

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in regular session Thursday, September 7, 2023 in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 5:30 P.M. Chairman Craig Richter presided.

Roll Call: All Trustees and the Fiscal Officer were present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Board led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Leading Motion #: 2023-343

Executive Session

2023-343. Mr. Richter moved to enter into executive session at 5:30 P.M. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

Roll Call Vote Mr. Richter, yes; Mr. Mazzurco, yes; Mr. Radtke, yes. Motion passed.

Invited into the executive session is Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer, Mark Purchase, Township Administrator and Andrew Nagy, Lieutenant. The board reentered public session at 5:53 P.M.

2023-344. Mr. Richter moved to promote part-time Lieutenant Andrew Nagy to part-time Assistant Fire Chief of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio at the pay rate of \$29.02/hr. effective Sunday, September 17, 2023. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-345. Mr. Richter moved to enter into executive session at 5:54 P.M. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

Roll Call Vote Mr. Richter, yes; Mr. Mazzurco, yes; Mr. Radtke, yes. Motion passed.

Invited into the executive session is Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer and Craig Young, Police Chief. The board reentered public session at 7:10 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

2023-346. Mr. Richter moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings listed below as presented to the Board by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Date	Meeting Type
8/10/23	Regular
8/21/23	Special - Budget
8/24/23	Regular
8/31/23	Special

2023-347. Mr. Richter moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting dated 7/27/23 as presented to the Board by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote: Mr. Richter, abstain; Mr. Mazzurco, yes; Mr. Radtke, yes; motion passed.

2023-348. Mr. Richter moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees special meeting (at county) dated 8/21/23 as presented to the Board by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote: Mr. Richter, yes; Mr. Mazzurco, abstain; Mr. Radtke, yes; motion passed.

Public Comments/Questions

Pat Mula, a resident asked the Trustees to find out how many EMS calls were placed to Metzenbaum since 2019. She presented the Board of Trustees with an article she feels holds a lot of information regarding Copley Township in Summit County and the broken system with nursing homes and the pressure that it puts on first responders.

Department Business – Road

2023-349. Mr. Richter moved to provide police service to assist with car traffic from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, Sept 16, 2023 for the Chester Township community clean up event. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-350. Mr. Richter moved to approve Road Department expenditures as listed below. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
238-2023	Reg	6,250.00	Gracelee Sandblasting Solutions	Repaint reconstructed bed on truck #19
234-2023	Reg	19,750.00	Lake Erie Construction Co	Guardrail installation Cedar & County Line
236-2023	Reg	15,000.00	Cerni Motors Sales Inc	Various Parts

Department Business – Fire

The Chesterland Fire Department will hold an Open House on October 1, 2023 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. It was recommended by the Board that the open house begin at 12:00 PM. The suggestion will be shared with Fire Chief Shaw for consideration.

2023-351. Mr. Richter moved to approve after the fact \$1,050.00 payable to Foremost Promotions for fire prevention hand out material from 2111-220-599-7800 Other-Other Expense (Fire Prevention). Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Pat Mula questioned how many pieces of material it was regarding the above motion. The response was 3,000 and that it can be used for multiple years.

Department Business – Police

2023-352. Mr. Richter moved to approve Police Department expenditures as listed below. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
235-2023	Reg	2,500.00	Stefanik Iosue & Associates	Legal Fees

Department Business – Zoning

It was suggested to the Board when amending a Zoning Resolution that they consider adding another line to the advertisement stating the actual section that the Township wants to amend. Mr. Purchase added they are currently following the model zoning. Trustee Radtke agreed to the proposed change.

Pat Mula requested the below be added to the public record.

Sept. 06, 2023

Dear Chester Township Board of Trustees,

In regards to proposed Zoning Resolution (ZR) Z-2023-1, that was developed by the Zoning Commission (ZC), I have some questions & comments regarding the procedures to advertise a proposed amendment & the information required and associated with it.

The ZC held their Public Hearing on it August 16, 2023 with approval to be forwarded to you for your public hearing.

The legal ad to advertise their public hearing on Z-2023-1 was in the newspaper with no explanation as to what "section" of the ZR it was in reference to or what the amendment was about. It was on the Township calendar Aug. 16 as a ZC meeting & by clicking on the date it took you to a screen that explained the proposed changes to ZR 12.02.5. That information is not on there anymore.

This has been brought to your attention many times & requested by residents, but yet it has not been done. Wouldn't it make more sense to clarify what an amendment is about in the legal ad, & referencing the section of the ZR to adhere to the "transparency" all three of you talk about?

In the future, please help the residents to understand the actions you are taking and add a simple explanation to a proposed amendment or a BZA "Variance Request" by addressing the ZR Section with a brief explanation.

In addition, I'd like to point out that the Chester Township Board of Trustees (BOT) public hearing on Z-2023-1 has been set for Sept. 21, 2023. Once again the BOT legal advertisement for your public hearing did not reference the section of our Zoning Resolution or offer any language clarifying what is being proposed.

Also there is not any explanation on the calendar that this is a public hearing-nor does it direct you to another screen by clicking on the date.

Thank you for addressing my concerns.

Pat Mula

Mrs. Mula continued and stated the items on the website disappear or are no longer there. Trustee Radtke replied that we are better than we were, not as good as we can be and we will continue to try to improve. Trustee Radtke noted in three steps he was able to get the information off our website even though it may not be exactly the path another might want to take. Trustee Radtke added we can always take feedback and improve. Trustee Richter said he would look into why things are dropping off the website.

A discussion concerning Active Parks and Passive Parks took place. Parks are not identified in our Zoning Resolution. Mr. Purchase shared several communities have cemeteries classified as Passive Parks. The 88 acres would need to be investigated more as to available options.

New Business

Veteran's Day Ceremony is November 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Administrative Meeting Preparation was discussed. It was determined that electronic copies will be sent from this point forward to the Trustees for meetings, like Trustee Radtke has been doing for a year and only one (1) hard copy will be made for the Fiscal Officer.

The Geauga County budget was approved even though the first budget was declined. Note that an additional 7 million dollars will be added to the surplus. The Budget Commission allocates the Townships 10 inside millage which is currently split 3 to the Township, 3 to the County and 4 to the West Geauga Schools. Township Administrator Purchase at the request of Trustee Richter put together a letter for the Budget Commission to consider reallocating additional millage, on a temporary basis, to help the Township. Additional millage would go into the General Fund and dispersed appropriately.

2023-353. Mr. Richter moved to approve the signing and submission of a letter to the Geauga County Auditor for consideration of reallocating inside millage from the County to the Township. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Organizational Meeting Motions to Appoint – Formally recognize continued employment of Township’s salaried positions. It was agreed to add the motions.

A follow up regarding Geauga County Board of DD took place. Trustee Richter already submitted to the Auditor the lease agreement, although he would like to submit a formal complaint making the properties taxable. It was stated at a previous meeting that advertisement for meetings regarding Geauga County Board of DD is only on their website. Trustee Richter said the local papers will print Township meeting notices for free and sent an email to Mr. Karlovec of the local papers. Trustee Richter would like to see their meetings advertised in the papers from this point forward as well as on their website. Mrs. Pat Mula suggested the Trustees take a stand on this situation and speak with legal counsel. Discussion continued with residents and the Board of Trustees regarding government buildings, deed restrictions, etc. More discussion to continue later.

2023-354. Mr. Richter moved to submit a complaint against the continued exemption of real property from taxation at the Metzenbaum Center location. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Dal Lanese suggested making the Metzenbaum building into a senior center. Mr. Richter added that to his knowledge no one came to the Board and asked for anything, but rather went straight to the Commissioners. It was suggested that the seniors get together and attend a meeting at Metzenbaum and go from there.

Regarding the Township Long Range Plans for the Township, Trustee Richter had an idea of getting a Master Planning Committee.

Discussion of Fire Station 2 sale of property continued from last week and the situation with the failing roof.

2023-355. Mr. Richter moved to not request a hearing with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new liquor license for Victoria’s Craft Bakery LLC., 12725 Woodside Drive, Chesterland, Ohio. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-356. Mr. Richter moved to approve the use of the Chester Township properties as listed below: Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Individual/Organization	Date(s)	Location	Time(s)	Event
Geoff Thompson	9/17/2023	Volleyball Courts	5:00PM – 9:00PM	Tournament

Township Park

Road Superintendent John Onyshko has agreed to remove some trees in the park at the corner of Mayfield Road and Chillicothe Road after speaking with Mark Purchase and the Perennial Gardeners. After the removal of the trees, new trees will be purchased and planted by the Perennial Gardeners. Military Flags were placed in the park for Labor Day weekend. Residents complimented the flags and Mr. Purchase said they will continue to be placed in the park around the holidays. The lighting has all been repaired in the park resulting from damage the kids did. Again, the drainage issue in the park has been corrected. A little delay with the pickleball project, but only by a few days. Trustee Mazzurco added that on September 16, 2023 the flag football team will be moving practice sites. Trustee Richter added that an individual will be requesting the Town Hall Meeting Room for a seminar on Medicare.

Financial Items

2023-357. Mr. Richter moved to approve the financial transactions below. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

INTRA-FUND TRANSFERS				
Fund	Amount	From Account	To Account	Purpose
Fire	500.00	2111-930-930-0000	2111-220-599-7800	Per Wm Shaw

PURCHASE ORDERS					
Dept	PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
Enforce/Educat	237-2023	Reg	1,500.00	Gold Coast Armory LLC	Training Services

CHECKS		
Date	Starting No.	Ending No.
9/12/2023	87161	87170
9/7/2023	87171	87216
Fiscal Officer's note: the last check number used on 8/24/2023 was 87160		

EFT DIRECT DEPOSITS			
Date	Starting No.	Ending No.	Description
9/12/2023	1366-2023	1436-2023	Regular Payroll

VOUCHERS & WITHHOLDINGS				
Voucher	Payee	Amount	Dated	Description
1438-2023	First National Bank EFTPS	23,754.52	9/12/2023	Employee & employer withholding – Federal
1365-2023	Public Employees Retirement System	47,720.08	9/22/2023	Employee & employer withholding – Retirement

Fiscal Officer's Report

Fiscal Officer Patricia Jarrett noted that several e-mails went out to the Board regarding updates including Cornerstone Excavating. All legal issues with Cornerstone were referred to the insurance company. Med Count was also discussed regarding over payments and the Fire Department. Fiscal Officer Jarrett said we should be receiving the refund within a day or two. She also shared she is having

an issue with the bank reconciliation because she cannot tie into Medicount numbers. Medicount agreed to give Patricia a report that would tie to our banks reported deposits.

Donations Received		
Received from	Amount	Description
Craig Richter	\$150.00	Flags for Park

Open/Ongoing Items

BWC Update – Rates will be lowered by 3.9% to government entities

Body Armor Grant – Applied for already

FEEEG grant was applied for by Chief Shaw for up to \$15,000

Transitional Work Program – A grant is available and the Township will look into it with Trustee Radtke following up.

Fiscal Officer Jarrett shared that it looks like we are getting loan money from the state for the new truck and the money is interest free. She has been working with Chief Shaw and shared the state did inquire about the specifications for the pumper truck. We are not sure how much the loan will be for.

Upcoming Items/Deadlines

Geauga County League of Women Voters – October 10, 2023 at West Geauga Middle School at 7:00 PM

House Bill 140 – It was suggested that the Township hold a meeting to share details with the public as to why the Township needs money from the police levy. Trustee Mazzurco also suggested having a special meeting to start talking about the upcoming budget.

Discussions

Open House – Township: Chief Shaw would like the Fire Department open house to be the main focus of the gathering. Other departments presence is fine. Trustee Radtke suggested leaving the garage door open for the public to see why the Township is going through a future planning process.

Government Update: 9/7 Mr. Mazzurco; 9/21 Mr. Richter; 10/5/23 Mr. Radtke

Jamie Saric, a resident asked if the police will be making any type of a statement about what is going on with the officer. Trustee Richter replied that he resigned. Trustee Richter shared there is due process of law that must be followed and it protects all individuals rights, in addition the police union is also involved. Dal Lanese questioned who the new School Resource Officer is. Bobby Rowland will fill the position. Mrs. Saric said there is a lot of questions and controversy and something should be said. Trustee Radtke reminded everyone it is an ongoing investigation.

2023-358. Mr. Richter moved to enter into executive session at 8:19 P.M. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the promotion or compensation of a public employee.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Richter, yes; Mr. Mazzurco, yes; Mr. Radtke, yes. Motion passed.

Invited into the executive session is Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer and Mark Purchase, Township Administrator. The board reentered public session at 8:36 P.M.

2023-359. Mr. Richter moved to approve at the recommendation of the Road Superintendent the promotion of Jim Gardner, Tom O'Brien and Sandy Harper from Road Worker 1 at a rate of \$23.42 to

Road Worker 2 at a rate of \$24.19 effective the start of the next full pay period. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

October 5, 2023 Motion Number 2023-382
Approval Date

Craig Richter, Chairman

Joseph C. Mazzurco, Vice-Chairman

Ken Radtke, Jr., Trustee