  - Bill gave some information on property taxes and a bill that may be on the November ballot.
- The trustees agreed that we should stay with Silco for our annual fire inspection. Melodie will set it up.
- Melodie presented the temporary appropriations and asked that they trustees approve them as the final appropriations.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 the Annual Appropriation Resolution. Doug Strait seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

**Closing**

- Bill stated that the next regular trustee meeting is March 9, 2026 at 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 7:39 pm.
- The trustees signed the credit card summary, bank reconciliation, minutes, permits, reports, warrants, resolutions, etc.

**Approval**

**Approval of the minutes for meeting February 9, 2026:**

Trustee: <u>William Bogantz</u>	Date: <u>3/9/2026</u>
Trustee: <u>Epurson</u>	Date: <u>3-9-26</u>
Trustee: <u>JRSb</u>	Date: <u>3-9-26</u>
Fiscal Officer: <u>Melodie Bogantz</u>	Date: <u>3/9/26</u>