



COALITION of LARGE OHIO URBAN TOWNSHIPS
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2023
10:30 am

MINUTES

- I. Welcome - Chair Tiffany called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. The following members were in attendance in-person: Barry Tiffany (Southwest), Andy Rose (East), Jamie Fisher (Central), Jeffery Markley (East), Rozland McKee (Central), Cheryl Sieve (Southwest), Dee Stone (Southwest), Oliver Turner (Northwest) Mike Vaccaro (East) and Paul Wise (Central). The following members were in attendance virtually: Brook Harless (East), and Shannon Hartkemeyer (Southwest). A quorum was present. OTA staff members present included Heidi M. Fought and Kyle A. Brooks.

- II. Old Business
 - A. Approval of July 10, 2023 minutes - **Rose moved, seconded by Vaccaro, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting. Without objection, motion carried.**
 - B. Membership Update – Chair Tiffany asked for an update on CLOUT membership. He specifically asked why Auburn township and Colerain township were not members. Markley stated Auburn believes they do not have the budget to become members. Sieve stated she would contact Colerain.
 - C. Financials – Brooks reported on the current financials of the Committee. Brooks provided the Committee with a document titled “CLOUT Budget”. He noted CLOUT is financially healthy and has accumulated a relatively large sum of money. Chair Tiffany asked the committee for ideas to benefit the membership.
 - D. Review of Amicus Curiae Briefs – The committee voted and approved via email on 10-4-2023 to join an amicus brief requested by Union Township. Fought explained the brief is for public records over email. Fought explained Union Township denied a public record request of email records. She stated that mailing lists may be public because they are targeted based on zip codes. Markley gave the committee information on a lower court case regarding an agri-toursim school in Chargin Falls. Markley stated the county prosecutor found building code infractions and the school was fined but not shut down. Markley explained the court of common pleas granted the agricultural exemption. **Rose motioned, seconded by Vaccaro to join the brief at the appeals court level not to exceed \$5000. Motion carried.**

- III. New Business
 - A. Legislative Update – Brooks 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, he reviewed the following bills: HB 101 (Village Dissolution), HB 187 (Property Tax Sales Assessment), PTSD, the Senate Select Committee on Housing and HB 315, the Township Omnibus. Hartkemeyer stated the housing market during covid was in high demand, but she is seeing a softening of the market currently. Chair Tiffany stated his concern on opening the door a disability retirement related to

PTSD, and the state should reimburse tuition costs for fire and police if the candidate works in the state for a certain amount of time. Chair Tiffany then explained the importance of township zoning. He stated that zoning should be a planning document, not reactive policies. Vaccaro stated planning should be adjusted over time with the needs of the community. Vaccaro mentioned the state should provide funding that is given to local communities to update comprehensive plans. Chair Tiffany asked the committee to think of issues township would like parity with municipalities on.

- IV. Items for the Good of the Organization – Chair Tiffany expressed interest in exploring a statehouse day to meet with General Assembly members. The committee tasked Brooks with finding a date, and location for the day.
- V. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 8 at 11:15 am during the OTA Winter Conference.
- VI. Adjournment - **With no further business, Sieve moved, seconded by Wise, to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m.**