

Land sale OK'd to Champion Schools

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By **BOB COUPLAND**
Tribune Chronicle

CHAMPION — Champion Township trustees have approved a letter of intent with the Champion Local School District to sell a 21-acre property for \$106,000 to the schools if a local 4.4-mill school bond issue passes in the November general election.

Trustee Chairman Bob Farmer said the 21-acre township property is located north of the township cemetery and south of the high school property off state Route 45.

The school district is seeking passage of the bond issue to raise the local share for construction of a new K-8 school complex. Plans are to demolish Central Elementary School and Champion Middle School. Improvements would be made to the high school.

The bond issue will raise the district's share of a \$31.3 million PreK-8 school complex. The Ohio School Facilities Commission plans to provide \$17.5 million, or 57 percent, of the project if the district can come up with

the other \$13.8 million.

"We plan to work with the school district and provide the land they need for a new school," Farmer said.

As part of the agreement, the township would take over and own the Central Elementary School property after that 100-year old building is demolished. The school district would still keep the bus garage at the site.

He said the ballfields at the middle school and elementary would be maintained by the township.

Farmer said the \$106,000 would be paid by the schools over a two-year period following passage of the bond issue.

In addition to the 4.4-mill bond issue, there also is a 0.5-mill permanent improvement levy on the ballot that would be used to maintain the new building, which is mandated by the state on all OSFC projects.

In other business at the meeting, trustees granted pay increases to non-union department heads and employees.

Three percent increases were approved for fire Chief John Hickey to

\$50,650 and Road Supervisor Chris Connelly to \$45,020.

Two percent increases were approved for police Chief Chris Redick to \$53,754, Zoning Inspector Rhonda Fonce to \$31,616 and Tami Tarleton, administrative assistant to the fiscal officer, to \$11.88 per hour.

Farmer said the five employees saw one pay adjustment in the past six years. The new salaries were effective Monday.

Trustees also:

- Renewed a contract with Go Daddy for five years at \$14.95 per month to maintain the township website;

- Approved selling three vehicles, including a 2000 International dump truck and 1979 Ford asphalt distributor, on an online auction;

- Reported fire Chief John Hickey was recognized by the state for obtaining \$500,000 in grants for the fire department in recent years;

- Set 'trick-or-treat 6 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 31.