

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Regular Meeting

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

June 17, 2021

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Ralph Horn called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on June 17, 2021, via teleconference (ZOOM).

Opening Prayer: Led by Trustee John Fleshman

The Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Trustee Aryeh Alex

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Horn made a motion to approve minutes from the regular meeting of June 3, 2021. Fleshman seconded; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Motion passed.

Old Business:

Horn mentioned the first item on the agenda being a Resolution for accounts payable and payroll.

Fiscal Officer Nick Dunn reported that he did not have the Resolution available and asked the Board to table until the next meeting.

Horn moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

**Resolution 2021-087
A RESOLUTION APPROVING OBLIGATIONS AUTHORIZED
BY THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR**

WHEREAS, The board of township trustees, in Resolution 2021-083, authorized the township administrator to approve/incur obligations of ten thousand dollars or less on behalf of the township in accordance with Section 507.11 of the Ohio Revised Code; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 507.11(A) of the Ohio Revised Code, the obligations approved/incurred by the township administrator must be subsequently approved by the adoption of a formal resolution of the board of township trustees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY:

SECTION 1, The obligations authorized/incurred by the township administrator as presented in Exhibit A attached hereto are hereby approved.

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SECTION 2, That all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were passed in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3, That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Alex seconded the Resolution; with no discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Resolution passed.

Horn inquired if Franklin Township's Realtor Laura Esterline was available for the meeting.

Potts replied that Laura reached out to him and asked that she attend the next meeting.

With no discussion, Horn moved to New Business.

New Business:

Police Department Report:

Deputy Travis Carter from the FCSO shared stats from the last two weeks:

- 558 calls of service
- 16 arrests
- 15 thefts
- 4 burglaries
- 7 gun runs
- 1 knife run
- 6 shots fired
- 11 stolen vehicles
- 3 recovered stolen vehicles
- 4 overdoses

Carter reported that Franklin Township Police Department has switched over to the Matrix report system and the stats he has reported are generic numbers.

Horn mentioned the July 4th holiday coming soon and that in his neighborhood there have been residents setting off fireworks. He voiced his concern that it disturbs the elderly residents at night.

Carter stated that unfortunately complaints received about fireworks are considered low priority calls due to other more serious calls that require police response.

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Fleshman inquired about drugs and a recent shooting in the region of Franklin Township.

Carter stated he did not have any updates on that particular shooting, that unfortunately it started elsewhere and ended up in Franklin Township.

He stated that along with the Franklin Township Police Department, they are doing the best they can. He stated he realizes there have been a lot of thefts and car break-ins. He stated he is aware that concerning misdemeanor crimes, they are diverted to the city's prosecutor's office and not always requiring jail time. He stated that with the courts opening back up, he is hoping for better results.

Horn asked for thoughts and prayers for Chief Byron Smith's wife, Lisa, who was involved in an automobile accident.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to the fire department.

Fire Department Report:

Chief James Welch reported receiving the resignation of Ron DeLozier effective July 4, 2021 and asked the Board for a motion of acceptance.

Fleshman made a motion to accept the resignation of Ron DeLozier. Alex seconded the motion; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Motion passed.

Welch reported receiving the resignation of Alex Keefe effective July 1, 2021 and asked the Board for a motion of acceptance.

Alex made a motion to accept the resignation of Alex Keefe. Horn seconded; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Motion passed.

Welch mentioned the difficulty the Fire Department has in recruiting and retaining firefighters. He stated that some firefighters leave for other departments with higher paying jobs.

He stated the union reached out with a letter requesting that Franklin Township recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Alex confirmed that the government did sign into law recognizing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Alex made a motion for acceptance of the Juneteenth holiday by the Township. Fleshman seconded the motion; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Motion passed.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to the Road Department.

Road Department Report:

Administrator Mark Potts stated that Jim Stevens was not available for the meeting but had told Potts he had nothing to report.

Horn reminded the trustees that if they know of a specific area needing attention of the Road Department, to notify Potts and Stevens.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to the trustee reports:

Trustee Reports:

Aryeh Alex, Trustee stated he had nothing to report.

John Fleshman, Trustee stated he had nothing to report.

Ralph Horn, Trustee:

Horn inquired of Potts regarding planning a meeting with the Police Department to discuss the police levy.

Potts replied that he reached out to those involved in the meeting and that possibly the next Wednesday a virtual special meeting could be held.

With no more discussion, Horn moved to the fiscal department:

Fiscal Department Report:

Nick Dunn, Fiscal Officer

Dunn mentioned that he did e-mail to the Board of Trustees the Bank Reconciliation for May.

He also mentioned that a credit card machine has been installed by PNC in the front office at no charge. He stated that the machine is capable of accepting credit cards.

Dunn stated that Administrator Potts has inquired of the department heads any changes they would like to make in fees. He asked the Board for a Resolution in raising the cost for police reports from \$4 to \$5.

Fleshman moved for the adoption of the following Resolution:

**Resolution 2021-
RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE COST
OF A POLICE REPORT FROM \$4.00 TO \$5.00**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the cost of a Police Report will go from \$4.00 to \$5.00 effective immediately.

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Horn seconded the resolution; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Resolution passed.

Alex stated his vote was due to the fact that individuals needing police reports most likely have financial difficulty.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to the administrator report:

Administrator Report:

Mark Potts, Administrator

Potts mentioned that he sent out copies of the Policies and Procedures manual for the Board's review and approval. He stated that it has also been reviewed by legal counsel, Mr. Griggs.

Alex made a motion for acceptance of the Policies and Procedures manual. Fleshman seconded the motion; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Motion passed.

Potts mentioned a document that needs a motion by the Board to approve a development agreement between Franklin Township and Sheetz Westland and a motion to approve TREX, a liquor license for Sheetz Westland.

Legal Counsel, Julie Donnan, spoke, asking the Board to identify who is authorized to execute the two documents on behalf of the Board.

The Board agreed that Horn would be the individual authorized.

Alex made a motion to approve the Sheetz Westland document. Fleshman seconded the motion; with no discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: YES/ NO **Fleshman:** YES/ NO **Alex:** YES/ NO

Motion passed.

Potts mentioned a concern with the Franklin Township Government Facebook page which is not allowing the Township to post anything. He stated he is still able to post to the Police page. He stated he has had Revolution Group look at it and Nick has also looked at it, that everyone is baffled. He stated he hears this is happening to other Facebook groups. He stated that for now items such as meeting notices should be placed on the Police page.

With no further discussion, Horn asked Potts if there were any questions from the public.

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Questions:

Robbyne Chaney asked if there was any update on “No Knock”.

Potts replied that during a previous meeting Lieutenant Ratliff mentioned the police would be taking the program over.

Horn asked Robbyne when she would be starting Block watch. Robbyne replied maybe sometime in July.

Horn stated he heard other areas in Franklin Township were starting in July.

Robbyne inquired about when Franklin Township has in-person meetings starting on July 1, whether ZOOM would be included.

Potts replied that it would depend on how they could have ZOOM along with being in-person, that it is still being discussed.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, Horn adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Signature on original
Aryeh Alex, Trustee

Signature on original
John Fleshman, Vice-Chairman/Trustee

Signature on original
Ralph Horn, Chairman/Trustee

Signature on original
Nick Dunn, Fiscal Officer