Liberty Township, Porter County
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2026
6:00 PM

Present were board members Terry Dunn, Jackie Sterling, and Bryce Gawronski. Also in attendance were Matt Keiser, Township Trustee and Michele Bollinger, Township Clerk.

Meeting Minutes:

Bryce made a motion to accept the minutes; Terry seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Financials:

Matt took a few minutes to walk through the budget for the remainder of the year. Bryce made a motion to accept the financials as presented; Terry seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Fire Department Report:

None

Trustee's Report:

Matt shared that he will be attending the ITA Conference in early October, not September as he previously reported.

Matt reported that a significant number of residents have sought food assistance following the August storm. To help address the increased need, Matt developed a streamlined food assistance application to expedite the application and approval process for residents seeking assistance.

New Business:

2027 Budget Public Hearing- Matt reported that the proposed 2027 budget was published online as required at budgetnotices.in.gov. Bryce opened the public hearing on the proposed 2027 budget at 6:10 p.m. Tim Hinko asked questions about the budget, but no members of the

public spoke in favor of or in opposition to the proposed budget. With no public comments offered, Bryce closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

The adoption of the 2027 budget will be on the agenda for the October 14th, 2026, meeting.

2026-05 Establishment of Emergency Food Relief Grant Fund- Liberty Township received a $4,000 grant from the Porter County Foundation after the Foundation reached out to inquire how it could assist the Township. Matt requested funding to support local food assistance efforts.

Matt explained that the Township needs to establish an Emergency Food Relief Grant Fund to properly receive and account for the $4,000 grant from the Porter County Foundation, as well as any future grant funds received for food assistance.

Matt also shared that the Township submitted a grant application to the White Foundation for additional food assistance funding and was awarded $5,900. Once received, those funds will also be deposited into the Emergency Food Relief Grant Fund.

Terry made a motion; Bryce seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business:

New Fire Station Update: Matt shared that construction of the new fire station is expected to be completed by the end of October. An update was received indicating that the garage doors are scheduled for delivery the following day, with installation expected to take place over the next week. Concrete and asphalt work is also expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Matt also shared that a ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for November.

Public Comment:

Tim Hinko (1071 N 50 W, Chesterton, IN) asked who will own the new fire station. Matt clarified that the station is owned by Liberty Township.

Tim also asked whether the new station will include sleeping quarters. Matt explained that the station has three rooms available that could be utilized for this purpose in the future.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bryce; Jackie seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Bryce Gawronski, Board President

ATTEST:

Jacquelyn M Sterling, Board Member

Matt Keiser, Township Trustee

Terry Dunn, Board Member