

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

February 22, 2018

Chairman Horn called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 P.M. on February 22nd, 2018 at 2193 Frank Road.

Chairman Horn gave the welcome.

Opening Prayer:

Chaplain of the township fire department, Pastor Snodgrass, asked for a moment of silence for the citizens of Westerville who lost two of their police officers in the line of duty. After the moment of silence, Snodgrass proceeded with the opening prayer.

Chairman Horn led in The Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

Chairman Horn made a motion to suspend the approval of any pending meeting minutes. Trustee Fleshman seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

Fire Department Report:

Chief Welch requested a motion from the Board to accept the resignation and retirement of Firefighter John Latorre after 32 years of service to the township. Latorre's last day will be March 7, 2018.

The following was motioned by Vice-Chairman Alex to accept the resignation of Firefighter John Latorre. Trustee Fleshman seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

The Board agreed on an undefined recognition for Firefighter Latorre for his years of service to the township. No specifics of the retirement recognition were discussed.

Chief Welch requested a resolution from the Board to accept Local 1441 Fire Union's fire contract effective March 1, 2018, through February 28, 2021. The Board concurred that the township's legal team had reviewed the contract prior to today's meeting.

The following resolution was motioned by Trustee Fleshman. Vice-Chairman, Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

RESOLUTION 18-035

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves Local 1441 Fire Union's fire contract, effective March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2021.

Chief Welch updated the Board on the status of the new township telephone system. The new telephone system will fully operational at all township buildings beginning on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. All telephone lines will remain the same with the exception of individual extensions. Before being seated, Chief Welch also shared how this upgrade is a financial savings for the township and will be a welcomed improvement from the current telephone system. The audience had no questions for Chief Welch.

Trustee Fleshman indicated that a resolution was accidentally overlooked on the agenda which needed to be read.

The following resolution was motioned by Trustee Fleshman. Chairman Horn seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

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RESOLUTION 18-034

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves payroll in the amount of \$135,660.88 and bills in the amount of \$94,272.03, for a total of \$229,932.91, from check numbers 45615 to 45767.

Road Department Report:

Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens was absent from the meeting due to family illness. Mr. Stevens indicated to Vice-Chairman, Alex prior to the meeting that he had nothing to report to the Board. The audience had no questions for the Road Superintendent.

Police Department Report

Police Chief Byron Smith asked the Board about the Memo of Understanding (MOU) from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) related to the Voluntary Death Benefit Program which he presented at a prior meeting.

The following was motioned by Trustee Fleshman for Franklin Township to adopt the Voluntary Death Benefit Program as outlined in the MOU received from the FOP, at no cost to the Township. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

Chairman Horn explained the MOU to the audience which allows members of the FOP to voluntarily donate their personal funds to this program if/when there is a death of an officer in the line of the duty. The fiscal office will handle processing the donation by payroll deduction per each officer's request.

Chief Smith distributed an itemized list of demographic locations where officers have been focusing their extra patrol efforts. The itemized list provided dates, locations, actions taken, hours spent, officer's name, and total cost of each location/date. Chief Smith reminded the Board of their prior commitment to paying for any extra patrol efforts within the police department from the general fund. The Board was pleased with the details outlined within the itemized list. The total cost of the overtime for extra police patrol within (17) seventeen different shifts is \$3,296.01.

The following resolution was motioned by Vice-Chairman Alex. Trustee Fleshman seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

RESOLUTION 18-036

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves the reimbursement of funds to the Police Department for the cost incurred for extra patrol, to be paid from the General Fund totaling \$3,296.01.

Chairman Horn explained to the audience that Police Chief Byron Smith and Franklin Township signed a Memo of Understanding (MOU) outlining his salary, duties, and benefits as the Chief of Police for the township. Chief Smith was commended by the Board for being patient while funds were low to continue working as the police chief, but at a lieutenants pay for the last 2 (two) years. This MOU solidifies the salary and duties aligned with being the Chief of Police. The audience had no questions for the Chief Smith.

Fiscal Office Report:

Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris had nothing to report. The audience had not questions for the fiscal officer.

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Building Department Report:

Administrative Coordinator, Jessica Rice reported that the township had received deeds to (5) five properties this week. All deeds received are for properties with no structures.

Jessica Rice shared, while attending the annual conference of the Ohio Township Association she was made aware of a new Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C. 505.94) *Registration and regulation of transient vendors*. Jessica Rice feels this O.R.C. could be beneficial to the Township. The Board granted permission for Jessica Rice to contact the County Prosecutor's Office related to this new O.R.C. requesting their guidance as well as the perimeters on the fees associated with such policy, if implemented by the township.

Jessica Rice spoke on a business located at 1145 Harrisburg Pike is asking for their alcohol permit from the township. Vice-Chairman Alex expressed concerns on if the business is operating by the book related to permits. Trustee Fleshman indicated the township needs to look into how granting the alcohol permit to this establishment will impact the immediate area. Trustee Fleshman continued with a request to inquire with the County Persecutor's Officer as to what are the township's rights to approve or decline an alcohol permit/license. The Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris shared how the process has been handled in the past with the involvement of the police chief conducting a background check on each liquor license applicant.

The following motion was made by Trustee Fleshman for the police chief and the administrative coordinator to contact the County Prosecutor's Office to see what the perimeters are for the township to approve or decline an alcohol permit/license. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

The audience has not questions for the Jessica Rice.

Chairman:

Chairman Ralph Horn had nothing to report. The audience had not questions for Chairman Horn.

Vice Chairman:

Vice Chairman, Aryeh Alex gave an update on the soon-to-be released newly designed township website (currently in draft form). He shared that at this point he has distributed the draft website to all departments for their feed-back. Also sharing all feed-back thus far from the departments has been great. All information from the current website has been transferred over to the draft website. Vice-Chairman Alex was excited to share how mobile-friendly the new website will be. He indicated the draft website is currently under a trial basis with a hosting company but the trial offer is expiring. Square Space is the hosting company providing the trial offer. Square Space offers a monthly fee of \$18.00 to host the township's website.

The following resolution was motioned by Trustee Fleshman. Chairman Horn seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

RESOLUTION 18-037

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board agrees to contract with Square Space as the hosting company for the township website, not to exceed \$18.00 per month, effective February 22, 2018.

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Vice-Chairman Alex also shared that the township's *Letter of Engagement* has expired with Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). The letter permits the township to use the SWACO attorney free of charge as long as the topic of discussion is SWACO related. If the SWACO attorney determines the topic is not a SWACO related matter the township may be billed.

The following motion was made by Trustee Freshman for Franklin Township to renew their Letter of Engagement with SWACO for 2018. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Freshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

Vice-Chairman Alex explained that he had previously spoken with The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFLCIO - large national labor union). The AFLCIO informed him that Franklin Township has 1,000 households where there is a union member. A large majority of township staff are union members and Vice-Chairman Alex would like the Board to adopt a ceremonial resolution/acknowledgement in support of our township union workers.

The following motion was made by Trustee Freshman that the Board accept this ceremonial resolution/acknowledgement to support the Franklin Township union workers. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Freshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

Trustee:

Trustee Freshman began by talking about a Columbus business leader, Fred Reiser on his foundation work on establishing an initiative for the homeless to participate in what is called "Cash for Trash". The incentive for the homeless is to pick up trash and receive compensation for each trash bag they fill. The compensation comes from Mr. Reiser's Foundation. On March 14, 2018, the initiative will hold its first event. The event will be held at a large homeless camp which is located south of the township neighborhood of Broadlawn. The Township will provide no support staff for picking up trash. The township will be responsible for the utilization of their Road Department

The following motion was made by Trustee Freshman for the Board to allow the Road Superintendent to utilize the Road Department to use a dump truck to haul away the trash/debris which is picked up at the March 14, 2018 "Trash for Cash" event. The Broadlawn Block watch residents are approved to participate and utilize the Road Department to haul away any trash, debris, tires, which they pick up within the Broadlawn neighbor. Vice Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Freshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

The Administrative Coordinator, Jessica Rice shared that the annual Franklin Township Spring clean-up day is scheduled for April 28th, 2018.

Trustee Freshman requested that all meeting minutes be distributed to all department heads. The fiscal officer, Lisa Morris acknowledged distribution of minutes.

Vice-Chairman Alex had one final thought to share. He reached out to the Department of Veteran Affairs about the township's need for a new fence for the union cemetery on Frank Road. The Department of Veteran Affairs indicated they have funds to install new fencing around the cemetery. The source of the funding was not disclosed. The Road Superintendent will supervise the project once the funds are secured.

Chairman Horn also allotted how in the past a volunteer veteran assisted in cleaning up the headstones of this cemetery, and the township has maintained the grounds over the years. Chairman Horn shared that there are still many graves with missing headstones which provides a challenge for the township to identify those buried. Resident Tim Chaney suggested if gravel could be put at the cemetery for a driveway for a public access.

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SPEAKER CARDS

Tim Chaney, Coolidge Avenue:

Tim Chaney continued to inform the Board about the ongoing issues at the Speedway gas station at Broadlawn and W. Broad Street. Tim Chaney suggested the Board could establish a Good Neighbor Agreement which could be sent to all township business owners to maintain a good neighbor status including good upkeep of their property.

The following motion was made by Trustee Fleshman for the Board to approve the township attorneys to write a Good Neighbor Agreement for area businesses. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

Robert Shyrigh, Big Run Road:

Robert Shyrigh would like to provide notification to the Board of a blighted property located at 2215 Big Run Road. The property has a tow truck in the front yard and trash dumped in the back yard which is an eye-sore. The police chief indicated the township can send a certified letter to the property owner which has perimeters and timelines which the owner must comply with.

Mary Niemeyer, Brown Road

Mary Niemeyer informed the Board of a property located at 1638 Hopkins Avenue where the tenants are throwing their household trash into the alley to the rear of the property which is then blowing into Niemeyer's property. The tenants are not utilizing trash receptacles. The township administrative coordinator will contact the Franklin County Health Department for guidance and verify whether or not this address has an account with a local trash hauler.

Mary Niemeyer also reported a suspicious male walking from Franklin Manor Apartments. This individual walks back and forth from Franklin Manor Apartments to the carryout located at the corner of Brown Road/Hopkins Avenue several times daily. Mary Niemeyer reported that neighbors are concerned this individual may be conducting illegal drug activity. The police chief indicated he would look into the matter.

Chairman Horn made a motion with no further business to discuss, to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Ralph Horn, Chairman

Aryeh Alex, Vice-Chairman

John Fleshman, Trustee

Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer

Minutes Taken By: Lisa Morris
Minutes Typed By: Robyn Watkins