

**RESOLUTION #19-0620-01**

**Amending Resolution #19-0619-01 to state:**

**Authorizing Expenditure for Township Newsletter (originally tabled as 19-0617-06)**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to notify Liberty Township residents of Township issues which may impact them, and

**WHEREAS**, in order to ensure the best coverage for communications, a newsletter to all households is most effective.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE LIBERTY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO**, authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the printing, postage and mailing of a Township wide newsletter.

Motion made by Leneghan and seconded by Gemperline.

**Vote:** no Mrs. Eichhorn 4 Mr. Gemperline yes Mrs. Leneghan

This Resolution shall be in force and become effective immediately upon its execution.

June 20, 2019

Date

CERTIFIED BY:

Nancy Denutte

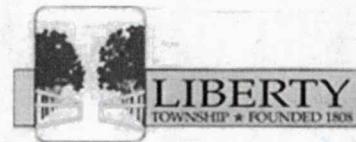
Nancy Denutte, Fiscal Officer

Melanie Leneghan  
Melanie Leneghan, Trustee

Mike Gemperline  
Mike Gemperline, Trustee

Shyra Eichhorn  
Shyra Eichhorn, Trustee

# LIBERTY TOWNSHIP



Summer 2019

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

The Trustees appointed Mr. Mike Schuiling as the new Township Administrator. Mr. Schuiling, former Delaware County EMS Chief, comes to Liberty Township with 25 years of public sector and public safety experience. Mr. Schuiling's experience in local government and Delaware County is a great asset to Township residents as he works with our Department heads to improve services!!

## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP FIRE-BASED EMS

The following is information regarding Liberty Township Fire/EMS Department:

In December, 2018, the Delaware County Commissioners sent a formal proposal to the Liberty Township Board of Trustees to replace Township EMS with Delaware County EMS.

The Liberty Township Board of Trustees has **NEVER** passed a resolution to **REPLACE** Township fire-based EMS with Delaware County EMS.

After thoroughly researching all opportunities to increase Fire Department/EMS service levels and successfully implementing several improvements to increase service levels and reduces taxpayer expense, the Trustees passed Resolution #19-0619-02, which rejects the Commissioners' offer and asks for a more equitable reimbursement to the taxpayers of Liberty Township. For more information on reimbursement, please see our website – [www.libertytwp.org](http://www.libertytwp.org) and Resolution #19-0619-02 (included).

Despite significant growth and expense of EMS delivery in Liberty Township, the County Commissioners have refused to increase the per run reimbursement from approximately \$190 to a more reasonable amount. The County estimates their cost per run to be approximately \$2,100 and the Township is asking for approximately \$480 per run.

The Liberty Township Trustees continue to believe it is in Liberty Township and Powell's interest to operate our own EMS and seek more equitable reimbursement from Delaware County sales tax that is designated to County-wide EMS.

The Liberty Township Trustees have taken steps to improve EMS service levels, such as improving run cards so that the closest and fastest available fire/EMS vehicle will always be dispatched to 911 callers in Liberty Township; this has not been the case for decades.

The current Board of Trustees, in Public Session has never discussed the closing of either of the two fire stations.

## EMS BILLING

EMS billing is a service fee charged the Township for ambulance transportation to a hospital facility. Insurance premiums (both private and Medicare) pay for this transportation based on regional rates. The Township will begin billing only the insurance carriers of Township residents who are insured or have Medicare coverage and only when they are transported to a local emergency room. There is NO out-of-pocket money from residents! For Township residents, the ambulance bill goes directly to third-party payers such as Medicare and private health insurers. You may receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your carrier --- this is NOT a bill!

Our crews will simply ask you a few questions. If Medicare covers you, you will be asked to sign a form allowing us to bill Medicare. Our billing service handles the rest! Township residents are not responsible for any co-pays, deductibles or any fees not covered by your insurance provider. EMS Transport billing income will be used only in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 505.84. The income will go to funding associated with the Fire Department – EMS.

Resolution # 19-0520-14 - to submit the proposal below to the Del. County Prosecutor's Office for legal review.

**Counter Proposal from The Liberty Township Board of Trustees regarding the Delaware County Proposal Dated October 30, 2018 to the Liberty Township Board Of Trustees.**

The Liberty Township BOT would like to thank the Delaware County Board of Commissioners for your October 30<sup>th</sup> proposal to have DCEMS perform the EMS functions in Liberty Township thus relieving the taxpayers of Liberty Township of the burden of funding a township funded EMS department.

After months of evaluation and consideration of the results of the Fitch Report and with the cooperation of Delcomm personnel, Delaware County personnel, City of Delaware Personnel and Liberty Township personnel, all of whom we wish thank, the Liberty Township BOT is confident that the appropriate actions have finally been taken to address the concerns of the report and this board, that will improve service levels through reduced response times and increased positive patient outcomes and lower taxes by creating other revenue streams to fund EMS.

**Whereas:** The County hired Fitch & Associates to conduct an EMS Master Plan dated July 5, 2018. In the Fitch report it states "In the early 1970s, the County added a half cent sales tax that was dedicated to fund EMS activities." At that time the City of Delaware and Liberty Township already had established EMS departments. The report goes on to state "The City of Delaware and Liberty Township have a historical compensation agreement with the county, which compensates them on a 'per response' and 'per transport' basis, as they 'opted in' to the county EMS system when that was established in the early 1970s." Therefore, Liberty Township has been receiving monies from the sales tax to "fund EMS activities".

**Whereas:** On October 30, 2018 County Administrator Mike Frommer submitted a written proposal to Liberty Township "to encompass Delaware County EMS providing EMS services in place of the Liberty Township Fire Department (LTFD)." It is understood it costs an estimated \$1,000,000 for the County to operate one (1) Delaware County EMS station. The County's proposal is to "provide two (2) Advanced Life Support ambulances; one located at station 321 and one located at Station 322. The ambulances will be staffed with two paramedics and be operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

**Whereas:** Commissioner Lewis has commented that it would cost the County \$2 million a year to provide EMS service to Liberty Township. She goes on to state the County has treated the Township unfairly and has promised to remedy the situation. This unfair treatment is due to the residents of Liberty Township paying an additional tax for EMS service which has been occurring for decades.

**Whereas:** It is understood that the cost to run one (1) County EMS stations is estimated at \$1,000,000 per year. Liberty Township has two (2) stations which the County offered to operate at an estimated total of \$2,000,000 per year. During the Township's proposed 10-Year timeframe, the County would spend an estimated \$20,000,000; whereas the Township's proposal of \$1,000,000 per year equals \$10,000,000. This is a savings to the County of an estimated \$10,000,000 over the 10-Year period.

**Whereas:** the Delaware County EMS Performance Metrics, the cost per call in 2014 was \$1,973, 2015 was \$2,053, 2016 was \$1,895, 2017 was \$1,927 and 2018 was \$1,785. This averages out to \$1,926.60 over the last five years.

**Whereas:** In 2018 Liberty Township EMS had 1,947 runs. At the proposed \$1,000,000 request, this would equate to \$513.61 per run. This is 26.7% of the average cost of a County EMS run over the last five years.

**Whereas:** The Board of Trustees would like to take into consideration that reimbursing the township \$1,973.00 per run would represent a considerably significant increase and while it does cost us approximately \$3 million to fund the EMS portion of our fire and EMS department and Commissioner Lewis stated that it would cost the County \$2 million to provide EMS services to Liberty Township, we would like to propose a \$1,000,000.00 annual reimbursement to be paid by the county to Liberty Township for providing and funding our own EMS services.

**Whereas:** The Liberty Township BOT has also considered the March, 2001 Ohio Attorney General decision 2001-011, which states "it is clear that if a county or township provides emergency medical services, emergency medical services personnel of the county or township are responsible for providing such services throughout the entire territory of the county or township."

**Therefore,** based upon all of the above, The Liberty Township Board of Trustees, on behalf of the taxpayers they represent, would like to counter the county's offer by proposing that instead of providing the EMS service for Liberty Township, that the county consider saving the county taxpayers approximately \$10 million by entering into a 10- Year Contract with Liberty Township whereby "The County agrees to provide \$1,000,000 in reimbursements to the taxpayers of Liberty Township on an annual basis to be paid in 4 equal quarterly payments designated to fund EMS services that the township provides to its residents." These payments of \$250,000 to be paid on the first day of every quarter for the next ten years. In return for that reimbursement, Liberty Township taxpayers will pay the remainder of the cost to fund their own EMS department and partner to the best of our ability with DCEMS to implement a consistent outcome based medical protocol and agree to dispatch the closest/fastest available vehicle to all Liberty Township residents.

The Liberty Township BOT respectfully requests a response to this proposal no later than June 10<sup>th</sup> as it is irresponsible for the township to continue to budget based upon funding that is not backed by a contractual obligation.

Once again, we would like to thank the county commissioners for providing the Fitch Report and the October 30<sup>th</sup> proposal as both have proven to be very useful in helping us to adopt the improvements that have been made to make improvements and to put measures in place to strengthen the future of our EMS service levels.

Most Sincerely,

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Below is the 2019 Paving Program road list. Postcard mailers will be sent to residents affected by paving as the schedule for work is released by the County.

Road	From	To
Plymouth Court	Jamestown Drive	End
Libertydale Drive	Liberty Road	Jamestown Drive
Patriot Court	Lexington Drive	Cul De Sac
Jamestown Drive	Libertydale Drive	Lexington Drive
Lexington Drive	Libertydale Drive	Jamestown Drive
Minuteman Court	Jamestown Drive	End
Fairway Drive	Wedgewood Blvd.	Braemar Drive
Wellington	West Powell Road	Braemar Drive
Wedgewood Blvd.	Country Club	West Powell Road
Buxton Place	Wellington	Wellington
Hastings Lane	Weymouth Avenue	Sheffield Avenue
Weymouth Avenue	Hastings Lane	Sheffield Avenue
Brighton Place	Hastings Lane	End
Chippenham Drive	Twp. Line	Weymouth Avenue
Old Powell Road	Zoo	End

For more information, visit our website [www.libertytwp.org](http://www.libertytwp.org).

**Upcoming Township Meetings:**

July 1 7:00 PM Trustees  
 July 9 7:00 PM Bd. of Zoning Appeals  
 July 15 7:00 PM Trustees  
 July 17 7:00 PM Zoning Commission  
 July 18 7:00 PM OPAL Committee

*All Olentangy, Powell and Liberty (OPAL) Trail Committee meetings are held at Township Hall and are open to the public!*

**ADMINISTRATIVE, ZONING & FISCAL OFFICES**

Mike Schuiling, Township Administrator  
 740.938.2000

Tracey Mullenhour, Zoning Inspector  
 740.938.2010

Nancy Denutte, Fiscal Officer  
 740.938.2009

10104 Brewster Lane, Suite 125

**TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL**  
 740.938.2000

**PARKS & ROAD SERVICES**

**DEPARTMENT**  
 Andy Curnode, Park & Road Services Supt.  
 Michael Landon, Park Supervisor  
 2845 Home Road  
 740.881.5432

Joel James, Road Services Supervisor  
 7761 Liberty Road (behind Station 321)  
 740.938.2015

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Thomas O'Brien, Fire Chief  
 740.938.2021  
 Station 321  
 7761 Liberty Road  
 Station 322  
 10150 Sawmill Parkway

**PARK SHELTER RENTAL**  
 Dave Patterson, Office Manager  
 740.881.5432