

RESOLUTION #19-1021-05

Authorizing Expenditure for Township Newsletter

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 \$12,000.00 for the printing, postage and mailing of the attached Township wide newsletter.

Motion made by Leneghan and seconded by Gemperline.

Vote: NO Mrs. Eichhorn yes Mr. Gemperline yes Mrs. Leneghan

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

Oct. 21, 2019
Date

Melanie Leneghan
Melanie Leneghan, Trustee

CERTIFIED BY:

Nancy Benutte
Nancy Benutte, Fiscal Officer

Mike Gemperline
Mike Gemperline, Trustee

Shyra Eichhorn
Shyra Eichhorn, Trustee

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP



Fall 2019

EVERYKIDS PLAYGROUND

Liberty Park is home to EveryKids Playground – which has been rated by parents as one of the top playgrounds in the Central Ohio. There distinct are areas for older and younger kids, a sand area, slide, other play equipment along and a shelter house.

EveryKids Playground was constructed to be accessible to all children and is very popular with residents and visitors. EveryKids Playground was closed for a few weeks for a total resurfacing and maintenance but is back open to the public!

MEET THE NEW LIBERTY TOWNSHIP MEDICAL DIRECTOR

The Liberty Township Medical Director has a very important role with our community. The Medical Director is the cornerstone of our EMS department.

To provide consistency and reduce risk of disabling EMS service, Liberty Township now has a contract with the OSU Wexner Center for medical directorship.

MEET DR. PANCHAL

Dr. Panchal is a physician and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Panchal began his career as a cardiovascular researcher completing a Ph.D at Case Western Reserve University in Organ Systems Physiology. Following this, he went to The Ohio State University College of Medicine for medical school and Emergency Medicine residency. Dr. Panchal is a board certified Emergency Physician and is board eligible in Emergency Medical Services.

Dr. Panchal's career focus is prehospital care focusing on the optimal provision of out of hospital care to improve patient outcomes. Dr. Panchal is clinically active in both dispatch and EMS care as the medical director of Delaware County Emergency Communications (DELCOM) and

Delaware County EMS. He is also involved in the education of future EMS medical directors as the Program Director of the Ohio State University's accredited Emergency Medical Services Fellowship which leads to board certification in EMS.

Dr. Panchal also serves in a number of national roles in Prehospital care as the Research and Fellowship Director for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and working on the EMS Scope of Practice Revision in 2018 for National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration. He is also an editor for Prehospital Emergency Care, the leading academic journal on pre-hospital emergency medicine and emergency medical service. He is the Chair of the American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Care Adult Writing Group who writes the national guidelines for cardiac arrest management. Dr. Panchal's research interests include prehospital care focusing on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, airway management and the EMS workforce. He is nationally published in peer-reviewed journals with over 50 publications and has given invited talks, nationally and internationally, on prehospital care. He is grant funded for his research work by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and Emergency Medicine Foundation.

UPCOMING TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Regular Board of Trustee Meetings, Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings take place at Township Hall, 7761 Liberty Road.

Board of Trustees

November 6 7:00 PM

November 18 7:00 PM

December 2 7:00 PM

Board of Zoning Appeals

November 12 7:00 PM

Zoning Commission

November 20 7:30 PM

OPAL Trail Committee

November 21 7:00 PM

Simply put, the majority of your Board of Township Trustees voted to keep EMS local and to pursue a more equitable reimbursement from Delaware County after months of research and improvements were made, on June 2, 2019

The following is Liberty Township Resolution #19-0619-02, approved by the Board of Trustees on June 2, 2019 and sent to the Delaware County Commissioners:

Response from The Liberty Township Board of Trustees regarding the Delaware County Proposal to Take Over the Township's EMS, 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 30th 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 Delcom 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 Fitch Report and members of 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 10th, 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 30th 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.

FISCAL OFFICE UPDATE

Liberty Township Fiscal Officer Nancy Denutte reported that over \$230,000 in interest has been earned as a result of the Township investing a portion of its' funds in an investment program she implemented in 2017. The investment program allows the Fiscal Office to move a portion of Township funds into a long term investment account. The program began in October, 2017.

The Fiscal Office has completed a major project of digitizing Township Trustee Records – including minutes and resolutions. All resolutions and minutes back to 1987 have been stored electronically. This allows for quicker, easier access to records and ensures that records are not damaged or lost.

SHOCKS ARE A NUISANCE BUT POSE NO HEALTH THREAT

Have you ever gotten a little shock from touching a parked car or a random metal object when you've been near a power line? Such shocks are startling and a bit of a nuisance – but they will not hurt you!

Some residents report getting "stung" or shocked when passing under area power lines. This is caused by a naturally occurring electric field which is produced by voltage. Shocks can occur when you touch a metal object – such as a car or a bike – that is near an electrical line. You feel the shock because you become a path to the ground for electric current.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

The Zoning Commission has completed a review of the Zoning Resolution (Zoning Code) and the Board of Trustees, during a public hearing, approved the revisions, which mainly clear up the language. One of the more impactful changes was to fencing regulations; this new language will allow fencing to be closer to the property lines. A hot topic in many communities is whether new pool safety covers can or should replace fencing around pools. The Zoning Commission considered this issue during the Code revision discussions, however, after considering input from other governmental entities, the public and the Board of Trustees, the Commission decided to leave this section of the code as is and continue to require fencing around all pools.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Thank you to the new members of the Board of Zoning Appeals, Vince Margello and Michael Cover, as well as all the members of the BZA and the Zoning Commission for serving the community! The Board of Zoning Appeals recently elected Dana Costa as the chair and Becca Mount as the vice-chair.

What is a POD Development?

Recently, the Board of Trustees approved a Planned Overlay District (POD) for several parcels of land located north of Home Road and west of Liberty High School and Indian Springs Elementary School. POD's are a valuable development tool for the Township. While a developer is able to develop more land area with POD zoning, the POD encourages efficient use of land and resources and encourages innovation in the planning and building of appropriate types of retail, office and residential units. A POD allows for a unified development that permanently preserves natural resources and integrates open space within developments, reduces the amount of infrastructure, such as paved roads and utility easements, minimizes land disturbance, provides an opportunity for a mix of residential uses, uses a more extensive zoning review for design and encourages creative planning and design in ways that cannot be achieved through a standard zoning district.

ADMINISTRATIVE, ZONING & FISCAL OFFICES

Mike Schuiling, Administrator
mschuiling@libertytp.org

740.938.2000

Tracey Mullenhour, Zoning Inspector
tmullenhour@libertytp.org

740.938.2010

Nancy Denutte, Fiscal Officer
ndenutte@libertytp.org

740.938.2009

10104 Brewster Lane, Suite 125

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

740.938.2000

PARKS & ROAD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Andy Curmode, Park & Road Services Supt.

acurmode@libertytp.org

Michael Landon, Park Supv.

mlandon@libertytp.org

2845 Home Road

740.881.5432

Joel James, Road Svcs. Supv.
jjames@libertytp.org

7761 Liberty Road (behind Station 321)

740.938.2015

PARK SHELTER RENTAL

Dave Patterson, Office Mgr.

740.881.5432

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Thomas O'Brien, Fire Chief

tobrien@libertytp.org

740.938.2021

Fire Prevention Office

740.938.2022

Station 321

7761 Liberty Road

Station 322

10150 Sawmill Parkway

