

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in regular session **Thursday, June 29, 2023** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 6:30 P.M. Chairman Craig Richter presided.

Roll Call: Present: Trustee Richter, Trustee Mazzurco, Trustee Radtke, Fiscal Officer Jarrett

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Leading Motion #: 2023-229

Cody Smith was sworn in as part-time FF/PM for the Township. The Fire Chief welcomed him and noted he was grateful to have him join the team.

2023-229. Mr. Richter moved to enter into executive session at 6:33 P.M. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1), to consider the compensation of a public employee.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

Fiscal Officer Jarrett, Township Administrator Purchase, Chief Young and Captain Sherwood were invited into the executive session. The board reentered public session at 6:52 P.M.

Township Administrator

Mr. Purchase shared that he put together a flyer to promote Chester Township at the Geauga County Fair.

A resident asked what is happening on either side of Bloom Brothers located on Mayfield Road. It was clarified that at this point only trees are being cut down and grass is being cut. No permits have been obtained. Another resident stated several large pine trees were removed and a well company was there this week.

Department Business – Road

There is a pipe on Cedar Road that is located near Foxmoor that is failing. It is still functioning, but the Township would need to go onto the easement through the woods to try to repair it. Mr. Onyshko, Road Superintendent would like a guardrail installed, although there is a gas line right where the guardrail needs to go.

There are two (2) pipes on Old Mill Road and County Line Road that will be part of the road paving project. Mr. Onyshko has been communicating with Gates Mills and they are on board with the project.

Heath Road closure is a possibility. It looks like Mr. Onyshko did locate another grant and is going to apply for it. Mr. Richter is not sure if he will get it and is looking at other alternatives.

Force Accounts were discussed. Mr. Richter shared that H.B. 23 is an increase from \$45,000 to \$105,000 for maintenance and repair and from \$15,000 to \$35,000 per mile for construction and reconstruction.

This is effective July 1, 2023. Also discussed was the possibility of increased competitive bid thresholds from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

2023-230. Mr. Richter moved to approve the resignation of Rick Rakich as Mechanic II from the Road Department effective July 7th, 2023.
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-231. Mr. Richter moved to approve advertising in the Geauga Maple Leaf, Chesterland News, indeed.com and on the Township website with applications due at Chester Town Hall by 4:00 PM on July 21, 2023 for a Mechanic position for the Road Department with a negotiable rate, contingent upon successfully passing a pre-employment drug screen and background check.
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023- 232. Mr. Richter moved to approve per O.R.C. 510 the sale of a Road Department shop-fabricated hydro-seeder machine offered for public sale on Govdeals.com.
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-233. Mr. Richter moved to approve the resignation of Husam Alabasi effective June 30, 2023.
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-234. Mr. Richter moved to approve and authorize the participation and attendance of Road Superintendent John Onyshko at the Ohio Public Service Institute Training, from September 24th through September 29th, 2023. The leadership training is presented by the American Public Works Association and hosted at Sawmill Creek Resort (Huron, Ohio), payment of \$995.00 shall be made payable to NW Ohio APWA, C/O Josh Quinlan 1189 W. Central, Toledo, Ohio 43610.
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-235. Mr. Richter moved to approve Road Department expenditures as listed below.
Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
186-2023	Reg	\$35,000.00	Chardon Oil Co Inc	Diesel and gas supply
187-2023	Reg	\$2,450.00	Verizon Connect NWF, Inc.	GPS services through Y/E
189-2023	T/N	\$5,000.00	Cerni Motors Sales Inc.	Repair brakes, wiring harness, oil pan – truck #9
190-2023	Reg	\$14,080.00	Cerni Motors Sales Inc.	Truck repairs
195-2023	Reg	\$66,308.50	Deere & Company	John Deere 6110M cab tractor

Department Business – Fire

The Chester Fire Station and Millstone credit was discussed. Mr. Richer shared that Millstone is matching two (2) suppliers credit that totals \$4,000 regarding the delay in getting the fire station lockers.

Next was Residential Water Sources and Deed Inclusion. Mr. Purchase said he did obtain outside legal counsel and he is hoping the Township can approach the residents and offer them options and let them choose what they want. If they only want to agree to a five (5) year term, so be it. If they want a life-long commitment and attach it to the deed, so be it. He is hoping to secure those water options.

2023-236. Mr. Richter moved to approve and sign the Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program Subrecipient Agreement along with all Exhibits to obtain additional ARPA monies for the Fire Department.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

2023-237. Mr. Richter moved to authorize the purchase of two sets of firefighting turnout gear, as specifically documented in the attached quote, totaling \$5,900.00. This Purchase Order shall be made payable to Midwest Rescue Products Inc., 10944 Thwing Rd., Chardon, Ohio 44024 and created from appropriated line item 2281-230-599-0317.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Department Business – Police

2023-238. Mr. Richter moved to approve and authorize the purchase of equipment, after the fact, for the outfitting for the 2023 Dodge Charger patrol vehicle, as specifically documented in the attached quote, totaling \$7,372.32. This Purchase Order shall be made payable to Hall Public Safety Upfitters, 8291 Darrow Rd. Twinsburg, Ohio 44087 and created from police appropriated line item 2081-760-750-0302 (Motor Vehicle Accessories).

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-239. Mr. Richer moved to approve Police Department expenditures as listed below.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
188-2023	T/N	\$7,372.32	Hall Public Safety Co	Outfitting of 2003 Dodge Charger

Department Business – Zoning

The Zoning Resolution Amendment as Recommended by the Geauga County Planning Commission was discussed briefly. It is basically giving authority to the Board of Zoning Appeals to add terms and conditions if they exist in the zoning resolution to a specific agreement that may not comply with the Township’s zoning. Last meeting permission was granted to the Board of Zoning Appeals to begin rewriting it.

New Business

The Board moved on to discuss Metzenbaum Center and the Geauga County Commissioners Plans. Mr. Richter said a resident brought to his attention that they are housing individuals that have been placed there by a private non-profit agency called Emerald Rose. Joy Black is the CEO. For clarification, the Trustees do not have a vote in this. Metzenbaum is run by the Geauga County Commissioners. The Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is looking to acquire the property which is why the matter is being discussed. Mr. Richter suggested a meeting with Don Rice of Metzenbaum to find out exactly what is going on. Mr. Radtke has been playing phone tag trying to connect with the agency and get Mr. Rice to come to a meeting. Hoping to connect by end of next week. A resident suggested Chester Township and Russell Township purchase the building since no one is there and its being leased and make it into a big senior center. Mr. Richter suggested maybe a trade with parks regarding the 88 acres. A resident, Carol Ciallela, reminded everyone that the County owns the property.

She feels that as Chester residents, they should have some say since the property sits in the heart of Chester Township. Dal Lanese, another resident, shared her thoughts too. Mr. Radtke added that zoning issues may play a role and a variance may be needed. Mr. Richter brought up that possibly the Township should have been collecting property taxes on this. He noted these are complicated issues. Carol Ciallela added that if a public meeting is held would the Trustees be able to propose that the Township purchase the property? Communication continued with several unanswered questions.

Levies (Certificates of Need)

RESOLUTION 2023-240. Mr. Richter moved to approve the following Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio has determined the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the Chester Township and it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of such limitation for the purpose of ORC 5705.19(I); in Chester Township as provided and authorized in ORC 5705.19(I); and WHEREAS, the levy is at a rate of 2.75 mills for each one dollar of taxable value, for a Continuing Period of Time and is a Renewal of an Existing Levy of 2.75 Mills, first voted on in 2019, and WHEREAS, the ballot measure shall be submitted to the Entire Territory and the tax shall be levied on the Entire Territory and within Geauga County; WHEREAS, the levy is to be placed on the ballot at the election held on November 7, 2023, and shall first be levied in tax year 2024 and begin collection in 2025. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio, that based on the foregoing and pursuant to R.C. 5705.03(B), said board hereby certifies this Resolution to the Geauga County Auditor, and requests that the County Auditor certify back to the Board of Trustees the amounts described in R.C. 5705.03(B)(2) that would be generated by the levy proposed herein.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-241. Mr. Richter moved to approve the following Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio has determined the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the Chester Township and it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of such limitation for the purpose of ORC 5705.19(I); in Chester Township as provided and authorized in ORC 5705.19(I); and WHEREAS, the levy is at a rate of 1.80 mills for each one dollar of taxable value, for a Continuing Period of Time and is a Renewal of an Existing Levy of 1.80 Mills, first voted on in 1999, and WHEREAS, the ballot measure shall be submitted to the Entire Territory and the tax shall be levied on the Entire Territory and within Geauga County; WHEREAS, the levy is to be placed on the ballot at the election held on November 7, 2023, and shall first be levied in tax year 2024 and begin collection is 2025. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio, that based on the foregoing and pursuant to R.C. 5705.03(B), said board hereby certifies this Resolution to the Geauga County Auditor, and requests that the County Auditor certify back to the Board of Trustees the amounts described in R.C. 5705.03(B)(2) that would be generated by the levy proposed herein.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-242. Mr. Richter moved to approve the following Resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio has determined the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate

will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the Chester Township and it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of such limitation for the purpose of ORC 5705.19(J); in Chester Township as provided and authorized in ORC 5705.19(J); and WHEREAS, the levy is at a rate of 1.50 mills for each one dollar of taxable value, for a Continuing Period of Time and is an Additional Levy of 1.50 Mills; and WHEREAS, the ballot measure shall be submitted to the Entire Territory and the tax shall be levied on the Entire Territory and within Geauga County; WHEREAS, the levy is to be placed on the ballot at the election held on November 7, 2023, and shall first be levied in tax year 2024 and begin collection is 2025. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio, that based on the foregoing and pursuant to R.C. 5705.03(B), said board hereby certifies this Resolution to the Geauga County Auditor, and requests that the County Auditor certify back to the Board of Trustees the amounts described in R.C. 5705.03(B)(2) that would be generated by the levy proposed herein.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

2023-243. Mr. Richter moved to approve the West Geauga Kiwanis’ use of the Recycle Park on September 9th and 10th, 2023 for a Leave & Take event. Permission is granted to discard any items not taken or left over after the event into the community cleanup bins.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

A short discussion with Fiscal Officer Jarrett and the Board of Trustees regarding online billing. The topic of record retention was discussed. The Board of Trustees would like the Assistant Fiscal Officer to scan in the bills with a cover sheet and scan it to them so it can be reviewed before they sign off.

2023-244. Mr. Richter moved to approve the Fiscal Office implementing online bill pay via First National Bank.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-245. Mr. Richter moved to approve and send out thank you letters for various volunteers at the Memorial Day event.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-246. Mr. Richter moved to not request a hearing with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a transfer of a D1/D2 liquor license from Perky Kettle LTD, 12661 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland to Perky Kettle LTD, 12650 West Geauga Plaza – Unit 2, Chesterland.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-247. 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
Chester Car Show	7/8/23 (rain date 7/15/23)	Fire Station 2 Parking Lot	7:00AM – 4:00PM	Annual Car Show

2023-248. Mr. Richter moved to reject all bids opened on May 25, 2023 for the Construction of Pickleball Courts for Chester Township and notify bidders accordingly.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

2023-249. Mr. Richter moved to approve and sign a cemetery deed for the sale of the following plots.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

DEED #	SECTION	PLOT	SITE(S)
23-002	C	391	4

Township Park

2023-250. Mr. Richter moved to approve \$12,000.00 out of the General Fund Park Appropriation for picnic tables, bleachers, and operating funds payable to Chester Township Park District.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

Mr. Radtke questioned if it was possible to salvage any of the old bleachers from the ball field and place around the 88 acres. Mr. Purchase agreed it is worth taking a look at.

Financial Items

2023-251. Mr. Richter moved to approve the financial transactions below.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

PURCHASE ORDERS					
Dept	PO #	Type	Amount	Payable To	Purpose
Gen	183-2023	Reg	\$5,049.75	Cleve Plumbing Supply Co	Repair/replace culvert pipe @ Hancock Park
Gen	184-2023	Reg	\$468.00	Vancuren Services	Removal of tree at Hancock Park
Gen	185-2023	Reg	\$2,500.00	Watts Excavating LLC	Pond pipe repair at Hancock Park
Gen/RD	192-2023	Reg	\$418.00	Expert IT LLC	Adjustment to invoice 2740 distribution
RD	193-2023	Reg	\$3,200.00	Classic Ford	Repair catalytic converter & check engine light truck #14

CHECKS		
Date	Starting No.	Ending No.
7/26/2023	86866	86926
Fiscal Officer's note: the last check number used on 6/15/23 was 86865		

EFT DIRECT DEPOSITS			
Date	Starting No.	Ending No.	Description
7/3/2023	1004-2023	1072-2023	Regular payroll

VOUCHERS & WITHHOLDINGS				
Voucher	Payee	Amount	Dated	Description
1074-2023	First National Bank EFTPS	\$17,547.69	7/3/2023	Employee & employer withholding – Federal
1075-2023	Public Employees Retirement System	\$48,573.65	7/27/2023	Employee & employer withholding – Retirement
1003-2023	Regional Income Tax Agency	\$4,597.63	7/26/2023	Employee & employer withholding

Fiscal Officer's Report

Donations Received		
Received from	Amount	Description
Steven Lampman	\$300.00	Pickleball donation

Open/Ongoing Items

Pickleball Court Update – Strategy going forward is still being discussed.
 Long Range Plan for Property – Mr. Purchase met with an architect who he then invited to a Board Meeting to share his findings, thoughts and proposals. Mr. Purchase said that the 5 acres where the old Chester School was could eventually house Police, Fire and Town Hall . Mr. Radtke said this is merely to explore options down the road.

Upcoming Items/Deadlines

2024 Budget due Auditor – Thursday, 7/20/23
 2024 Budget Hearing – County Offices – Monday, 8/21/23 9:00AM – 3:00PM
 Township Public Hearing for Budget – July 11, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.

Special Projects

Special Events – Zoning: Cost to the individual to use Township property
 Limited Home Rule: Benefits for zoning
 Notary Certification: Kelly, the Administrative Assistant already started the process
 Electronic Populate for Use of Township Properties: Completed

Discussions

Drones & Google Maps: May be discussed at next meeting
 Underground Storage Tanks (UST) Gas & Diesel: Getting some more prices
 Government Update - J 6/29; K 7/13; C 7/27

2023-252. Mr. Richter moved to approve to enter into executive session at 8:06 P.M. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1) to consider the discipline, promotion, or compensation of public employees.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded.

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

Fiscal Officer Jarrett and Township Administrator Purchase were invited into the executive session. The board reentered public session at 8:25 P.M.

2023-253. Mr. Richter moved to approve the following pay increases effective the next full payroll: Mary Lou Florentine from \$24.50/hour to \$25.50/hour, Kelly Paulic from \$21.00/hour to \$22.00/hour and Kathleen McCarthy from \$20.00/hour to \$21.00/hour.

Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous.; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

July 13, 2023 Motion # 2023-266
Approval Date

Craig Richter, Chairman

Joseph C. Mazzurco, Vice-Chairman

Ken Radtke, Jr., Trustee