

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

April 5, 2018

Chairman Horn called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 5, 2018 at 2193 Frank Road.

Chairman Horn gave the welcome.

Opening Prayer:

Pastor Womack, Police Department Chaplain, led 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 approve the following meeting minutes for the Special Meeting on March 19, 2018, and the Regular Meeting on March 20, 2018. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken Fleshman, yes;; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.

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

RESOLUTION 18-052

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves payroll in the amount of \$234,365.88 and bills in the amount of \$188,543.40 for a total of \$422,909.28 from check number 46235 to 46377.

Police Department Report:

Sergeant Edwards represented the Police Department due to the Police Chief being on vacation. Sergeant Edwards asked the Board for a resolution for EGA Defense Firing Range.

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

RESOLUTION 18-051

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to pay \$2,500.00 annually to EGA Defense, LLC, a firing range for the police department to use for practice and training.

Vice-Chairman Alex inquired about why the Township was looking at an outside organization for use of a firing range versus utilizing the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) and/or the Columbus Police Department. Sergeant Edwards explained that the FCSO does not allow outside entities to utilize their firing range and that the Columbus Police Department does allow outside entities but at a much higher cost. He continued to explain that the City of Columbus charges by the person and by the hour which would exceed the \$2,500.00 annual fee from EGA Defense, LLC.

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Sergeant Edwards shared his gratitude to the Board on how pleased he is as well as the other police officers of Chief Byron Smith's leadership since becoming the police chief. The Sergeant asked the Board if the police department could invest in a leadership medal and ribbon to present Chief Smith at a later date.

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

RESOLUTION 18-053

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to allow Sergeant Edwards to purchase a leadership medal and ribbon to be presented to Chief Smith at a later date, not to exceed \$125.00.

The audience had no questions for the Police Department.

Chairman Horn made the audience aware that Vice-Chairman Alex would be leaving the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m. to attend another outside meeting.

Fire Department Report:

Chief Welch distributed the approved final written copy of the contract between the Franklin Township Board of Trustees and the Franklin Township Fire Fighters Union Local 1441 effective from March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2021.

The Fire Chief asked the Board for a motion to accept the resignation of fire fighter Deante Drummer.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Alex to accept the resignation of fire fighter Deante Drummer. Trustee Fleshman seconded. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes.

The Fire Chief informed the Board that interviews had taken place and that a resolution is needed to hire fire fighter Douglas Fleahman effective April 18, 2018.

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

RESOLUTION 18-054

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves the hiring of fire fighter Douglas Fleahman effective April 18, 2018 contingent on passing the pre-employment physical.

Chairman Horn asked the Fire Chief to provide an update to the Board as well as the audience on the status of the Joint Economic Development District

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(JEDD). The Chief explained that conversations have occurred between Franklin Township and the City of Grandview Heights. The process of the JEDD had to start over due to the initial decline in offer to the City of Columbus. Chairman Horn explained that an individual from the township legal team will be in attendance at an upcoming special meeting to discuss the JEDD further.

The audience had no questions for the Fire Chief.

Road Department Report:

The Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens was not present for the meeting and had informed the Board that he had nothing to report.

Chairman Horn reminded the audience that the Road Department is short help and summer help will be needed. Chairman Horn continued to explain that if the audience was aware of any individual who would be interested in applying for summer help they may call the office for details.

The audience had no questions for the Road Department.

Fiscal Office Report

The Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris was not present but had informed the Board that the 2018 Permanent Budget will be available on Monday, April 9, 2018 for the Board to review. The Board will have approximately 2 weeks to review and contact the Fiscal Officer with any questions/revisions by the next Regular Meeting.

The audience had no questions for the Fiscal Office.

The Board discussed various dates/times for a Special Meeting to approve the 2018 permanent budget. No dates were decided.

The Board did agree that the first meeting in May 2018, (May 3rd) will be cancelled.

Building Department Report

The Administrative Coordinator, Jessica Rice distributed two properties for the Board to review. The Board informed Jessica Rice that moving forward the Board will not accept any properties which have structures on them.

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

RESOLUTION 18-055

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board accepts the property located at 1295 Marsdale (no structures).

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RESOLUTION 18-056

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board accept the property located on Valleyview Drive, parcel #141-000047 (no structures).

Jessica Rice provided Chairman Horn with a document to sign related to the property at 777 Brown Road which is a property the Board has already approved to accept. The paperwork is part of the formalities of accepting this property from the county.

Jessica Rice continued by informing the Board that the trash hauler for the Township fire houses (192 and 193) would like to change their pick up day from each Friday to each Tuesday.

The following motion was made by Trustee Fleshman to allow Boren Brothers Trash Hauler to move their pick up date for the Township fire houses (192 and 193) from each Friday to each Tuesday effective April 10, 2018. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes.

Trustee Fleshman informed the Board of grant opportunities through The Office of Homeland Security. Trustee Fleshman recommended that the police Chief attend future meetings related to those grant opportunities as well as other pertinent trainings, etc. through The Office of Homeland Security.

The following motion was made by Trustee Fleshman to allow the Police Chief to attend meetings/trainings at The Office of Homeland Security. Vice-Chairman Alex seconded. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes.

At 6:30 p.m. Vice-Chairman Alex left the meeting and Chairman Horn and Trustee Fleshman remained and the meeting continued per the agenda.

Chairman Horn circled back to Jessica Rice, Administrative Coordinator to discuss some random properties and her interaction with Paul Ebert from Franklin County Zoning. Several properties are in need of assessment from the County Zoning for action to be taken. Chairman Horn asked the audience to be patient as the Township is working closely with the appropriate County offices to enforce the issues. The Township police will enforce the traffic/parking issues as reported.

Trustee Fleshman explained that the Township is working diligently to address each of the complaints related to various property issues. There is only one code enforcement officer for all Townships in Franklin County. With that being said, the code enforcement officer is inundated with complaints.

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The audience had no questions for the Building Department.

Chairman Horn shared that he has received many phone calls from disgruntled residents complaining about the Regular Meeting time being moved up to 6:00 p.m.

The following motion was made by Trustee Fleshman to move the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees time back to 6:30 p.m. effective April 19, 2018. Chairman Horn seconded. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, absent; Fleshman, yes.

Chairman Horn announced that the Eastfield/Westfield Block Watch will be conducted on April 16th and that Jessica Rice and Chief Smith will be in attendance to discuss neighborhood issues as well as 2018 National Night Out.

The Messenger reporter asked Chairman Horn about the office break-ins at the fiscal office as listed on the agenda. Chairman Horn explained that the Board is working to ensure security is being improved at the fiscal office. Trustee Fleshman asked if a police report was submitted. The Assistant Fiscal Officer explained that no report was taken due to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office guidance that no forceful entry was visible so it appears to be an inside job and recommended if the Township would like to pursue this issue they can, internally, by taking a report themselves. Trustee Fleshman questioned the timeline from the last meeting two weeks ago versus this meeting related to the Board approving the purchase of deadbolt locks for the fiscal offices at the Regular Meeting on 3/20/18. The Assistant Fiscal Officer explained that the locks have not been installed and another incident has occurred since the 3/20/18 meeting.

Trustee Fleshman explained his attendance to the Franklin County Commissioners Meetings. Again, Trustee Fleshman informed how the grants from Homeland Security could provide the Township Police Department with radios that have frequencies to hear the runs in Columbus. Trustee Fleshman shared that he believes that being able to hear the runs in Columbus would allow the Township to assist Columbus Police as needed with earlier notification on a specified incident if backup is needed.

Trustee Fleshman continued to share an update on the Mon-E-Bak Sanitary Sewer Project. The Franklin County Sanitary Engineers Office will be notifying those qualifying homeowners receiving financial aid of the timeline of installation. The first step which will occur is letters will be mailed to all the qualifying residents to inform them of the contractor who will be doing the home assessments. The assessment is needed to determine each homes excavation needs for installing/tapping into the sanitary sewer line. The overall main project is anticipated to begin in late summer.

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Tim Chaney from the audience asked Trustee Fleshman to check with The Office of Homeland Security on if there are grants available for Block Watches. Trustee Fleshman said he would ask and let Mr. Chaney know of what he finds out.

Chairman Horn wanted to provide Amanda, the reporter for the Columbus Westside Messenger information on the security at the fiscal office. The police department is housed in the same building at the fiscal department. Chairman Horn indicated that he has been informed on several occasions that the building which houses the police department and the fiscal department has been left unlocked and the security system is not working. The alarm system has been turned off and access to the pass codes have been deactivated. The police department is in charge of the security and Chairman Horn plans to meet with the Police Chief next week when he returns from vacation.

Steve Morris from the audience asked Chairman Horn how the research is going to find out what happened to the emails which are missing from the Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal Officers email accounts. Chairman Horn explained that Chief Welch (who is in charge of IT) was on vacation when the missing emails were reported. Scott Rodgers (contracted IT personnel) indicated he knew nothing about the emails missing. Rodgers was not interested in pursuing the issue since he had nothing to do with the missing emails. Chief Welch said he will look into the process by checking the network/server and see how to return the missing emails.

The audience commented that two people from the Township should be together when working on the server and/or working an investigation. Trustee Fleshman shared that he appreciated knowing the velocity of the issue based on this conversation.

Chairman Horn shared that he spends a lot of time talking with the Township attorney related to missing emails, items being stolen, etc. There has been an excessive amount of legal costs involved due to various and ongoing internal issues.

Audience Speaker Cards:

Tim Chaney, Broadlawn Block Watch Coordinator and Community Garden Project shared that the garden was awarded a \$1,300.00 grant to assist with establishing the community garden. The garden was not only awarded \$1,300.00 but also garden product, such as garden soil, top soil, mulch, manure, etc. Tim Chaney ask the Board if it would be possible for the Road Department to pick up the garden product which has been awarded due to the quantity and lack of security at the garden currently.

Trustee Fleshman made the following motion to allow the Road Department to pick up the awarded product items (garden soil, top soil, mulch, manure, plant food, etc.) for the Broadlawn Community Garden Project. The product will be ready for pickup at 9:00 a.m. on April 20, 2018

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at Franklin Park Conservatory. Chairman Horn seconded. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, absent; Fleshman, yes.

Tim Chaney also asked the Board that once the product is picked up could the product be stored at 2193 Frank Road since the garden property is not secure.

Mr. Chaney continued by saying that the Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens is needed to mark the property boundaries for the community garden so a fence can eventually be erected. He proceeded to tell the Board that the non-profit organization, The Friends of the Hilltop, are willing to cut down a tree which is located on the parcel of the community garden as well as erect a fence and gate. The Friends of the Hilltop is requesting a letter from Franklin Township granted permission to remove the tree and erect the fence/gate.

Trustee Fleshman made the following motion granting a letter to be composed by Franklin Township to The Friends of the Hilltop granting them permission to remove a tree and erect a fence/gate on the parcel of the Broadlawn Community Garden Project. Chairman Horn seconded. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Alex, absent; Fleshman, yes.

Tim Chaney proceeded to ask the Board if they would look into the possibilities of putting in a legal parking surface for the garden so participants have a place to park their car when tending to their portion of the garden. The Board indicated they would look into the zoning laws and see if a parking surface is permissible.

In closing, Tim Chaney let the Board know he is working to obtain a 500 gallon water tank to have at the garden site for water access for the participants. He wanted to ask the Board to look into the zone laws related to having the water tank on the parcel as well as if the Fire Department would be able to fill the storage tank once all of the permits/zoning guidelines are in place.

Beth, a representative from the Franklin County International Garden located at 1919 Frank Road provided information about their annual application process and encouraged residents to apply for a plot of land to participate in the community garden in this area of the Township. Applications are being accepted through Friday, April 20th, 2018. Applications can be found at <https://development.franklincountyohio.gov/community-gardens>.

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Trustee Fleshman made a motion with no further business to discuss, to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Horn seconded. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Signature on file
Ralph Horn, Chairman

Signature on file
Aryeh Alex, Vice-Chairman

Signature on file
John Fleshman, Trustee

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

Minutes were Taken & Typed By: Robyn Watkins
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 4/19/18