

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Special Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

November 25, 2019

Chairman Fleshman called the Special Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 8:00 a.m. on November 25, 2019, at 2193 Frank Road.

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

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

Present: The Board of Trustees, Fiscal Officer, Assistant Fiscal Officer, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and the Township Administrator.

Purpose of the Meeting: Discuss placing a fire levy on the March 2020 ballot.

Fleshman opened the floor up to Fire Chief Welch.

Welch said he would like to propose a township-wide levy. Welch distributed budget information to the Board outlining the data of what a township-wide levy would look like. This information included estimated revenue and expenditures from now till the year 2026. The Chief indicated that he expects the fire department budget to reach over five million dollars by the year 2022.

Fleshman asked Welch how he came up with these calculations. Welch said he increased general expenditures by 1% and salaries by 3% each year. Welch said he prefers not to budget out no more than 3 to 5 years to keep a more accurate forecast on the budget.

Fleshman said that it did not help that a past Trustee has campaigned against previous fire levies making them difficult to pass.

Currently, the fire department is operating at a \$4.5 million budget of which the revenue from Homestead (\$235,000.00) will be going away in 2020 as well as other tax revenue, said Welch.

Assistant Chief Adams said the goal of the township-wide levy is to obtain those tax-payers who have not paid before due to annexation. The township-wide levy would be an increase of 1 mill which equates to a little over \$10.00 month to a home valued at \$100,000.00. This would be the cheapest levy the Township has ever presented to the taxpayers since I have worked here, said Adams.

Welch said a township-wide levy will allow the fire department to stop worrying about annexation. All of the current levies would be rolled over into one township-wide levy.

Fleshman shared that he just received notification that the Road Superintendent will be out of the office this week due to a family emergency.

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

Resolution 19-258

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves this Resolution declaring the necessity for levying a tax exceeding the ten million limitation requesting the county auditor to provide certain information pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03b.

Horn shared that he was told during his recent campaign for re-election that when the fire levy comes up that there would be hard campaigning against it. The Fiscal Officer asked who would do that? Fleshman commented who do you think? Horn continued that there was a comment made by resident Troy Justice that he did not have the money but he would put up \$5,000.00 to campaign against the fire levy.

Horn said that he heard there would be others as well with opposition to the levy, meaning Don Cook and others whom I will not name names. Fleshman said he will have a big sign on the back of his truck.

Alex said he would like to form an official levy committee which he is willing to work on in his free time not township time. Alex also shared he would like to form this with the fire union to start the planning. Fleshman said he would like to make a motion and Alex said this would have to be independent as the Board cannot vote on that as it is considered political activity. What we can do as a Board is to make a unanimous motion of support for the levy effort. This would be used as a kick off point, said Alex. So, in other words the trustees can do a letter of support for the fire levy, said Horn. Alex said it would be a motion of support for the levy. We can use that publicly that the trustees are supportive. We then can do all of the campaign stuff not on township time, not on township property, and no using township funds, said Alex.

Alex made a motion of support for the March 17, 2020 Franklin Township replacement fire levy. Fleshman seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes. The motion passed.

Welch said this is the first of several board meetings related to the fire levy. The next meeting will be to accept the numbers which the County presents to place on the ballot.

Fleshman confirmed that the quarterly meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on December 9th, 2019. Fleshman said he would like to add the leaf vac on the agenda to discuss at the quarterly meeting.

Welch gave an update on the Pierce Fire Engine frame corrosion. Pierce gave an estimate of \$36,000.00 to repair the engine. A back-up engine will be used if/when the engine goes down for repair, said Welch.

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Fleshman said Jordan's Crossing now has their occupancy permit at their location. In 2020, they have narcan training in their plans. Last winter Jordan's Crossing provided a warming station during the frigid temperatures. Also, Jordan's Crossing asked the Board to consider if the Township should receive a property within their landbank with a structure if they could use (lease/donate) for transitional housing, Fleshman shared.

The Administrator gave an update on the properties which the Township owns in their landbank. These properties are not exempt for taxes since we have no public purpose at this time. The Administrator said he would like to create a packet for the Board to review to prepare these parcels for the market. The taxes are based on the valuation report.

Horn said he said he does not want to lose focus on cleaning up the neighborhoods as that only improves property value.

Fleshman asked if a motion is needed to proceed for the Administrator to move forward with working with Jordan's Crossing. Alex reminded Fleshman we cannot make any motions as this discussion was not listed on the agenda.

Fleshman asked the Board if they have had an opportunity to review the meeting minutes from November 14th. Alex said it was on his schedule today to read. Fleshman confirmed that at the meeting fact-finding would be done on the parcel located at 1963 Harrisburg Pike and that the property was not being placed on the market. Alex confirmed it is a fact-finding motion only.

Horn said he plans to join the Administrator in meeting with Laura Esterline about other township properties as well as take a tour of 1963 Harrisburg Pike. The Fiscal Officer said that she has two filing cabinets left in her old office at 1963 Harrisburg Pike which need to be moved to her office on Frank Road. Fleshman asked the Administrator to ensure each department has all of their belongings out of 1963 Harrisburg Pike immediately.

At 8:40 a.m. with no further discussion, Fleshman adjourned the meeting.

Signature on file with Original
John Fleshman, Chairman

Signature on file with Original
Ralph Horn, Vice-Chairman

Signature on file with Original
Aryeh Alex, Trustee

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

Minutes were taken and typed by: R. Watkins
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 01/09/2020