

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Special Meeting**

**August 25, 2021**

---

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Horn called the Special Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 5:00 p.m. in person on August 25, 2021.

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Trustee Alex

**Purpose of the Meeting:** *Fire Department Personnel and to discuss Jeff Wilcheck's next engagement letter with Franklin Township.*

**Those Present:** Trustee Horn, Trustee Fleshman, Trustee Alex, Administrator Potts, Fiscal Officer Dunn, and Lt. Arnold.

**New Business:**

Alex explained that the Township posted and published an ad requesting eligible applicants to apply for the position of *Fire Chief* due to the upcoming retirement of Chief James Welch in January 2022. Alex continued by stating that the Township did not receive any external applications but did receive one internal application from a qualified employee of the Township, Robert Arnold.

Fleshman asked Arnold how long he has worked for Franklin Township and his current position. Arnold replied that in November of 2021 he will be with the Township for eighteen (18) years. He also stated that he began as a firefighter one (1) and worked his way to his current position as a Fire Lieutenant in Unit Three (3). The board talked in agreement about Arnold and the historical talents he brings to the table.

Arnold recommended to that board that if they were considering him for the role as fire chief he first would like to work as a captain which reports directly to Chief Jim Welch, then upon Welch's retirement he would then be promoted to fire chief. Arnold said this would allow him to remain in the collective bargaining unit until being promoted to chief.

*Alex made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:*

***Resolution 2021-111***

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to extend an officer of Fire Chief to Robert Arnold immediately following Chief Welch's retirement in January 2022. In the meantime, Arnold will be acting as interim fire chief.

*Trustee Fleshman seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:*

***Horn:*** YES/NO    ***Fleshman:*** YES/NO    ***Alex:*** YES/NO  
Resolution passed.

Fleshman said he would like to make a formal announcement in the next regular public meeting. A more formal presentation will happen in 2022 when Welch retires and Arnold is sworn in as the new fire chief, said Alex.

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Special Meeting**

**August 25, 2021**

---

With no further discussion, Horn moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Horn said the board will consider the renewal of the engagement letter between Jeff Wilcheck and Franklin Township.

Fiscal Officer Nick Dunn said he would like to begin this discussion related to renewing the engagement letter of Jeff Wilcheck. Dunn explained that there is still much work that needs to be done in connection to the audit and that Jeff is working on the pension reports. Since Jeff has not been here the pension reports have not been done and I am still learning how to complete this process, said Dunn.

Dunn explained that he spent time with the Assistant Fiscal Officer, Robyn Watkins to continue to gain an understanding of payroll. Processing payroll is not an easy task when many of the steps are manual and we only have two (2) days to process it. Payroll is very complex when it comes to various leave times and cash outs being requested, said Dunn.

Fleshman asked Dunn if he checked around with pricing to see what the market for such services as Wilcheck is running? Dunn said he has looked around but has not called anyone but based on what Jeff Wilcheck has shared with there are CPA's out there charging \$50, \$60, and in the excess of \$70 an hour, so what Wilcheck is asking for is well below what other CPAs are asking for, said Dunn. Wilcheck's rates and the work that he does, the Township will not be able to find someone who will work at this rate with his quality of work, Dunn explained.

To answer your question, I have done my research but I have not called anyone, since the auditors have been in close contact with Wilcheck and they know what is going on. Dunn continued that he knows that the board has had some issues on what Wilcheck is now asking for and as a taxpayer, we have the right to ask questions. The state auditors that are here are charging the Township more than what Wilcheck is charging, said Dunn.

Horn said he would like to discuss this a little further. Horn said he had spoken with other employees and a suggestion was provided to offer \$41.50 an hour to Wilcheck. Potts said the discussion he had with the Township attorney was that a person is needed in the position and that this will show the auditors that the Township is serious about getting these issues resolved. As to the cost, it is the decision of the board, and there was no discussion of merit.

Dunn said he was not made aware of the discussion with the Township attorney and was not involved in any other discussions and he feels that he should have been included since Wilcheck is working with him.

Potts said he was asked by the board to reach out to the attorney.

Fleshman said there may have been some confusion on what he said at a previous special meeting related to Wilcheck as he asked that Trustee Alex have an opportunity to speak on this matter. Horn said he is unsure if the board handled things properly.

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Special Meeting**

**August 25, 2021**

---

*Alex made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:*

Horn said that he asked that if the board agrees to the \$47.50 an hour it would only be up until election time. We can use election day as a guideline, said Horn. Fleshman said Wilcheck will get the \$47.50/hour no matter if it's election time or Christmas time. Dunn said even if the board chooses not to keep Wilcheck at some point that he would like to have a part-time person in this position.

***Resolution 2021-112***

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to accept the engagement letter between Jeff Wilcheck and Franklin Township at \$47.50 an hour for 200 hours.

*With no further discussion, Trustee Horn seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:*

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

Resolution passed.

Fleshman said he would have preferred to have offered 100 hours versus the 200 hours to have had more time to discuss this since there was no negotiation at all.

Alex thanked Potts for his work at the Township and changed how we do things "more modern". Alex said he is sad to see him go and wanted to say these words to Potts directly since he will not attend his last regular meeting on August 26, 2021.

**Adjournment:**

With no further discussion, Horn adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

*Signature on file with original*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Aryeh Alex, Trustee

*Signature on file with original*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Fleshman, Vice-Chairman/Trustee

*Signature on file with original*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Horn, Chairman/Trustee

*Attested on the 25th day of August 2021.*

*Signature on file with original*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Dunn, Fiscal Officer