



COALITION of LARGE OHIO URBAN TOWNSHIPS
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, October 3, 2022
10:30 am

MINUTES

- I. Welcome - Chair Tiffany called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and following members were in attendance in-person: Jamie Fisher (Central), Barry Tiffany (Southwest), Michael Vaccaro (East), and Paul Wise (Central). The following members were in attendance virtually: Gary Boyle (Northwest), Jeff Ferrell (Northwest), Brook Harless (East), Shannon Hartkemeyer (Southwest), Andy Rose (East), Cheryl Sieve (Southwest), and Dee Stone (Southwest). A quorum was present. Also present was OTA staff member Heidi M. Fought.
- II. Old Business
- A. Approval of June 27, 2022 minutes - **Wise moved, seconded by Rose, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 meeting. Without objection, motion carried.**
 - B. Membership Update - Fought reported that there are 63 paid CLOUT members as of the meeting. Chair Tiffany asked Executive Committee members to check in with townships that had not renewed in their area.
 - C. Financials - Fought reported on the current financials of the Committee. As of October 3, the CLOUT fund had a balance of \$118,320.80.
 - D. Review of Amicus Curiae Briefs - Fought stated that the Supreme Court has yet to issue rulings on the three cases in which CLOUT has an interest: *State of Ohio ex rel. Christopher Hicks v. Clermont County Board of Commissioners*, *Willow Grove, Ltd. V. Olmsted Township Board of Zoning*, and *Brian M. Ames v. Rootstown Township Board of Trustees*.
- III. New Business
- 1. Legislative Update - Fought provided the Committee with a legislative status sheet of bills pending before the General Assembly that have or may have an impact on townships. Specifically, she reviewed the following bills: HB 463 Health Districts, HB 501 Township Omnibus, and HB 563 Short-Term Rentals.
 - 2. Approval of 135th Legislative Priorities - The Committee reviewed a draft document outlining legislative priorities for the upcoming 135th General Assembly. Fought noted several items may be removed if HB 501 passes during the 134th Lane Duck session. Committee members requested two items be added to the list: repeal of HB 140, or known as the Ballot Transparency & Uniformity Act, and make detachment process easier for property owners that wish to leave a municipality. **Rose moved, seconded by Vaccaro, to adopt the 135th Legislative Priorities. Without objection, motion carried.**
- B. CLOUT Engagement
- 1. Recap of Regional Meetings - Boyle provided an overview of the NW meeting that was held on August 30 at Perrysburg Township Safety Complex.

2. Membership for 2023 - Fought shared that membership packets will be emailed or mailed the first week of November. Included in the packet will be a letter from Chair Tiffany, a dues statement, an invite to the CLOUT Breakfast Reception, and a litigation fund request form.
3. Annual Meeting - The Annual Meeting will be held January 26 during the OTA Winter Conference. A discussion was had on possible speakers to invite to present during the meeting. It was suggested that Reps. Seitz or Ghanbari be invited due to their support of township government. Fought recommended the Director of JobsOhio, as they have requested the opportunity to address larger townships that have the economic development ability to partner with them. It was agreed that JobsOhio will be asked first and, if not available, an invitation will be sent to the representatives.
4. CLOUT Workshop - The Committee discussed different education topics to offer the CLOUT membership as a standalone workshop session to be offered the afternoon of Thursday, January 26. Topics for consideration included workforce development, trends in collective bargaining, mental health for township employee, Delta 8, and a panel on what works well for recruitment. **After much discussion, mental health for township employees was chose as the topic and Chair Tiffany appointed the following Committee members to serve on a subcommittee to organize the workshop. The subcommittee members include Fisher, Rose, Hartkemeyer, Sieve, Stone, and Tiffany.**
5. CLOUT Breakfast Legislative Reception - The Reception is scheduled for January 25, 2023, at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Columbus. All members of the General Assembly will be invited shortly after the new year given the 135th General Assembly begins January 2. All CLOUT members are invited and will receive an invite in the membership packet. Several reminder emails will also be sent to all CLOUT members with emails on file with the OTA. The cost to CLOUT members to attend is \$10.
6. CLOUT Snack Break - The Committee agreed to, once again, sponsor the Thursday Snack Break at the 2023 Winter Conference at a cost not to exceed \$7,500.

IV. Items for the Good of the Organization

- A. Tiffany recommended that CLOUT change the population threshold to be a member of CLOUT to a lower number. The current criteria for participation in CLOUT is a minimum unincorporated population of 15,000 or minimum budget of three million dollars (\$3,000,000). It was noted that a bylaws change would be needed to make such a change. After discussion, it was recommended that additional education be done about the importance of being a member of CLOUT.
- B. Hartkemeyer requested township support for State Issue 1, which is on the ballot in November. The ballot issue, if passed, would require courts to consider factors like public safety when setting the amount of bail. She shared a tragic event that occurred in Fairfield Township, Butler County relative to a person on out bail.
- C. Sieve informed the Committee about an issue they are having, as well as another township in SW Ohio, regarding a baby box at the township's fire station. The device allows a distressed parent to place a baby - day or night - in it to receive care so that the distressed parent does not unintentionally or intentionally harm the child. She noted that there is an attorney in SW that is challenging the ability of the township to fund and monitor the box.

V. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 26 at 11:15 am

VI. Adjournment - **With no further business, Vaccaro moved, seconded by Rose, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.**