

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 2, 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 2, 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. Horn 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.*

Alex welcomed Fire Chief Welch to speak.

Welch explained the steps he has taken since the fire levy failed. He has spoken to all of the fire fighters explaining to them that if the next levy does not pass the fire department will run out of operating funds. Upon sharing this information many of the fire fighters have already submitted their resignation or will be soon. The assistant fire chief plans to submit his resignation in the next few days, said Welch.

The fire department will be over a half million dollars in the red at the end of 2020, and I would like to know what the board would like to do, Welch asked.

Horn shared that he has spoken to many people within the Township and he is hearing that the overall consensus of the voters is to renew the existing levy and make concessions. With a renewal only versus a township-wide levy, I believe we will have more voter support, Horn explained.

Horn agrees it will be difficult to get through 2020 across the board with the property tax revenue slow coming this fall and with the governor's recommendations for cuts in local government. Horn also explained the Township does not know what Southwestern City Schools is going to do and if they place a levy on the ballot this could hurt the Township's ability to execute a successful campaign. Horn asked Welch of the fire fighters who are leaving, where are they going? Other fire houses are hiring, Welch replied.

Welch asked the board what type of levy they would like to see on the ballot in November of 2020.

The work we are doing now will result in more revenue in the next two to three years. We need to establish a short-term plan to generate revenue. The items which have been put into place will take time. A renewal levy is the best solution at this time, said Alex.

Welch shared with the board that if we are going to continue to operate the same there could be times when a brown out of equipment could occur. Welch

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 2, 2020

asked the board about next steps. The board agreed for the fire chief to replace employees as others leave and to continue to push forward.

Fleshman said he believes if the township would speak with a representative at Hollywood Casino to educate them on the benefits of supporting the levy we could gain good press versus negative/false information going out to the public.

Fleshman said he feels if we inform the public that we did not make it through 2020, or lessen services this would show that we are not good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars.

Alex said that the existing timed levy is up at the end of 2020, we must decide now to place another levy on the ballot and maintain services until the levy passes in November of 2020. There are options in placing a renewal levy on the ballot. It could be a shorter levy to close the gap, said Alex.

Fleshman shared that he is confident if the casino is on board with a township-wide levy the levy would pass. A conversation with the casino would allow the township to know the casino's position on the levy.

Alex asked Welch to send the board a break-down of the financials of a renewal levy versus a township-wide levy. Welch agreed.

Horn feels if we place a township-wide levy back on the ballot it will fail with the voters in the Village of Valleyview alone. Horn continued to support the idea of a renewal levy.

Alex explained the township could lower the millage in the township-wide levy and project the outcome in the three to four-year window as an alternative idea to the previously purposed township-wide levy.

Welch asked the board if he is to continue with the overtime as needed. The board agreed to move forward and operate all services as normal.

Fiscal Officer Rhinehart recommended that the board review the benefit package to see if there are avenues to save money. Rhinehart also shared that Franklin County Auditor Stinziano's office will be evaluating property values, and the Township would most likely see an increase in property tax revenue in the future.

Administrator Potts said that there were no public comments via telephone, email or social media.

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 2, 2020

With no further questions or comments, Alex adjourned the meeting at 3:49 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