

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Held at 2193 Frank Road**

**March 7, 2019**

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Chairman Fleshman called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 7, 2019, at 2193 Frank Road.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Fleshman opened the meeting.

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Pastor Snodgrass, Fire Department Chaplain

**The Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Trustee Horn.

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

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

*Fleshman made a motion to approve the following minutes. Horn seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

- February 21, 2019                      Special Meeting
- February 21, 2019                      Regular Meeting

**Old Business:**

**Gas Tax Support Letters**

Letters of support for the proposed gas tax were distributed to the Board for signatures. Letters are being sent to Governor DeWine, Senator Maharath, and House Representative Miller per the Motion passed by the Board at the February 21, 2019, regular meeting.

**Traffic Camera Signage Discussion with Commissioners**

Fleshman first explained that moving forward there will be a section on the agenda to discuss Old Business. This discussion will exhibit follow-up discussions and/or next steps from items discussed in prior meetings.

Fleshman then explained that he spoke with a representative from the Franklin County Engineer's Office while attending a Franklin County Commissioners meeting. Fleshman has scheduled a meeting for Franklin Township to sit down with the Franklin County Engineer's Office on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to discuss potential signage to be erected on the County's right-of-ways. This signage will educate the public about the Township's traffic camera program.

**Harrisburg Pike Property Discussion**

Alex stated he spoke with the pastor of the church and that they are very interested in utilizing the adjacent property. The church is unsure at this time exactly what they would use the property for but will submit something in writing to the Township on their intent. The Township would then establish a Memo of Understanding between the Township and the church agreeing on the utilization of the land.

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## **Resolutions:**

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

### **Resolution 19-034**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves payroll in the amount of \$137,431.17 and bills in the amount of \$76,131.79 for March 7, 2019 from check number 49598 to 49735.**

## **New Business**

### **Community Housing Network: Briggsdale Display**

Fleshman welcomed the representatives from the Community Housing Network. Walt Witmyre, Project Manager of the Community Housing Network introduced himself and provided a summary of the impact his agency has played in Columbus and Franklin Township. He continued to explain the recent construction and addition to 1662 Harrisburg Pike.

The summary included the history of the land and the “Briggs House”. The house was owned by the Briggs family who was a prominent family on the Westside (hence Briggs Road). Relics from the historical house which once stood at 1662 Harrisburg Pike were preserved prior to demolition. Those relics have been included in the designs for Phase I and Phase II of what is now *Briggsdale Apartments*.

The Franklin Township Board of Trustees was presented with a formal presentational piece that can be displayed at the Township Hall. This presentation piece explains the history of the Briggs family, the Village of Briggsdale and the Briggs House. This piece will be on display in the Township Hall for the public to view.

The open house for Phase II of the Briggsdale Apartments will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 16, 2019 at 1662 Harrisburg Pike.

## **Police Department Report:**

Chief Byron Smith provided stats for January 2019:

39 accident reports  
83 citations  
47 warnings  
124 offense reports  
820 dispatched runs  
337 pickup runs  
10,196 miles driven  
54 court cases / 2 officers called in to court  
49 impounds / 37 released / 5 junked

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Smith said that with the expansion of the Police Department, such as additional part-time officers, a traffic camera officer, etc. he feels there is need for a Lieutenant position to be established. The hope is to hire within with a lateral move within the existing staff, said Smith. The Lieutenant will be responsible for payroll, supervising the Sergeants, paperwork, etc. shared Smith.

Alex confirmed that the position would be a lateral move and the current amount of staff members would remain the same within the Police Department. Smith confirmed Alex's statement.

Fleshman ask what Smith's perspective is on the interview process since the position would be a lateral move. Smith said, since the Township currently has (2) two Sergeants who would be eligible for the lateral move but this position requires an individual be able to interact and communicate with the Board. Smith said he will review his Sergeant's file and make a recommendation to the Board.

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

**Resolution 19-035**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Police Chief to establish a position of Lieutenant to be paid at 3% over the Sergeant's position and/or with guidance from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).**

The Board asked Smith to contact the FOP to confirm if this new position would be in the union or operate under a Memo of Understanding (MOU).

Smith asked the Board if they were available to host a Special Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019, to speak with potential candidates for the position of Lieutenant.

*Fleshman made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. to speak with potential candidates for the position of Lieutenant.*

Mike Blevins, member of the audience asked Smith how he feels about the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) flying around the Township with a camera crew televising Live PD. Smith said this topic was discussion at the County Police Chief Meeting. Smith also said he asked the FCSO if he could be provided notice when they are coming into the Township with the Live PD camera crew. He was told the Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction over the entire County and does not have to give notice. The FCSO backs up Franklin Township Police with various other services as well, said Smith.

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### **Road Department Report:**

*Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent* provided an update on the condition of our salt barn, and he is surprised it is still standing, said Stevens. He explained that he has explored options to build a new salt barn (35 x 50). The price of steel has increased since the last inquiring on building a salt barn, said Stevens. Fleshman asked why Stevens is looking at a scaled back version at a 35 x 50 in size versus a 35 x 60 in size. Stevens said, he feels a 35 x 50 is adequate for the needs of the Township. Fleshman said, the extra 10 feet allows storing extra salt versus paying for the cost of additional salt in the next weather season. Stevens agreed with Fleshman but stated his presentation was based on providing the best savings for the Township tax payers. Stevens, also shared the larger the building the larger the concrete base will need to be to support the weight of the salt and the equipment being stored inside.

By Ohio EPA Standard, we are unable to rebuild/repair our existing salt barn. We are required to build a new structure to store our road salt. I continue to exhibit my due diligence to find the best value that meets our needs. Prairie Township has a salt barn which was designed and is precisely what Franklin Township could build as well, said Stevens.

Fleshman asked would a structure such as Prairie Township's allow for a snow plow to be driven inside to load and unload the salt. Stevens said, yes that equipment could be stored in the structure as well to protect them from the weather.

Horn said he would prefer a company to complete the entire project of erecting a salt barn and concrete foundation instead of the Road Crew. Stevens said, the Road Crew does have a lot to do but is capable to save the Township money but having the Road Crew lead the project. Stevens said, he will reach back out to the company to find out how much they would charge to place the foundation and erect the structure.

*Fleshman made a motion to allow the Road Superintendent to rent the equipment necessary to remove trees, brush, and other items at the property located at 2173 Frank Road in preparation for a new salt barn. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Fleshman, yes; Alex, yes.*

*Mike Blevins, a member of the audience* thanked Jim Stevens for his conscience effort to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Every time Stevens presents a cost savings to the Board, it ends up that the Board goes in a different direction, said Blevins. Stevens thanked Blevins for his comments. Stevens stated he was in Delaware County yesterday related to the I-270/W. Broad Street interchange project at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) headquarters. ODOT was very pleased with the I-270/W. Broad interchange project proposals. Stevens said as he was leaving this meeting he was approached by a representative from ODOT about the previous maintenance agreement for the W. Broad/Georgesville Road between ODOT and Franklin Township. Stevens said, he told ODOT that he was not opposed in sitting down with them to discuss the previous 2012 maintenance agreement. ODOT would like the Township to maintain the lighting,

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sidewalks, and medians within this agreement. Stevens would like to set up a meeting between the Township and ODOT to review the 2012 agreement. Alex suggests that the Township should have their lawyer review the 2012 agreement. Stevens distributed the 2012 agreement to the Board to review prior to scheduling a meeting with ODOT.

With no questions from the audience, Fleshman moved to the report from the Fire Department.

## **Fire Department Report:**

*Charles Adams, Assistant Fire Chief*, shared that Franklin Township will be involved in the largest EMA drill in Franklin County history in the coming months.

The Fire Department will be teaching the staff at our local schools how to stop bleeding if there is action taken upon a school where injuries occur. This training will allow teachers to immediately take action prior to the arrival of first responders. This training is part of the “stop the bleed” initiative, said Adams.

Adams shared that he is working with hospital systems to obtain Hepatitis A vaccinations for all Township staff with no luck. I was able to secure the vaccine and it will be available to all staff on a voluntary basis through CVS. CVS will be sending their pharmacists to the Township to administer the vaccine.

On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the Fire Department will be out with the Central Ohio Red Cross to distribute free fire detectors in the Triangle and Davis addition of the Township.

*Linda Mercer, member of the audience*, asked the Chief where the Davis addition was located. Chief shared that the Davis addition is the area the Eastbrook/Westbrook, Eastfield/Westfield neighborhoods.

Chief Welch shared that he has a fire fighter and has exceeded his 90 days injury leave time. His injury will require 6 months for recovery so an extension is needed.

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

### **Resolution 19-036**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Fire Chief to extend Thomas Mattia's - 90 day injury leave (effective November 15, 2018) for an additional 30 days, (ending on 3/15/19).**

Welch shared that firefighter Joseph Graham was injured on the job and needs to be placed on injury leave.

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**Resolution 19-037**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Fire Chief to place Joe Graham on (up to 90 day) injury leave effective February 28, 2019.**

Welch shared that firefighter Jeremy Partlow was injured on the job and needs placed on injury leave.

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

**Resolution 19-038**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Fire Chief to place Jeremy Partlow (up to 90 day) injury leave effective March 8, 2019.**

Welch stated that firefighter Richard McMichael is out on sick leave and needs to be placed on FMLA.

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

**Resolution 19-039**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Fire Chief to place Richard McMichael on FMLA effective February 14, 2019.**

Welch said that firefighter Seth Kovach's wife gave birth to their baby earlier than scheduled and is requesting FMLA for two weeks.

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

**Resolution 19-040**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Fire Chief to place Seth Kovach on FMLA from March 1, 2019 – March 12, 2019.**

Welch said he is working with OBWC on paying loss wages comparing paying the employee's full wages. The OBWC representative is working to determine what is in the best interest of the Township.

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Welch shared that he has scheduled an IT assessment with an outside firm from OTARMA to gauge how secure our IT system is. The firm asked for our IT person to be here so he has scheduled Mr. Rogers to be here on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. to meet with the firm, said Welch.

Welch said that he received a call from the Ohio Insurance Services asked if the Township would like to cash out the HRA account and return the monies back to the General Fund.

*Fleshman made a motion to accept the monies back from the HRA which is held by the Ohio Insurance Services. Alex seconded the moth. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

Horn asked Welch what is the most recent update on the prior health insurance provider Jefferson. Welch said the lawsuit against Jefferson has come to a settlement at a 41.1% with equates to \$68,820.00 back to Jefferson from the Township.

Welch said Jefferson is open to establishing a payment plan.

*Horn made a motion to pay \$300.00 a month towards the total due to Jefferson totaling \$68,820.00. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

*Fleshman made a motion to accept the settlement from Jefferson at the 41.1% totaling \$68,820.00. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

Horn asked Welch to make sure if Jefferson does not want to accept the motion for the Township to pay \$300.00 a month towards the balance the discussion will need to come back in front of the Board. Welch said, he does not make any of these types of decisions without the Board's consent.

Welch said that we have borrowed an engine from Upper Arlington and Madison Township until we receive our new engine.

*Mike Blevins, a member of the audience* asked Welch if he could provide an update to the audience on the status of the firefighter who was overpaid and a grievance was filed. Welch stated the he believes an agreement was reached between the Fire Union and the Fiscal Department and the funds are being paid back currently.

*Steve Morris, a member of the audience* asked Welch how the Township ended up owing Jefferson money. Welch explained that in December 2017 we changed health insurance companies and there were outstanding premiums which Jefferson paid out and this is the balance that the Township owed due to the paid out premiums from the end of 2017.

With no further questions, Fleshman moved to Trustee Reports.

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### **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

*John Fleshman, Trustee* reminded everyone that National Night Out planning continues and will be here soon. Fleshman asked resident Nick Dunn if he could reach out to Robyn Watkins, the coordinator for National Night Out to provide photos from the 2018 National Night Out event to display on our website and social media. These photos would be a segway into promoting the 2019 event.

Fleshman wanted to share with the Board that the Township received an annexation request from a residential home on Ongaro. This property owner has asked to be annexed into the City of Columbus and there is nothing the Township can do, said Alex.

Fleshman thanked Erin Crome, the Township Secretary for covering for the Fiscal Department at this meeting due to their attendance at a conference hosted by the Ohio Auditor of State's Office.

*Erin Crome, Township Secretary* asked the Board if there would be action steps taken to find a new cleaning company for the Township since she resigned from those duties. Fleshman asked Crome to add the topic of office cleaning to the next meeting agenda.

*Ralph Horn, Township Trustee* asked for an updated budget meeting to be scheduled. Alex said, he prefers to wait for the Fiscal Department to be present to schedule a time when all can be available.

*Aryeh Alex, Township Trustee* attended the SWACO local officials meeting which was held on March 6, 2019. SWACO has asked local government officials to bring back to their Board their desire to increase the tipping fees at the landfill for those who do not reside in Franklin County. Once these fees are established a representative from SWACO will be contacting Franklin Township requesting a Resolution to be passed acknowledging the increased fees for Non-Franklin County residents.

With no further discussion, Fleshman moved to take questions from the audience.

*Mike Blevins, member of the audience* informed the Board that he submitted and paid for a public records request to obtain a copy of the current Fire Department union contract and wanted to speak with the Board about the contract. Alex suggested that Blevins speak directly with Chief Welch since the contract is what the Fire Department lives and breathes every day. Blevins summarized that the Board wishes for him to speak with the Fire Chief outside of a public meeting and the Board agreed.



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*With no further discussion, Fleshman made a motion to adjourn. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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John Fleshman, Chairman

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Ralph Horn, Vice-Chairman

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Aryeh Alex, Trustee

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Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer  
Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Minutes were taken by: Erin Crome  
Minutes were typed by: Robyn Watkins  
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 03/20/19