

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Minutes of Franklin Township  
Franklin County, Ohio**

**Special Meeting**

**Held at 2193 Frank Road**

**January 29, 2020**

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**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Alex called a Special Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on January 29, 2020, at 2193 Frank Road.

**Purpose of Meeting:** First Quarterly Meeting of 2020

**Roll Call:** Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes.

*Alex made a motion to suspend the Pledge of Allegiance and any prior meeting minutes. Fleshman seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes. The motion passed.*

Alex asked the board that if there were no objections Trustee Horn would like to begin first to discuss specific issues.

Horn shared his concerns related to the financial obligation the township is facing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Our attorneys have appealed this with the IRS but have expressed their legal guidance on preparing our 2020 budget accordingly in case payments are required if the appeal is denied, Horn said. Another issue we need to discuss are the historical advances and transfers from the general fund to each department, said Horn. The Ohio Auditor of State's office will be assisting with the advances/transfers, the Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris shared. Horn continued will a final item to make sure each department is prepared to discuss big ticket items that are needed in 2020 to ensure the budget is solid. Horn thanked the chairman for allowing him time to speak.

**Fire Department Report:**

*Chief Welch and Assistant Chief Adams had nothing to report.*

**Building Department Report:**

*Chief Welch had nothing to report.*

**Road Department Report:**

*Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent shared with the board that the 2008 dump truck needs repairs. The truck is worth fixing as it is the extra truck which is used all of the time. The cost for repair is \$15,472.50, Stevens shared. The Road Department is unable to carry this cost out of their budget, would the board be willing to approve this expenditure to come out of the general fund, asked the Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris.*

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*Trustee Fleshman moved for the adoption of the following resolution. Horn seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes. Resolution passed.*

**Resolution 20-021**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to pay Ricart Ford for repairs on the 2008 F-550 dump truck, not to exceed \$15,472.50 from the general fund.**

**Police Department Report:**

*Byron Smith, Police Chief* shared that the police department's focus for 2020 is community engagement. The goal is to start (3) three new block watches in the triangle area (area between Harrisburg Pike and Brown Road south of Central Point Shopping Center to Frank Road) as well engage the residents of the Havenwood Townhome Community to resume their block watch meetings.

These are two of the largest areas of the township which have a high volume of registered voters. The hope for the police department is to engage the community as well as earn their votes in 2021 when a levy will be placed on the ballot for the police department, said Smith.

Smith continued by sharing that he is increasing the time allocated for continued education and training for the officers from the state minimum of hours to (36) thirty-six hours annually.

We have (2) two more vehicle payments on the last set of cars purchased, said Smith. The oldest cruiser we have is 2017, Smith shared. We anticipate replacing (2) two cruisers in 2020, said Smith.

Fleshman said, the Auto Boutique located at 901 N. Wilson Road in Columbus, is impeding the township. The cars do not have proper Ohio plates when the vehicle is on a test drive. This is a safety hazard for drivers and well as township residents, said Fleshman. Alex said he spoke with the City of Columbus enforcement officer as well. Fleshman asked if the police can monitor the area and enforce when necessary.

Alex requested that the chief provide a status report once a month at the regular meeting as the sheriff's office does. Smith agreed.

Fleshman shared that each of the trustees has received a correspondence in the mail addressed from 40 E. Coolidge Avenue. I took it upon myself to go speak with the person at this address. The resident at this address was confused and stated that someone must have used their address as they have no issues with Franklin Township, said Fleshman. Also, it was determined that there is no E. Coolidge Avenue, it is just Coolidge Avenue, said Fleshman. Alex said that the trustees are always open to accept calls and emails from the residents. Everyone is encouraged to attend public meetings as well, said Alex.

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The Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris asked Smith if he was looking to obtain a storage unit as well as a radar trailer at some point in 2020. I do not believe we will have a budget in 2020 to purchase a radar trailer, said Smith. We have been able to work out an arrangement with Capital Towing to obtain a storage container. The container was delivered and is parked out by the new salt barn. The township still owes Capital Towing approximately \$800.00 for their portion of the purchase and delivery of the container, which was over \$2,000.00, said Smith.

Morris asked if Smith is planning to replace any of the cruisers with a larger “patty wagon” type vehicle? Smith said there are limited options of which are we can stay with the same model we currently have, a van or a pickup truck. It’s more practical for us to remain with the same model or research a van style vehicle, Smith said.

Fleshman asked if Smith has researched electric cars as police cruisers. Smith said he will research all options. Fleshman said he believes there is a company out there who might donate (1) one electric vehicle to test for a potential fleet. Alex asked the Administrator to reach out to Smart Columbus to see if they can be of any assistance in this matter.

The Fiscal Officer asked if Smith had the flooring replaced in the modular? Smith said the flooring has been replaced and paid out of the police department budget. Morris asked Smith if he was still interested in putting up a privacy fence on the east side of the property? The board agreed to wait until Spring to move on this project, said Alex.

Horn asked if the speed is being monitored by officers, Smith said yes. A speed/radar trailer is greatly needed but the police budget cannot support it in 2020, but if the general fund could help that would be the only way, said Smith. Morris said unfortunately the general fund is unable to commit at this time due to potential pending obligations. Smith said he will take purchasing a radar/speed trailer off the table for now.

## **Fiscal Department:**

*Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer* asked the fire department if they need to add \$17,000.00 to their 2020 budget to purchase radios. Chief Welch confirmed that he budgeted \$25,000.00 for radios in 2020.

Morris asked the Fire Chief if he contacted the Village of Valleyview on their past due of \$20,000.00 for the 2019 fire protection and maintenance agreement? Welch said he was under the understanding that the board was going to reach out to the Mayor of Valleyview for an update. The Administrator said he thought it was moved over to collections or the Attorney General's Office. Alex said the board is planning to hold a meeting with the Village of Valleyview to discuss this issue.

Morris asked for confirmation from Chief Welch that he would like the Ohio Police & Fire premium paid out of the EMS budget at this time and Welch agreed.

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Morris asked the road superintendent about leaf pickup in Valleyview for 2020. Stevens said he is putting together an invoice for both leaf pickup and pothole filling/maintenance for the Village of Valleyview. Fleshman plans to attend the next Village Council meeting and can mention these issues to the mayor.

Administrator Potts said he spoke to Mike Thompson at the Ohio Department of Commerce, and that Valleyview reverts back to the state for commercial building projects, needs, etc. This means that Valleyview will reach out to the Ohio Department of Commerce for the commercial building/zoning needs.

Morris asked Stevens what the status is of Valleyview installing the newly required high reflectivity signs which the township obtained for Valleyview through a grant. Stevens said currently Valleyview has not erected the new signs which impacts the grant deliverables.

Morris asked if Stevens was still budgeting for a leaf vac and boom truck. Stevens said these items are on hold for the time being.

Morris shared that she is in the process of looking at the benefits of changing banks (financial institution) per the requirements of her role. Alex shared that the board has not approved changing banks. Morris said that this is her decision. Alex said per the guidance of the township's legal counsel the board is to approve and vote on changing financial institutions. As well as there is a new fiscal officer taking their position in the coming weeks and they should be involved in this decision, said Alex. Morris reminded the board that she is still the fiscal officer and she does not understand why the board would not support her decision. Fleshman said he supports allowing the new fiscal officer an opportunity to be included in this decision. Morris said, the newly elected fiscal officer is welcome to go with her to explore the options of changing financial institutions.

Morris said the board has trouble distinguishing the differences between the role of a Trustee and the fiscal officer. I have asked the Auditor of State's Office to assist me in this matter as I have been slapped in the face and pushed around for the last (6) six years by many people and it is due to an ongoing misunderstanding of the roles between the legislative body and the fiscal officer, said Morris.

Morris asked the board if the Administrator can have approval to sign checks. Fleshman asked how much the Administrator is bonded for. Administrator Potts said that he is bonded but is unsure of the amount. Morris said she would find out and let the board know.

Horn said he would like to plan for some clean up around the Township properties at 2193 Frank Road. Alex said Potts would speak of this later in the meeting.

Morris distributed reports related to the historical financial advancements/transfers from the general fund to various

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departments. Fleshman said he would like to have the Administrator reach out to the auditor's office to gain clarification and guidance on the best way to approach the paybacks for outstanding advancements/transfers.

## **Administrator**

*Administrator Potts* updated the board on the Capital Budget Projects through Representative Adam Miller's office. This captures a proposal for repaving and new paving at 2173/2193 Frank Road equating to \$160,000.00. Potts said he proposed in the State Capital Budget Project for the state to pay \$128,000.00 leaving the remaining \$32,000.00 for the township to budget for. The township has never received state funding in the past for capital improvement projects. The paving would definitely assist in the water/drainage issues on the land as well as extend the life of our township vehicles due to smoother more level driving surface, said Potts.

Potts also said he believes Representative Miller as well as the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) are advocates for this project. Alex encouraged everyone to reach out to Representative Miller's office to show their support of this project.

Potts provided an update on moving forward with establishing a tax increment financing (TIF) in specific areas of the township. Alex asked for an executive session to be scheduled to discuss this topic.

Potts reminded the board that one trustee is needed tomorrow (1/30/2020) to sign the closing papers on township properties which have been sold. Horn said he can be available tomorrow.

Fleshman asked the Fiscal Officer if there is a line item in the 2020 budget for purchase of properties. The Fiscal Officer agreed the line item still exists.

Potts shared that Laura Esterline will be on agenda at the first meeting of each month. Alex agreed that Esterline has an open invitation to be on the agenda.

Fleshman asked Potts to explore if the parcel located on the corner is still available to purchase. Potts said he will contact Esterline. With no further discussion Alex adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Signature on file with original  
Aryeh Alex, Chairman

Signature on file with original  
John Fleshman, Vice-Chairman

Signature on file with original  
Ralph Horn, Trustee

Signature on file with original  
Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer  
Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Minutes were taken & typed by: R. Watkins  
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 02/20/2020