

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Bi-Weekly Meeting

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

February 11, 2021

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Horn called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 11, 2021, via teleconference (ZOOM).

Opening Prayer: Led by Trustee Fleshman

The Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Trustee Alex

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Horn asked if there were any prior meeting minutes to approve.

Fiscal Officer Mary Rhinehart reported that all meeting minutes are available on the website until there is time for them to be typed.

Alex commented that any resolutions voted on and approved in meeting minutes could be considered invalid, according to Ohio Revised Code, if the minutes are not approved by the Board prior to being put on the website. He expressed concern that the Fiscal Office could be in violation.

Horn agreed that they could be invalid.

Rhinehart said we could change it, that during the last meeting it was made known the meeting minutes would be put on the website without anything said to the contrary, that we can pull them off.

Horn said he did not recall the conversation but would not dispute it.

Fleshman asked Watkins the total of minutes we are behind. Watkins replied 13.

Fleshman responded by advising the Chairman they cannot move forward with a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes as there are none available at this time.

Rhinehart responded by stating that these are full recordings.

Alex stated that per Ohio law, the minutes need to be written copies in order to be reviewed and approved by the Board.

Rhinehart disagreed, stating that the minutes could be recordings, written, verbatim, these are full recordings and that is allowed.

Fleshman stated that he would not feel comfortable approving anything at this time. He expressed his feeling that Chairman Alex is pretty well-diverse in this area, that the Fiscal Officer is fairly new to the position. He is not stating either

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one is incorrect, but feels that it would be due diligence to make sure we are complying and correct when we make a motion.

Chairman Horn made a motion to table the discussion until more information can be obtained.

Watkins asked Fleshman what he is asking the Fiscal Office to do. She stated she is responsible for putting the meeting minutes on the website and removing them and needs clear instruction as to what she should do at this moment. She said she could remove the minutes from the website to be complying but is hearing mixed signals and wants to make sure she knows what the next directive is.

Fleshman made a motion to the Board that until we have confirmation or written minutes, we remove meeting minutes from Franklin Township website in order for The Board to review and approve. Alex seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was as follows.

Alex: YES/ NO

Fleshman: YES/ NO

Horn: YES/ NO

Motion passed.

Old Business:

Fiscal Officer Mary Rhinehart recommended the following resolution:

Resolution 2021-021

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves accounts payable through 02/11/2021 in the amount of \$176,673.87 and payroll paid on 02/02/2021 in the amount of \$149,478.35 for a total of \$326,152.22. From check number 65511 to 65647 and electronic vouchers from 84-2021 to 126-2021.

Fleshman asked Rhinehart about the amount of spending for office supplies, if the amount includes all departments in the Township and how the spending is distributed.

Assistant Fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins replied that the amount paid is based on purchase requisitions she receives from the Police Department, the Road Department, the Fire Department and the Fiscal Office. She stated that these departments do require toners for their printers which can be an expensive item to purchase. She also stated that the fiscal officer requires general office supplies, including copy paper. Watkins asked Fleshman if he needed to know the cost of something specific.

Fleshman replied that he felt it was helpful for the trustees to know the types of office supplies they were purchasing and approving of.

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Rhinehart stated that the Fiscal Office uses a lot of paper for various reports they need to print out throughout the year, that she feels it is not an outrageous amount. We've spent only about 14% of the budget, and that we are doing quite well.

Horn stated that he and Watkins have had discussions in the past about how to cut expenses on office supplies. He mentioned that possibly we could decrease the expense on toners by using one brand instead of purchasing various brands.

Horn stated that it is important to remember the Township meetings are held in order to maintain accountability to the public in regard to the budget.

Rhinehart offered to obtain a report itemizing office supplies ordered and comparing those figures to previous reports.

Fleshman moved the Resolution for bills and payroll. Horn seconded. With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows.

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

Resolution passed.

Chairman Horn moved to New Business.

New Business:

Fiscal Officer Mary Rhinehart stated that Alex wished to have a hearing regarding approval of liquor licenses within the Township. She stated she does not understand the purpose of a hearing because a hearing is due to something wrong with the permit. She mentioned that Lieutenant Ratliff has completed the process of background checks without any problem. She stated that there would need to be a hearing by March 16 but it would have to be a hearing about something.

Alex stated that it is the Board's process and best practice to allow residents to have their voices heard when they issue licenses.

Rhinehart said she did not know anything about that process and if Alex could help us out with that, she would appreciate it.

Alex said it was pretty simple, that we hold special meetings and broadcast things across the spectrum to let residents voice their opinions.

Fleshman voiced his concern that the Board needs to be responsible in approving liquor licenses and that we need to have meetings that include Township residents in order for them to voice their opinions.

Rhinehart mentioned that these are license transfers, not new licenses being issued.

Fleshman made the comparison of a business purchasing a transfer license as someone holding a "Golden Ticket" and that if the Board approves such a

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transfer, we should be able to decide where the transfer is going and how it is going to affect the community. He stated that we should always include the residents in those discussions.

Rhinehart stated it was a great idea, also stated that she does not have any procedures on this anywhere.

Horn stated that it is his belief that the license transfer will need to go before the Ohio Liquor Board.

Fleshman mentioned that the liquor transfer first comes to us, and whether we approve or deny the liquor license, it goes to the Ohio Liquor Board who chooses to approve or deny.

Horn mentioned that he recalls the Board is required to have the Police Department run a background check to ensure the validity of the business. He asked that Lieutenant Ratliff confirm.

Lieutenant Ratliff spoke and confirmed that he did run a background check and found nothing suspicious.

Horn asked the trustees if they wanted to post a date and time for a hearing. He expressed his feeling that this is a valid transfer license and sees no reason to oppose it.

Fleshman expressed his opinion that since the establishment asking for approval of the transfer license is not a bar but rather a restaurant and is not open later than 11 p.m., he sees no reason to oppose the request. He asked Alex for his opinion.

Alex stated that he was not opposed to the license, that he just wants to make sure we follow the correct procedures and allow for other voices to be heard.

Resolution 2021-022

Transfer of Liquor License to 3 Amigo Mexican Grill

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves the transfer of a liquor license from 3 Amigo Mexican Grill (permit no. 8914520) to Saigon Eatery (permit no. 7677590) at 4182 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43228. A request for a hearing is not needed.

Horn made a motion for the adoption of the above resolution. Alex seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows.

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

Resolution passed.

With no further discussion, Chairman Horn moved to the Police Department.

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Police Department Report:

Chief Byron Smith stated that his department does have a levy on the ballot for the May 2021 election. He stated they will be forming a citizen and a business committee to help with the levy in the following week, and they will update the Board as we get closer.

He stated regarding a staff update, they are down three full-time officers. He stated they are currently doing backgrounds on some candidates to fill one of the vacancies. He stated as soon as that comes back, he will present it during the next regular meeting.

The last item Smith brought up was a request from Officer Roger Myers to donate 80 hours of sick leave to Josh Edwards. He stated that if the Board decides to approve, it needs to be done by Resolution.

Fleshman stated that we extend this from time to time to different people that the Board will just allow. He stated now that we have a dispute with this, it would be in the best interest of the Board to not "muddy the waters" until we have our hearing. He stated he personally would ask the Board for a "no" vote.

Alex agreed with Fleshman that we have a pending arbitration case and should hold off until that is resolved.

Horn: "We have a request for a "no" vote, can we have a roll call".

AFO Robyn Watkins asked for confirmation on what was being voted on.

Alex responded that the Board wishes to deny vacation donation pending the outcome of arbitration.

Watkins wanted to know if the discussion is just being tabled and not needing a vote.

Fleshman stated he wanted to make a motion to deny the request for Josh Edwards to receive transfer of sick time and asked for someone to second it.

Alex commented that he did not feel comfortable. He stated he felt we should table this and hold off on any vote until arbitration because if we do anything, it may affect the outcome of the arbitration.

Fleshman stated he wanted to withdraw his motion.

Horn commented that he disagreed with tabling the issue, that it was his preference not to bring it back to the Board at a later time.

Fleshman agreed with Alex that the request should be tabled until after arbitration hearing.

Chairman Horn reluctantly agreed and stated that the request would need to be brought back to the table before a vote is made on it. Fleshman concurred.

Chief Smith moved on to the next item. He stated that there has been a rise in drug overdoses. He stated he did not have the exact figures but they occur

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daily. Smith stated that Deputy Carter may have the exact figures. He stated that they give out 600 to 800 Narcan pens every month.

Deputy Carter read from a report consisting of the last two weeks of January, 2021 to February 11, 2021. He reported that Franklin Township received 377 calls within that two-week period of time which included 48 reports made and 9 arrests.

Carter stated they had 17 drug-related calls with 7 overdoses which he says has definitely gone up.

He reported several drug-related offenses which included an arrest on January 28 in a parking lot on N. Hague for drug-trafficking in Franklin Township and an offense on February 3 on Industrial Mile. Carter reported four offenses on Brown Rd. on February 5, three offenses on Brown Rd. on February 6, and one offense on Brown Rd on February 10. He stated that drug overdoses occurred at some of those locations.

Carter reported three calls for breaking and entering – two on N. Wilson Rd. on January 29 and February 1 and one on Hart Rd. on February 4.

He reported there were four stolen vehicles – one on Shoppers Lane on January 29, two on Nationwide Blvd. on February 1, and one on Janitrol Rd. on February 6.

Carter mentioned his passion for comparing statistics with other areas in Franklin County. He stated that Franklin Township rates first in stolen vehicles with Mifflin/Blendon/Clinton Township area coming in second and advised keeping cars locked and being in attendance while they are warming up.

He reported one stolen vehicle being recovered on January 29. He reported an uptick in weapon-related runs. He reported nine such calls in the last two weeks which included “shots fired” calls.

Carter reported two robberies – one on Georgesville Rd. on February 6 and one at Brown Rd. and Little Ave. on February 7. He reported eleven thefts around Franklin Township within the two-week period of time.

Carter asked if there were any questions.

Chief Smith mentioned that Deputy Carter's report did not include any reports that come in on-line which could be twice as many as were mentioned in the meeting.

Lieutenant Ratliff stated that any on-line reports are filed through the Sheriff's Department and remain in-house.

Carter agreed that he does not have access to on-line reports.

Chairman Horn asked Ratliff if he or Chief Smith had received any reports about breaking and entering of vehicles on Eastfield Drive. Horn reported receiving information regarding vehicles being left unlocked in driveways and

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individuals stealing items left in the vehicles. He also mentioned hearing of similar crimes on Eastbrook Drive.

Ratliff stated that he would check on-line reports and have his department respond to any crimes in those areas.

Carter stated that they did receive a call regarding larceny in progress on February 9 at 3 a.m.

Carter stated that he will post a reminder to the public to not leave items in sight in vehicles.

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

Chief Byron Smith stated that every two years, his department renews a contract with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department regarding dispatch fees. He states that there is no other option and that this needs to be passed with a resolution.

Fleshman made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolution 2021-023

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to accept the Franklin County Sheriff's Office contract for renewal for dispatching services provided beginning January 1, 2021.

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

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

Resolution Passed.

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

Fire Department Report:

Chief Welch was not able to be present for the meeting. Administrator Mark Potts filled in for Welch.

Potts reported the resignation of Firefighter Paul Shambaugh. He read the resignation letter:

"Please accept this letter as a formal notification that I am resigning from my position as firefighter/paramedic with the Franklin Township Fire Department. My last day will be on February 21, 2021. I have been hired by Pleasant Township Fire Department and will begin on February 22, 2021.

I would like to thank Franklin Township for the opportunity I was given nine years ago to become part of this department. In my nine-year career with the Franklin Township Fire Department, I have gained more experience and knowledge than most could ask for in a career, all of which I will carry with

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me throughout the rest of my career. If there is anything I can do to help with the transition over the next two weeks, please let me know.

To the rest of the members of the Franklin Township Fire Department, I wish nothing but the best and hope someday to be working alongside all of you guys again. It has been a great ride here and I believe my time here has come to an end. Good luck to all, and I hope to stay in touch in the future.

Sincerely,

Paul Shambaugh

Horn expressed his appreciation for Paul's service to Franklin Township and made a motion to accept the resignation. Fleshman seconded the motion, with his comment that he is saddened to see long-time firefighters leave. With no further discussion the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:

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

Motion Passed.

Chairman Horn moved to the next item on the agenda.

Potts stated that Chief Welch is in the process of getting quotes to buy new mattresses and hopes to have that information by the next regular meeting.

With no further discussion, Chairman Horn moved to the road department.

Road Department Report:

Jim Stevens brought to attention a situation he states he has spoken to Chief Smith about. He stated that a few years ago in the Eastfield/Westfield divisions signs were put up "No Parking This Side of Street, 2 inches of snow or more" but there are quite a few people not paying attention to it which makes it extremely difficult to plow those areas.

He stated that he wanted to thank Sergeant Moore, that the other night when they were in the middle of a major snow storm, Stevens was not able to get through safely. He stated that there are times when he only has about 3 inches on both sides of the blade and it is possible to hit cars. He stated he contacted Sergeant Moore who had a patrolman come out and possibly write a couple tickets. He stated that last night while plowing in the same area he noticed those vehicles were actually moved to the other side of the street but there were other cars parked on the wrong side.

Stevens stated that he has spoken with Chief Smith about it and they are going to try to come up with a game plan on how to address this issue.

Stevens stated that he needed to bring to the Board's attention that every year they go into contract with ODOT through their salt program and over the last couple of years they have been getting 250 tons of salt.

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He stated that they had a holdover of quite a bit of salt going into this year so they only went into contract for 150 tons based on the type of winter, that unfortunately this winter has been completely different.

He stated that they have been "burning through the salt" but today he actually put in an order for the last 20 tons of the 150 tons they are in contract with and are getting extremely short on salt.

Stevens stated that he has contacted Cargill as another option and have them give a quote on a contract for another 150 tons as he stated we are not out of winter yet. He stated that as of prior to this meeting he has not heard back from Cargill and when he does, he will bring it to the attention of the Fiscal Office and the Board.

He stated that another option is every year the Franklin County Engineers allow them to go over to 970 Dublin Road and get salt if needed. He stated that he and Jeff have sat down and that Jeff has worked the extra salt into the budget, so he knows it is worked into the budget

Stevens stated that in the past he has attended meetings at the Franklin County Engineer's office and they give him a letter stating how many tons of salt they will allow us to have and the price. He stated that due to COVID, that meeting did not take place and he is not aware of any letter being sent to the Township with that pricing. He stated that he made a telephone call to the Engineers office today but unfortunately a lot of their offices are closed due to Covid.

He stated that he plans to meet with Fiscal Office Mary Rhinehart and Mark Potts tomorrow to come up with an emergency PO to where we have that option.

Stevens stated that because of an upcoming forecast of more snow, he feels the issue of needing salt is important at this time.

Stevens gave an update on heating the pole barn. He stated that he has received a couple bids but has been unable to look over the one bid he received today. He stated that he wants to go over the bids and then possibly next week he would like to get together with the Board to see what they would like to do. He stated that it is becoming more of a complex job than he thought it would be.

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

Trustee Reports:

John Fleshman, Trustee:

Fleshman stated that he wanted to go over the new position that was created for the Fiscal Department. He stated that he wanted to ask the Board if we could withdraw that resolution until a later date now that we are paying auditors to come in and get everything straightened up, I think we could be more responsible with our budget, with Mary doing some clean-up of things, not knowing what we owe to the IRS and other penalties, and am asking the

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Board to rescind the resolution for a fiscal-type position at this time until we get everything in order and see exactly what we are going to need.

Rhinehart commented that the trustees cannot decide if there is a position, only may approve the amount to be paid which they have done, and I have it posted.

Fleshman made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolution 2021-024

Rescinding Resolution 2021-006

Hiring of an additional staff member in the fiscal department

Alex seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows. Resolution passed.

Alex: YES/ NO

Fleshman: YES/ NO

Horn: YES/ NO

Resolution Passed.

Fleshman stated that every year we are to set when the pay is going to be for the trustees and the Fiscal Department. He stated we overlooked it at the first meeting of the year. He stated we did look into it as the last payroll of the month, that we are being paid prior to the end of the month and if we were to leave office, there would have been time that we did not serve.

Fleshman stated he would like to make a motion that the trustees and the Fiscal Department are paid on the first of the month for the remainder of the year which would be 12 equal pays per year.

Alex suggested the trustees and Fiscal Department go with salaries and be paid the same as the employees, instead of being paid once per month, be paid every two weeks.

Fleshman agreed with Alex, felt that it would be easier on everyone. Fleshman commented on his own experience of being paid at different times during each month, making it difficult in paying bills on time. He stated this is the trustees' prerogative on voting on this and it is to be done in the first meeting.

He asked Alex if he would like to make a resolution.

Alex said he would like to make a resolution to ensure that Township trustees are paid via salary in alignment with the regular Township payroll.

Fleshman asked Alex if this would include Fiscal Officer Mary Rhinehart's pay.

Alex stated it would include all elected officials.

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

Resolution 2021-025

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to ensure elected officials are paid on a bi-weekly basis the same as all regular employees effective immediately.

Fleshman seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows.

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

Resolution Passed.

Fleshman wanted to advise on being careful what you keep in your vehicles. He stated that there have been people breaking into cars on his street, that there are ways they can unlock your car. He stated that his car was broken into. He stated that in talking with Robyn Watkins, she gave him a tip on how to prevent break-ins. He stated that you should manually lock your car instead of using a fob key to prevent someone from scanning the lock to unlock it. He also advised not to confront an individual but to let the police handle it.

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

Fiscal Department Report:

Fiscal Officer Mary Rhinehart recommended the following resolution:

Resolution 2021-026

WHEREAS, The Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) requires a True-Up Report for the prior year based on the final gross compensation versus the premiums billed that resulted in premiums due of \$34,152 that must be paid by February 16, 2021 to avoid adverse consequences; and

WHEREAS, The fiscal officer signed up for the "Go Green" program of electronic correspondence for invoices and updates, etc., which resulted in a credit of \$1,227; and

WHEREAS, The net premium amount shall be appropriated as per allotted in 2020;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves the amount of \$32,925 be appropriated for payment on this date.

*Horn made a motion for the adoption of the above resolution.
Fleshman seconded. With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows.*

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

Resolution Passed.

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Chairman Horn moved on to a discussion regarding an engagement letter for Jeffrey G. Wilcheck, CPA.

Alex began the discussion by stating that within the engagement letter, we testify that Mr. Wilcheck works with the Auditor of State as his exclusive role.

Fleshman echoed what Alex mentioned. He stated that all of the W2s for the employees were done by Jeff and when we had the meeting with the Auditor, the very first thing I felt we were kind of chastised and asked "why isn't this done?" It wasn't asked of the Fiscal Department, it actually came on the shoulders of the trustees and one of the questions the trustees said I asked was "what more could we do?" The other thing, from what I understand, Jeff has actually run errands to pick up supplies and has been paid as well as being paid per diem per mile. So we are paying a gentleman that is supposed to get the work done that we can't do but I find that I'm seeing him doing the day-to-day operations of the Fiscal Department. So, I have a definite "no" vote with having him here.

Fleshman stated he is okay with hiring a person that the State would like to bring in that solely works under the State and not under the department of our fiscal office.

Horn stated that it was his intent in asking the State Auditor to come down to our meetings. He stated he does not understand why it takes so many experts to handle a small budget.

Fleshman stated that several meetings ago, I said that we should let the State come in and at that time we were advised by the Fiscal Department "oh, you don't want that, there could be actions, you can't vote on things, they take over, you could be removed". I think at that time we were steered in my opinion the wrong way. I feel that Jeff has been used as an employee. Our own fiscal officer has yet to learn how to do the payroll. She has never done the payroll. We have one person, in my opinion, who is overloaded and knows 99% of what is being done in the Township and how to do it. He stated if Robyn would be sick one day, there is no way payroll would be done.

He stated "I don't like doing this in an open meeting, but it has been almost a year and we have supported, we have hired, we have spent taxpayer's dollars, in my calculation, \$18,500 to \$18,600 so far on Jeff, and my fellow trustees know how the auditors came down on us.

He stated in his opinion, if the State says we need an additional person, I believe maybe we should hire someone else from the State because the State is going to define who they work for and what they are going to work on and not be taking sides, for instance the W2s, which should have been done by the Fiscal Office and not by Jeff.

Fleshman stated that we hired Jeff to get things caught up and we are not any closer than where the Auditor says we should be and they are asking why.

Alex commented that Jeff has been working a lot with the Auditor. He questioned whether we should transfer management of Jeff to ourselves and

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Mark Potts to coordinate with the Auditor to make sure the work is actually getting done. He stated his opinion that Jeff has been very helpful and we would hate to lose his knowledge but would like him to focus on the audit and nothing else. He stated the Auditor expressed we need to do something, that we will ultimately be responsible. He said he thinks this is a way for us to take control of the situation and make sure it gets done.

Fleshman said he concurs with Alex. He mentioned that the Auditor's office is asking "why aren't you taking control of this". He stated he concurred and agreed that the Resolution should read as such.

Horn agrees with Alex's suggestion. He proposed that Administrator Mark Potts have some authority over Jeff's work status. Horn stated he would like to propose 160 hours of work for Jeff and the workload to only include the audit. He suggested that Potts spend time every week with Jeff.

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

Resolution 2021-027

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves a third Engagement Letter for Jeffrey G. Wilcheck, CPA, an independent contractor, for services to include:

1. Assist in reconciling the 2020 and 2021 financial records with the bank.
2. Consult on budget issues effecting 2021.
3. Assist in reviewing the transactions identified in the reconciliation work completed by the Auditor of State Local Government Services divisions for the years 2017 through 2019.
4. Reconcile the financial records to the bank for 2020.
5. Meet weekly with Mark Potts, Township Administrator, to review the engagement progress.

The fees are not to exceed \$6,000, for 160 hours of service billed periodically to the Township at a rate of \$37.50 per hour. Mr. Wilcheck will report his work to the Township Administrator on an at least weekly basis. The work done will be exclusive to and limited to the audit and work identified by the Auditor of State as to comply.

Fleshman seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows. Resolution passed.

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

Resolution Passed.

Fleshman wanted to speak. He stated that we need to go over the fact that things need to be done and they are not getting done. He stated for example, a

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resident called in complaining that someone plowed their driveway, plowed snow in front of their garage, while turning around made tire marks. He stated the Fiscal Department, “meaning Mary”, had a discussion with Jim Stevens, saying “you can’t do that, you’re not allowed to do that.” This discussion should have been with Mark, the trustees should have known about it, and that time could have been well-spent on the things they need to get done.

Fleshman stated that departments are to come to the Board, the Board makes the decision, the Fiscal Department would then look at it to make sure everything complies. He stated that decisions are strictly made by the Board.

Fleshman also wanted to discuss Mark Potts' position. He commented that Potts is too valuable to handle simple issues such as printers not working, why someone is not answering their phone in the Police Department, etc. He stated that he feels Potts is handling too many individual complaints going on. He stated he wanted people to understand.

Horn expressed his appreciation to Assistant Fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins for her service to the Township and made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolution 2021-028

WHEREAS, the current assistance fiscal officer has been employed since January of 2018, and;

WHEREAS, she has not received an increase for the past two (2) years, and;

WHEREAS, such an increase has been appropriated in the 2021 budget.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves Robyn Watkins, the Assistant Fiscal Officer, to receive a 3% wage increase effective January 1, 2021.

Alex 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.

Fiscal Officer Mary Rhinehart spoke:

“Can you hold on a second? This was supposed to be my resolution.”

Horn apologized to Rhinehart and stated he did not mean to ignore her.

Rhinehart stated:

“I think you guys do a pretty good job of ignoring me and misrepresenting what is going on and absolutely not aware of what people are doing and how we are trying to take care of ten years of a mess. We were told that it would take at least two years and by the end of Christmas I got everything settled that I was aware of and since then I got some more. When I filed reports, it turns out we

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owe another \$16,000 for 2015, 2017 and 2018. I have not even had a social life since I started because I have been working so hard to get these things cleared up and still working on clearing up and if we didn't have Jeff, we wouldn't be here today, so I think maybe be a little more grateful for what efforts all our staff do. We have a wonderful department and the fiscal department is doing a great job whether you realize it or not.”

Horn stated:

“What you and I talk about more frequently than anyone is money and the amount of money we've got, the amount of money we're spending, we just don't have the luxury of a high-dollar budget.

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

Administrator Report:

Mark Potts, Administrator, reported on the Ohio Township Association On-Line Conference.

Potts reported there was a resolution to allow Assistant Fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins to attend. He stated it was done too late, a message was received from the Ohio Township Association stating they are creating a situation where people who were not able to register in time can go back and retroactively review the materials, so we have a resolution in place to allow Watkins to do that.

Fleshman stated that he felt it was very important to allow Watkins, that it would be of benefit to the Township if she were to absorb the classes and the newer techniques. He stated he felt it was a failure to get registered on our part and not on Watkins and that the Fiscal Officer should have had that in so Watkins could have taken that.

Potts stated that by the time we got the approval, it was too late and it was really no one's fault.

Fleshman apologized, saying it was his mistake.

Chairman Horn moved to information from Mark Potts regarding Revolution Group.

Potts mentioned a discussion with Erik Koval of Revolution Group who presented information which Mark sent over to everyone, regarding improving capability of our Internet which would help all of our departments. Potts stated that we probably need a new firewall.

He then introduced Mr. Koval.

Erik Koval began by saying that the copy of information in front of the Board was for a new firewall for the Sullivant location and Frank Rd. location. He mentioned better security from an Internet perspective. He stated the cost of the hardware and the labor to install should be in the packet provided.

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Lieutenant David Ratliff spoke, stating that they have body cameras and have had issues with uploads and downloads because of software. He stated he just wanted to make sure it does not affect the body cameras.

Mr. Koval responded by stating that if anything the firewalls will improve body camera uploads and will not interfere with uploads.

Potts stated that the quote sent over for the equipment was \$2,168.76 and for labor to install was \$2,100.

Mr. Koval stated that the quote for labor was a one-time fee. He also stated that there is an annual fee for renewal of the security profile for the firewall.

Horn asked Mr. Koval to provide Mark Potts with the information and they would get in touch with him with a decision.

Potts mentioned President's Day and that the office would be closed. He stated that it would be posted on Facebook and there is a sign on the door.

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

Potts stated there were two questions from Ms. Chaney.

Ms. Chaney asked "if you guys have already approved the meeting minutes, why can't the audio stay up? Prairie Township has only audio and I think that's what Franklin Township needs to go to also, so people can hear these meetings.

Ms. Chaney also asked why the Board has meetings regarding liquor licenses but have not mentioned concerts at the mall.

Horn admitted not knowing the answer to her question, that it is the Township's primary responsibility to handle liquor licenses.

Potts stated he could find no further questions from the public.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, Horn adjourned the meeting at 8:30 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

Signature on file with original

Assistant Fiscal Officer/Fiscal Officer