

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in special session **Thursday, May 25, 2023** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 4:01 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 #: 2023-195

**Legal Counsel for BZA Case**

The pending case was continued and a new date has not been set. There is a commitment from the Prosecutor's Office that someone will be at the meeting. Mr. Ziganti said the Board of Zoning Appeals should not be requesting an expert and he believes it should be coming from the Zoning Inspector. General discussion continued regarding legal counsel.

**Department Business – Fire Department**

**2023-195** Mr. Richter moved to hire after the fact James Valvoda as a full-time FF/EMT-P at the rate of \$25.05/hour, effective 5/22/23 with a completed background check and successfully passing a drug test.

Note: the additional full-time firefighter was approved by the BOT by motion 2023-160.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

**2023-196.** Mr. Richter moved to approve after the fact the change of employment status of Austin Gioski from part-time FF/EMT-P to full-time FF/EMT-P at the rate of \$25.05/hour, effective May 15, 2023.

Note: This status change is to fill a full-time vacancy.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

**Financial Items**

**2023-197.** Mr. Richter moved to approve Road Department expenditures as listed below.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Dept	PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
RD	173-2023	Reg	\$3,200.00	OHIO CAT	Repair Asphalt Roller

**2023-198.** Mr. Richter moved to approve Fire Department expenditures as listed below.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Dept	PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
FD	174-2023	Reg	\$9,000.00	Illuminating Comp	Electricity

**2023-199.** Mr. Richer moved to approve the financial transaction below.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

CHECKS		
Date	Starting No.	Ending No.
5/25/23	86742	86765

Fiscal Officer's note: the last check number used on 5/18/23 was 86741

**Fiscal Officer's Report**

Donations Received		
Received from	Amount	Description
Dolores Williams	\$1,000.00	Uniforms – PD & FD (\$500 each)

**2024 Budget**

Captain Sherwood with the Chester Police Department discussed having a School Resource Officer at the High School in addition to having a School Safety Officer at the Middle School and at Lindsey Elementary. Russell Township will be mirroring Chester Police Department and providing police protection to Westwood Elementary. Chief Young discussed the scheduled vehicle purchases, the vehicle placements at the schools, and the general 2024 budget.

Road Superintendent John Onyshko discussed various road topics, current projects, department trucks, and financial issues. Dialogue continued with concerns of current building conditions and expected road projects.

**5:05 PM Bid Opening –Construction of Pickleball Courts for Chester Township**

**2023-200.** Mr. Richter moved to waive the reading of the legal notice.  
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

**2023-201.** Mr. Richter moved to open the bids for the construction of pickleball courts for Chester Township.  
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

	A-EARTHWORK	B-MAT/ASPHALT	C-SIDEWALK	D-POST/NETTING	E-FENCING	F-LIGHT/ELECTRIC	G-SURF COAT	H-LANDSCAPE	I-TOTAL PROJECT
<b>Great Lakes Fence</b>									
781.307.8219 - Dwayne/Chris									
<b>Auburn Fence</b>									
440.543.4850 - Don Simpson									
<b>Peerless Electric (7)</b>						\$46,780			
440.290.7001 - Bill Cheraso									
<b>Millstone Mgmt. Group (4)</b>	\$48,000	\$61,260	\$5,650	\$6,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$250,000
440.423-1116 - Bruce Marek									Breakdown adds up to \$203,410
<b>UNKNOWN</b>									
<b>Industrial Service (1)</b>							\$13,500		
216.408.3348 - Carl Gedeon									
<b>Site Tech</b>									
330.319.0469 - Jesse Weitzel									
<b>Carron Asphalt Paving (5)</b>	\$76,000	\$51,800	\$3,800	\$6,300	\$22,650	\$62,700	\$16,800	\$8,375	\$248,485
440.226.1991 - Ed Patriarca									
<b>On The Fence</b>									
216.785.8123 - Ron Hawkins									
<b>Hummell Construction (2)</b>	\$28,500	\$53,500	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$29,800	\$55,636	\$18,000	\$6,600	\$205,936
330.296.7316 Eric/Marty									
<b>Podjilj</b>									
440.231.7730 - James Podjilj									
<b>NE Ohio Trench Serv (6)</b>	\$42,900	\$40,000	\$9,600	\$9,000	\$36,000	\$43,200	\$16,500	\$5,500	\$202,700
216.663.6006 - John Giles									
<b>Geauga Highway (8)</b>	\$80,000	\$110,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$22,000	\$75,000	\$27,000	\$10,000	\$354,000
440.667.3138 - John									
<b>VASCO Sports Contract (3)</b>				\$19,366			\$24,804		
(recd bid via UPS)									

Mr. Leven, a resident and pickleball supporter, asked if each category was bid on separately. The response was yes.

**2023-202.** Mr. Richter moved to forward the pickleball bids to John Onyshko, Road Superintendent, for review and recommendation.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Back to Mr. Onyshko and the budget, discussion resumed, and Mr. Onyshko stated the cemetery budget is basically a mirror of this year's. Mr. Richter has some grant information he will forward to Mr. Onyshko for review.

Chief Shaw with the Fire Department spoke briefly with topics including vehicles, the roof on Fire Station #2, and challenges the department is facing. Fiscal Officer Jarrett questioned if Chief Shaw was aware of any new variant and the response was no. Dialogue continued about a new vehicle and what the rates currently are.

A resident asked what the Township is planning to do with Fire Station #2. Mr. Richter explained the Fire Department uses it for storage and noted there is a dip in the roof. Chief Shaw shared he stores three (3) large vehicles there. It was confirmed that the Township has all full-time positions filled. It was established that the \$25/hour rate is salary only.

**2023-203.** Mr. Richter moved to set a public hearing July 11, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. for a public hearing regarding 2024 temporary budget.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Wex Card Discussion – Fiscal Officer Jarrett said that when the gas pump is down Mr. Onyshko is forced to use his own credit card. Mrs. Jarrett is suggesting getting the Road Department Wex cards. The Fire Department uses little gas compared to the Police Department and Road Department. Mrs. Jarrett will meet with Chief Young and gather more information and then present to the Board at a future date.

Long Range Plan for Township Properties – A general discussion about Township buildings and possible future plans for Township owned buildings took place. It was suggested the Township speak with an architect and determine what options are available to the Township. Consolidation was a major point. Conversation continued about the 88 acres including the front five (5) acres. Discussion continued about Residential Property and rezoning to Industrial Property with both pros and cons. Chief Shaw noted they might downsize the fleet simply since they do not have the personnel to operate the equipment and based on space constraints. It seems that everyone agrees it is difficult to drop money into old buildings time and time again. Chief Shaw explained with his experience he recommends capturing the most space. Mr. Purchase will be exploring the possibility of getting in line or on a list for grant money similar to what Hambden Township received for its Fire Department. Tuesday is demo day for Henry House. Mr. Richter added if property was rezoned, it does not mean that it needs to be sold. Hancock Park was discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Richter adjourned the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

June 1, 2023 Motion # 2023-205  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date

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Craig Richter, Chairman

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Joseph C. Mazzurco, Vice-Chairman

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Ken Radtke, Jr., Trustee