



COALITION of LARGE OHIO URBAN TOWNSHIPS
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2017

10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

- I. Welcome - Chair Earhart called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. Those in attendance included: Gary Boyle (Northwest Region), Frank Dantonio (Central Region), Vicky Earhart (Southwest Region), John Eisel (Central Region), Jeff Ferrell (Northwest Region), Tracy Hatmaker (Central Region), Helen Humphrys (East Region), and Barry Tiffany (Southwest Region). Participating by phone was Tom Costello (East Region). Also in attendance were OTA staff members Matt J. DeTemple and Heidi M. Fought.
- II. Old Business
 - A. Review of Legislative Breakfast Reception, CLOUT Annual Meeting and Roundtable Discussions - Chair Earhart reported that the Legislative Breakfast Reception had over 60 members of the 132nd General Assembly, or their staff, in attendance. She noted that several CLOUT members complained about the timing of the reception and that early morning Wednesday requires an extra hotel night for township officials that live outside of central Ohio. The Chair noted that the annual meeting was very well attended and there was a good exchange of dialogue amongst those in attendance. Finally, the Chair noted that despite the great topics, the roundtables were not very well attended. She asked Executive Committee members to think of others ways to engage the members at conference.
 - B. Review of 2017 CLOUT Membership - Fought reported that as of May 1, only two townships that were members in 2016 have not joined in 2017. She reported that the CLOUT fund balance, after 2017 Winter Conference expenses, is \$131,449. The Executive Committee discussed a temporary dues reduction or suspension based on the amount of revenue in the fund but keeping in mind a minimum balance that should always be retained. The members discussed additional ways to enhance the value of CLOUT membership by possibly including additional educational training at the State Association office, funding a study relative to legislative initiatives, sponsoring a professional speaker at the 2018 Winter Conference and professional marketing pieces for CLOUT townships (and others) to use with residents, media and businesses.
 - C. Meeting with ODOT Regarding Signage - Fought reported that ODOT staff called and asked to reschedule due to conflicting appointments.
 - D. Review of Legislation Pending 132nd General Assembly - Fought reviewed the list of items currently included in HB 49, the biennium budget. She noted that the State Association is still working to include language changing the acreage requirement for new community authorities. She also reviewed the list of items the State Association is requesting consideration for inclusion in an omnibus township bill.

- E. Amicus Briefs Update - DeTemple reviewed several cases that potentially have an impact on township government. The first case, *Joanne Moore vs. City of Cleveland*, deals with immunity for an employee of a political subdivision who engages in wanton or reckless conduct in connection with a governmental or proprietary function. He noted that the OTA has been asked to file an amicus brief in the case and will be doing so this week. **Tiffany moved, seconded by Ferrell, to include CLOUT on the amicus brief with the OTA and assist with the cost of the amicus up to \$1,250. Motion carried 8-1 with Dantonio voting against the motion.**

The second case, *Hirt vs. Liberty Township*, deals with whether an investigator's private notes are actually considered a public record. DeTemple stated that the OTA was asked to consider filing an amicus brief. **Tiffany moved, seconded by Humphry, that the OTA file an amicus brief and include CLOUT as a party. Motion carried 7-1 with Dantonio voting against the motion.**

III. New Business

- A. Removal of a Fire Chief in a Township - Tiffany requested that legislation be introduced that would remove the words "private citizen" from R.C. §505.38.
- B. Legislative Priorities for the 132nd General Assembly - Chair Earhart asked members to review the list of priorities before the next meeting for discussion.

IV. Items for the Good of the Organization - Bainbridge Township requests CLOUT members to oppose any legislation that would transfer the authority to operate township park districts from the board of township trustees to the probate judge. Jackson Township is working on a legislative request regarding regional planning commissions.

V. Adjournment - **Tiffany moved, seconded by Humphrys, to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Motion carried.**