

The Board of Lake Township Trustees met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. at 12360 Market Avenue North, Hartville, Ohio with the following members present:

John Arnold, President  
Ellis Erb, Vice President  
Galen Stoll, Member

Also Present:

Ben Sommers	Michael Wilt
Lynn Wilt	Doug Smith
Linda Oakes	Theresa Allen
Lisa Cutlip	Kelsie Allen
Robert Perkins	Ann Perkins
Todd Hart	William Karasko
Ray Heatwall	Derek Heatwall
Brandon Heisler	Jennifer Ferracane
Rich Morrison	Larry Templeton
Pat Templeton	Jim Welch
Angie Welch	Chuck Hoskin
Jennifer Hoskin	Scott Batchik
Earl McClung	John Koehler
Elizabeth Koehler	Shannon Woods
Mary Ann Kannam	Pat Allen
Miguel Hunt	Michelle Hunt

John Arnold called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- 12-284 A resolution was made by John Arnold approving the minutes of August 27, 2012 as submitted. Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

- 12-285 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing payment of payroll for September 14, 2012 in the amount of \$46,082.40. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

- 12-286 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting/approving the Financial Report as of September 10, 2012, as submitted by the Lake Township Fiscal Officer. Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

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12-287 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing payment of bills as of September 10, 2012 in the amount of \$55,609.97. Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. State of Ohio Auditor Dave Yost -- Bulletin 2012-006 regarding Regional Councils of Governments Reporting Requirements under House Bill 487
2. Stark County Township Association -- September 20th Meeting Notice & reminder
3. Chesapeake Energy -- weekly activity reports
4. Cargill -- pricing on Clearlane deicier product
5. Ohio Department of Transportation -- notice and invitation to ODOT District 4's Stark County Government Day on September 24, 2012
6. Dave Seccombe -- inquiring about Chief Britt
7. Dominion East Ohio -- information on High Consequence Area and identifying sites
8. Stephanie Sudak Fairbanks -- information about Chief Britt
9. Ohio Township Association -- request for information from Holmes Township, in Crawford County
10. Brian Becker/Marlboro Towing -- information/inquiry regarding Chief Britt
11. Stark County Township Association -- information regarding September 19, 2012 workshop session in regard to the Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant
12. Stark Soil & Water Conservation District -- Site Inspection Reports (Invent Now National Inventors Hall of Fame; Glengarry Allotment; Fiddlers Creek Condos; Hartville Hardware Home Center; HRM Estates)
13. Stark County Regional Planning Commission -- September 4, 2012 Agenda
14. Stark County Health Department -- Special Meeting Notice for September 20, 2012
15. Stark County Regional Planning Commission -- copy of correspondence sent to Hettler Engineering regarding Thermotrol Corporation; and David Broensen regarding Glengarry Allotment No. 1; copy of correspondence sent to Richard Whittmer regarding HRM Estates Allotment)
16. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wilt -- information / inquiry regarding Chief Britt
17. D. Dutton -- Chief Britt comment
18. Stoney deGeyter -- inquiring about trees along Cleveland Avenue and about water on his property from neighbor
19. Tiffany Stiles -- recent turn of events and Chief Britt
20. Mark Burns Independent Energy Consultants, Inc. -- notice of Energy Seminar
21. Ohio Township Association -- September *Grassroots Clippings* Newsletter
22. Ohio Township Association -- legislative news
23. Beth Conn -- inquiry / statement regarding Chief Britt
24. CESSWI, Inc. -- notice of Stephen Lacey as Certified Erosion Sediment and Storm Water Inspector
25. Uniontown Lions Club -- Thank you to Road Superintendent and Road Department

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- for repair of berm along Marquette Street at the festival site.
26. Stark Council of Governments -- notice of September 4, 2012 General Membership Meeting
  27. Stark County Health Department -- mosquito spraying schedule
  28. Eric Hastings -- concerns about Trustees going with Sheriff's department for police coverage
  29. Mark Slabinski -- inquiry / statement regarding police chief
  30. GBC Design, Inc. -- notice of change of address
  31. Jon Husted Ohio Secretary of State -- requesting updated information for Township Officers pursuant to ORC Sections 111.12 & 111.13
  32. OhioEPA -- preliminary notification of 2012 MS4 Annual Discharge Fee
  33. Paul Manofsky -- comments regarding Police Chief

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **Police Department**

- The Board acknowledged receipt of the August 2012 Statistical Report for the Uniontown Police Department.

12-288 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting the resignation of auxiliary Uniontown Patrol Officer, Michael Props, effective September 8, 2012. Seconded by Galen Stoll.

Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

#### **Road Department**

- None

#### **Zoning Department**

- The Board acknowledged receipt of the August 2012 Zoning Report.

#### **Fire Departments/Fire Prevention Office**

- None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

12-289 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Board to execute the following Road Open Permits:

D-12-27: Dominion East Ohio Gas - 9000 Stover Avenue (gas tie-in)

D-12-28: Dominion East Ohio Gas - 11094 Wolf Avenue (gas tie-in)

Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold      yes

Ellis Erb          yes

Galen Stoll        yes

12-290 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting the proposal as received August 29, 2012, from Lake Local Schools, to install softball bleachers in Lake Township Park directly behind the current home plate of the varsity (western most) field. Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold      yes

Ellis Erb          yes

Galen Stoll        yes

12-291 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Board to execute the following Cemetery Deeds:

Woods Cemetery - Section East, Lot 215, 2 South Graves

Woods Cemetery - Section South, Lot 380 or 381, 2 Graves

Uniontown Greenlawn Cemetery - Section M, Lot 88, Graves 2 & 3

Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold      yes

Ellis Erb          yes

Galen Stoll        yes

12-292 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing correspondence be forwarded to Michael J. Kovacs in reference to his Fire Loss Claim No. HP0001455145 at 3527 Dotwood Street NW, North Canton, Ohio. Said correspondence will include notification that the Township is in receipt of a check in the amount of \$13,516.06 from Grange Insurance, which funds will be held by the township until such time the Lake Township Fire Prevention Officer and Zoning Administrator have authorized the Fiscal Officer to release the funds. In addition, this letter will include a request that they meet with the Lake Township Fire Prevention Officer and Zoning Administrator in order to expedite this process and to contact the Zoning Administrator to schedule such meeting. Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold      yes

Ellis Erb          yes

Galen Stoll        yes

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**MEETING REPORTS/MISCELLANEOUS**

- Galen Stoll attended the Regional Planning Commission meeting last week; Glengarry Allotment preliminary plans received approval.
- John Arnold spoke to the third graders at Uniontown Elementary School regarding township government. He asked them for their assistance in picking out playground equipment to replace the unsafe equipment that was removed from Lake Township Park when funds become available.

**FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

12-293 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Board and Fiscal Officer to sign all Purchase Orders and Vouchers. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

**PUBLIC SPEAKS**

Theresa Allen, 11751 El Dorado Cir., Hartville; Ms. Allen asked the Board to read the correspondence regarding Chief Britt into the minutes. The Board responded that while they weren't going to do that, all correspondence is public records and copies can be obtained from the township office. Ms. Allen spoke in support of Chief Britt and asked the Board why Chief Britt has been asked to resign and asked for the Board's resignation.

Linda Oakes, 1849 Chowning Cir, Uniontown; Ms. Oakes spoke in support of Chief Britt and the Uniontown Police Department.

Don Britt, 200 High St., Hartville; Mr. Britt, brother of Chief Britt, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt whom the Board recruited from a stellar career with another department.

Doug Smith, 1222 Hiddenview St, N.Canton; Mr. Smith asked the Board what is the reason behind the rumored termination of Chief Britt. The Board responded that they cannot and will not discuss personnel issues in public. Executive session conversations are to be held in the strictest of confidences.

Tim Davis, 11025 Haverhill Cir, Hartville; Mr. Davis addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He has made an impact on this community, hopefully this kind of support from the community shows that they like Chief Britt and what he has done for this community.

William Karasko, 11128 Trenton Rd., Uniontown; Mr. Karasko addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt and the Uniontown Police Department. As a taxpayer here he should have a say in what is going on and they are not being allowed to do that.

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Michelle Cordova, Newbury Ave., Uniontown; Ms. Cordova has been an assistant prosecuting attorney for Stark County for 16 years. She was pleased when Harold Britt was appointed Chief; she was also disappointed when the Lake Township Police Department was dissolved. She appreciated having him and his staff in her neighborhood on a regular basis. As chief of the juvenile division, she appreciates his commitment to the school resource officer program. She feels he is a true asset to the prosecutor's office, the schools, Lake Township and the Uniontown Police Department. It would be a terrible loss if he were to go.

Heather Simms, 1585 Lake O Pines St., Hartville; Ms. Simms addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt and the Uniontown Police Department. She is starting a petition to have the Board removed.

Kevin Tobin, 9840 Smithdale Ave, Hartville; Mr. Tobin is currently the principle of Lake High School. He spoke in support of Chief Britt who has collaborated at great lengths with Lake Local Schools. He has proven to be a great asset to our school district, employees and the students. He asked the Board to take their responsibility seriously and take to heart what all these people are saying.

Mark Zehner, Mr. Zehner is a retired police officer, he does not know Chief Britt personally but knows people he as worked with in Summit County who spoke very highly of him. He asked the Board why it has taken them a year and a half to decide that Harold Britt wasn't the man for the job.

Jack McKinney, 8422 Whitmer Ave, N. Canton; Mr. McKinney, a parent to four daughters, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt.

Shannon Woods, 3340 Pontius, Uniontown; Ms. Woods has had many dealing with the Uniontown Police Department as a foster parent in the community and Chief Britt and the officers have always responded promptly. She feels it has been the best police department since Chief Britt has taken over.

Harry Lovejoy; Mr. Lovejoy, a police officer, addressed the Board as a former employee of the Uniontown Police Department, feels there is an agenda here. Whatever this is about had to be a mistake because Chief Britt is not the type of person that would deliberately do something to hurt the community or the department. A year and a half ago the Board was praising Chief Britt.

Erin Lippe, 11017 Wolf, Hartville; Ms. Lippe, a parent of Lake Local school students, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. The number of people present and the diversity of the group; parents, teachers, school administrators, policemen and firemen should speak volumes about the character of Chief Britt both as a professional and a leader in the community.

Earl McClung, 11876 Geib, Hartville; Mr. McClung addressed the Board regarding Chief Britt. He heard the Board say what a good guy he was and how experienced he was in the past.

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Andy Straley, 13475 Inverness Ave, Uniontown; Mr. Straley, a former employee of Uniontown Police Department, spoke in support of Chief Britt.

Dan Frazee, 1319 State St., Canton; Mr. Frazee addressed the Board regarding Chief Britt. He commended the Board on the good job they have done. Told the Board they brought Chief Britt in for a reason and they all voted for him, he asked the Board to give the man his due.

George Dean, 1275 Lake Center St, Uniontown; Mr. Dean, a businessman in Uniontown for the last 20 years, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He stated Chief Britt is a decorated veteran and operates with a strong moral code, and he has a sense of pride to have Chief Britt leading this police force.

Doug Smith, 1222 Hiddenview St, N. Canton; Mr. Smith addressed the Board again and asked them about their accounting practices and internal controls and if they would be using the GAAP method. Mr. Sommers, Fiscal Officer, responded that they will change if required, but the township is in strong financial condition.

Shelly Hutchings, 11153 Oasis Ave. Uniontown; Ms. Hutchings, a parent, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt and Uniontown Police Department. They are there for every person in the community. She would like to see the police expansion back on the ballot.

Josh Pirogowicz; Mr. Pirogowicz, a law enforcement officer, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He believes Harold Britt is a man of integrity and asked the Board to make their decision with integrity.

Steve Lippe, 11017 Wolf Ave., Hartville; Mr. Lippe, a Lake High School Administrator, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt and the Uniontown Police Department. They are an integral part of the High School and Lake Community Complex.

Brian Collins, 10977 Withington Ave, Uniontown; Mr. Collins, teacher at Hartville Elementary, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He asked the Board, if something has happened, to help Chief Britt through it.

Heather Kelley 875 Camelia St., Hartville; Ms. Kaley, a parent, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He makes her feel safe in the community.

Pat Allen, 11751 El Dorado, Hartville; Mr. Allen addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. Mr. Allen comes from a law enforcement family and knows what a good chief looks like and we have a good one. They don't need to let him go. He asked what has to be done to get the police expansion back on the ballot. The Board responded that they supported the expansion but the areas outside the police district defeated the issue by 65% to 35%, so that must be considered, it also has to be a fall election and it is too late for this fall.

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Shawn Miller, 11107 Wright Rd., Uniontown; Mr. Miller, a parent, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He feels safer with his presence in the community.

Joe Holsopple, 2228 Edison St., Uniontown, Mr. Holsopple, lead detective for Springfield Police, addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. Asked the Board to give it some more thought and give him more time to settle in. He went from being a Sergeant to being a Chief and there is a lot to learn. He is very satisfied with the Uniontown Police Department as it is and believes in community policing.

Greg Ozer, 2893 Genera St, Uniontown, Mr. Ozer addressed the Board in support of Chief Britt. He feels that people just aren't comfortable with why the Board is making this decision, He asked the Board to consider what they are doing.

Uniontown Police Chief Harold Britt; Chief Britt thanked everyone for their support, both for himself and the department. He loves working with them and doesn't want to work anywhere else.

- John Arnold closed the public speaks portion of the meeting.

12-294 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Lake Township Board of Trustees to convene an executive session at 7:45 p.m. pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(4) to prepare for, conduct, or review collective bargaining strategy and to include the Trustees, Fiscal Officer and legal counsel. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

12-295 A resolution was made by John Arnold to return from executive session at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Ellis Erb. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

12-296 A resolution was made by John Arnold accepting the contract with the Uniontown Police Department with one modification. Upon ratification of the bargaining unit the Board will sign said contract. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

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12-297 A resolution was made by John Arnold authorizing the Lake Township Board of Trustees to convene an executive session at 7:59 p.m. pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee and to include the Trustees, Fiscal Officer and legal counsel. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

12-298 A resolution was made by John Arnold to return from executive session at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

- The Board stated the Uniontown Police Chief Harold Britt is our chief going forward.

12-299 A resolution was made by John Arnold adjourning the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Seconded by Galen Stoll. Roll call votes were:

John Arnold	yes
Ellis Erb	yes
Galen Stoll	yes

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Ben Sommers, Fiscal Officer

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John Arnold, President

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Ellis Erb, Vice President

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Galen Stoll, Member

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