

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in special session **Thursday, May 9, 2024** in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 6:00 PM 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

**The Fire Station Building #2/Status- Zoning Topics**

The Board of Trustees, the Fiscal Officer, the Township Administrator and Fire Chief Shaw discussed the Fire Station #2 property located on RT 306. Currently the Fire and Road departments utilize this space for minimum equipment storage. The garage, home and shack on the property have significant damage, some beyond repair. Storing equipment that is not being used frequently or not at all, is not reasonable for the Township to rehabilitate and is not serving a useful purpose. The property currently is zoned residential. The Board shared the benefits and drawbacks of considering changing the property from residential to industrial. Fire Station #2 property and the neighboring industrial zoned area is a concern if left residential. If the property becomes an industrial zone, the Township can de-restrict this area to avoid unfavorable businesses coming in. Overall, selling the property would benefit the Township. Discussions will continue about whether to change the current zoning from residential to industrial.

**Fire Department Staffing**

Chief Shaw spoke regarding the staffing challenges at the Chester Fire Station. Chief Shaw mentioned the goal is to have 5 personnel on duty, 24-7. Currently, the fire department has 24 part-time personnel and 7 full-time personnel. Chief Shaw recommends converting a part-time position to a full-time position will add more consistency, help reduce overtime, help the overall challenges faced.

**Pickle Ball Courts**

The courts are still in need of funds to open. The surface of the courts is required to be sealed with 2 coats before the lines are painted to ensure longevity. This cost was not budgeted for, nor included. The cost is approximately \$7,500.00 for delivery and installation. Also, the board acknowledged the ADA Compliance which includes a parking spot, and a concrete ramp that will need to be placed with approximately 10 yards of concrete.

**Memorial Day Ceremony**

The itinerary is just about complete. Military flags will be place on display on the fence lines tomorrow, speakers have been confirmed and the programs will be complete for printing, in time for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

**Zoning Topics**

**Attached Garages-** The concern from the Board of Trustees is a garage exceeding a home's first floor square footage, could affect surrounding neighbors, the smaller lot acreage homes and the overall aesthetics of Chester Township. Currently, there is no zoning resolution in Geauga County regulating the size of attached garages. The discussion will continue.

**Pools Covers-** The Zoning Commission declined adding pool covers in lieu of fencing. Fencing provides better safety and security.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Richter adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia Jarrett, Fiscal Officer

8-8-24 Motion # 2024-372  
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