

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Special Meeting

**Held via Teleconference
COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
Ohio's Open Meeting Act**

June 18, 2020

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Alex called the Special Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 3:00 p.m. on June 18, 2020, via teleconference.

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

Alex made a motion to suspend the pledge of allegiance and any past meeting minutes. Fleshman seconded the motion. With no discussion a vote was taken as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. The motion was passed.

Purpose of the Meeting: *To discuss the operations, funding and future planning of the Franklin Township Fire Department and to discuss expanding the speed camera program and implementing body cameras for the Franklin Township Police Department.*

New Business:

Alex welcomed Police Chief Smith to speak.

Smith spoke on the differences between operating the speed cameras with an officer parked in the school zone with a hand-held radar device, versus placing speed cameras on permanent poles within the school zone.

Fleshman said he supports the pole option as it is not operated by a person and there would be no concern of discrimination or profiling of an offender. Safety is a top priority and the recording will verify the offense with no bias. It is much more effective than the hand-held device currently being used, said Fleshman.

Horn asked what schools the pole program would operate from if implemented. Smith said currently the focus is on Harmon Elementary School. Horn asked how the contract with GATSO would work. Smith said the contract would not change. GATSO will continue to handle all of the processes and planning of the pole program. The appeals will be handled the same- even if the Township has to find an outside location to hold the hearings due to social distancing requirements. The township may consider hiring a third-party attorney to handle the hearings, Smith explained.

Alex stated that he prefers to see an officer on the street utilizing the hand-held device.

The GATSO representative said that a resolution was not necessary since the contract is already in place. The police chief is asking permission of the board to move to the pole program in addition to the hand-held radar device.

Fleshman shared his concerns about public feedback. Fleshman asked what is the cancellation policy if the pole program receives negative public comments.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Special Meeting

**Held via Teleconference
COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
Ohio's Open Meeting Act**

June 18, 2020

The GATSO representative shared that the Township has 180 days to cancel upon the start of the pole program with no penalties.

Fleshman made the following motion to allow Police Chief Smith to move forward with GATSO to implement the pole program erecting radar speed cameras on poles at the school zone located at Harmon Elementary School. Horn seconded the motion. With no further discussion a vote was taken as follows: Alex: No; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. The motion was passed.

Smith resumed by explaining to the board the cost to implement a body camera program for the officers. The program would be hosted by Watch Guard. Smith asked Fiscal Officer Rhinehart to explain the cost breakdown of implementing the program. Rhinehart explained the following:

- *10 body cameras & software support = \$30,365.00 for the first year*
- *\$6,950.00 annually after the first year*

Rhinehart explained that this is the best time to purchase the body cameras due to the anticipated national requirement in the near future. Once this becomes a requirement for all jurisdictions, the unit price will likely increase due to the demand.

Alex moved for the following resolution to be read as follows:

Resolution 20-117

BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio Board of Trustees that they contract with Watch Guard to provide ten (10) body cameras, software and support at a cost of \$30,365.00 for the first year and \$6,950.00 beginning the second year. This expenditure will be allocated to, and maintained in the general fund.

Fleshman seconded the motion, with no discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. Resolution passed.

With no further discussion from the police department Alex welcomed Fire Chief Welch to begin his report.

Chief Welch had previously distributed various levy/operating options for the board to consider for 2020 as well as the details for placing another fire levy on the ballot in November of 2020.

Option #1

Maintain the fire department status quo - with 38 staff at a cost of \$5.5 million per year. This would require a replacement levy placed on the ballot with a millage rate of 13. The current levy, which is expiring on December 31, 2020,

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Special Meeting

**Held via Teleconference
COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
Ohio's Open Meeting Act**

June 18, 2020

has a millage rate of 5.89 which is not enough. This 13-mill levy would be an increase of \$285.00 annually for a home valued at \$100,000.00, Welch explained.

Option #2

Maintain both fire stations, reduce staffing to 32 employees and operate two engines. This would require a replacement levy of 9.85 mills, which would be an increase of \$141.00 annually for a home valued at \$100,000.00, Welch explained.

Option #3

Maintain both fire stations, reduce staffing to 29 employees and operate with one engine and two medics. This option would be a renewal of our existing levy, which would be an increase of \$32.00 annually for a home valued at \$100,000.00, Welch explained and recommended this option.

Option #4

The levy fails.

Fleshman said Option #4 should be placing a township-wide levy on the ballot, this option would provide millage at 19.5 which would be a \$95.00 annual increase for a home valued at \$100,000.00, said Fleshman.

Alex said input from the Village of Valleyview is important. Outside money was spent to oppose the levy on this spring's ballot. This group will likely come back more aggressively, and we cannot afford to have the levy fail. Alex recommended the township reach out to other municipalities during this time for their support/mutual aid agreements. Alex also said he is supportive of Welch's recommendation for Option #3.

Horn agrees with Alex that the Village of Valleyview will be impacted and that this option was not successful last time. Horn asked if the board could have a few days to review each option provided and reconvene at a future date.

Welch said he just needs to know what the board wants him to do. If the board wants vacant positions filled this can be done. I will do whatever the board asks of me, said Welch.

Alex said he would like to halt new hires at this time. Welch said he needs to know if the board wants him to replace positions when staff resign, provide overtime versus pull equipment out of service, as well as what type of levy millage to place on the ballot.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Special Meeting

**Held via Teleconference
COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
Ohio's Open Meeting Act**

June 18, 2020

Alex moved for the following resolution to be read as follows:

Resolution 20-118

BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio Board of Trustees that they allow Fire Chief Welch to halt hiring firefighters and to modify service based on staffing structure effective July 1, 2020.

Fleshman seconded the motion.

Fiscal Officer Rhinehart asked the board to include the overtime policy in resolution 20-118 as this impacts the budget. Fleshman and Alex said the overtime is separate and would be handled in a separate resolution. Rhinehart explained how the overtime is not separate and is to be included in the same resolution.

With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, abstained. Resolution passed.

Rhinehart stated she would not be signing off on Resolution 20-118 as read.

Fleshman motioned for Resolution 2020-118 to be amended as follows:

Resolution 20-118 (amended)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio Board of Trustees that they allow Fire Chief Welch to halt hiring firefighters and to modify service based on staffing structure effective July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Alex seconded, with no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, abstained. Resolution passed.

Welch recommended waiting on the overtime policy until the financials are available to review. Once the financials are available there will be a better understanding of the available funds.

Welch said he had nothing else to report and he would update the board at the next scheduled meeting.

Alex asked Administrator Potts if there were any comments from the public.

Potts said there were no comments from the public via email, social media or teleconference.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Special Meeting

**Held via Teleconference
COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
Ohio's Open Meeting Act**

June 18, 2020

With no further discussion, Alex adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.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
Mary Rhinehart, Fiscal Officer