

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Franklin Township
Franklin County, Ohio

Regular Meeting
November 4, 2021

Call Meeting to Order:

Horn called the (in-person) regular bi-weekly meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 4, 2021. The meeting was also available virtually on ZOOM. Login information was provided on the agenda.

Opening Prayer: Led by Pastor Snodgrass

The Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Trustee Alex

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

Motion to Approve Prior Meeting Minutes:

MOTION

Horn made a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

- *Special meeting on October 23, 2021*
- *Regular meeting on October 23, 2021*

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.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to Old Business.

Old Business:

The Fiscal Officer recommended the following motion:

MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves accounts payable from October 21, 2021, through November 4, 2021, in the amount of \$54,469.98 and payroll paid on October 29, 2021, for \$135,955.22 and payroll paid on November 1, 2021, for \$8,616.93 for a grand total of \$199,042.13. From check numbers 67099 to 67134 and electronic vouchers from 1256-2021 to 1338-2021.

Horn accepted the motion, 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.

Fiscal Officer Nick Dunn requested that the board table the resolution approving obligation authorized by the fiscal officer until the next meeting. Dunn explained that an exhibit needed to be included that

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distinguished purchases approved by the fiscal officer as well as the township administrator since the position has now been filled. Dunn explained that he would provide the resolution and the exhibit at the next meeting. The board agreed to table the resolution.

Horn asked the new administrator, Steve Mazer, to introduce himself to the audience.

Dunn explained that the Memo of Understanding (MOU) for the Administrator position which was approved on the October 21, 2021, meeting had a couple of items that were not addressed and need to be clarified. Dunn continued to explain that the vacation line item displaying the accrual rate was corrected and that the employee portion of the health insurance needs to be identified and approved.

Mazer explained that he has been in communications with the Township's legal team and made the appropriate changes. Mazer explained that he provided the revised MOU to the board of trustees prior to the meeting.

Horn explained that he did not vote or approve for the administrator position and he will not be voting on anything related to the administrator.

Resolution 2021-180

To Hire and Establish Terms & Conditions of Employment for the Township Administrator Position

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to accept the revised terms and conditions of employment for the Franklin Township Administrator as defined by the Township's legal counsel effective Thursday, October 27, 2021, as outlined in Exhibit A.

Alex made a motion to adopt the above-stated resolution, Fleshman seconded the motion; with no further discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

Resolution passed.

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Exhibit A

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-180

A RESOLUTION HIRING AND ESTABLISHING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Board desires to employ Steven Mazer as Township Administrator and establish the terms and conditions of his employment; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township and its residents to provide certain benefits to this employee as a form of compensation;

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (the "Board") that the following Resolution be and it hereby is adopted:

RESOLVED, that effective October 27, 2021, the Township hereby employs Steven Mazer (hereinafter referred to as "Employee") as the Franklin Township Administrator, subject to the following terms and conditions of employment:

1. Term. THE EMPLOYEE IS AN EMPLOYEE AT WILL AND SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE BOARD. The Employee is to be employed by the Township on an indefinite basis until such employment is terminated in the manner hereinafter set forth in paragraph 14, hereof.
2. Job Description and Duties. The Employee shall serve as the Franklin Township Administrator and shall perform those jobs and duties outlined in the Ohio Revised Code and perform such other lawful and reasonable duties as may, from time to time, be requested by the Board. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the duties of the Employee shall include the items set forth on the Job Description attached hereto and marked "Attachment A". The Employee shall not be engaged in any business activity in conflict with his position and duties other than on behalf of and as directed by the Board, whether or not such business activity is pursued gain, profit, or other pecuniary advantages, without the prior written approval of the Board. The Employee's full working time and effort shall be devoted to such employment.
3. Rules, Regulations, and Conditions. The Employee shall observe such rules, regulations, and conditions as may, from time to time, be adopted by the Board or such other rules governing the operation and personnel of Franklin Township and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
4. Compensation. The entire compensation to be paid to the Employee by the Township for all services performed by the Employee while employed on a regular full-time basis as the Franklin Township Administrator shall be Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) per calendar year of employment (or such higher salary as the Board may, in its absolute and sole discretion, from time to time, determine). The Employee's annual salary will be paid on a bi-weekly basis (or such other pay period the Board determines from time to time) during each calendar year. All compensation shall be subject to withholding for federal, state, and local income taxes, and such other taxes and charges as may be subject to the withholding from employee wages, and further subject to withholding required for pension contributions and further subject to withholding for any other deductions or charges as may, from time to time, be authorized in writing by the Employee and agreed to by the Board. The Employee shall be exempt from the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. §§201 et seq.) under the Executive Employee Exemption. As an Executive Employee under the FLSA, the Employee will not be eligible for compensation at a time and one-half rate, and he will not be compensated in the form of pay for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed as a guarantee of continued employment by the Township.

The Township shall also provide the Employee with mileage reimbursement for miles driven in a personal vehicle for the purpose of Township business at the 2021 Federal rate of fifty-eight cents (0.58) per mile for business miles. This rate is determined by the Federal Government and is subject to change. The monthly mileage reimbursement is subject to applicable withholding and other deductions and shall be paid on the first pay following the month the miles were driven. (Example: May mileage report due by first pay period in June to be paid on the first payday

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in June.) The Employee shall be responsible for the maintenance and operation of their personal vehicle and the costs associated with the same, including, without limitation, insurance.

The Employee shall also be entitled to the use of a Township-issued cell phone and laptop. Use of the cell phone and laptop is subject to all applicable Township rules and regulations.

5. Performance Evaluations. In the first year of employment, the Board will perform a six-month and twelve-month evaluation of the Employee's performance. Thereafter, the Board will perform an annual evaluation of the Employee's performance to occur no later than June 1st of each calendar year. In its sole and absolute and sole discretion, after the annual evaluation, the Board may make appropriate increases in Employees compensation.

6. Work Hours. Typically, will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. based on a flexible lunch ranging from thirty (30) minutes to one (1) hour, the regularly scheduled work hours for the Employee shall total at least forty (40) hours during each workweek. In addition, the Employees shall work at such other and/or additional hours as may be necessary to fulfill their duties as the Franklin Township Administrator and/or as may, from time to time, be requested by the Board. Comp time shall be accrued for any hours exceeding forty (40) in a payroll week.

7. Benefits. Except as otherwise herein provided, the Employee shall be entitled to all of the benefits provided to full-time employees as outlined by the Board of Trustees.

8. Vacation Time. Upon commencement of employment, the Employee shall be credited with Fifty-Six (56) of vacation time hours available for immediate use. Beginning October 21, 2021, the Employee shall accrue 3.1 hours per pay period. Beginning the second year of employment, the Employee shall accrue 4.6 hours per pay period. The break down at three (3) or more years of employment is as follows:

- Year 1 – One Hundred Twenty (120) Hours Township /Fifty -Six hours of roll-over
- **Year 2 – One Hundred Twenty (120) Hours Township / available roll-over**
- 3-5 years 5.5 hours per pay period = One Hundred Four Three (143) hours
- 6-10 years 6.2 hours per pay period = One Hundred Sixty-One (161) hours
- 11-15 years 7.1 hours per pay period = One Hundred Eighty-Five (185) hours
- 16+ years 8 hours per pay period = Two Hundred Eight (208) hours

9. Holidays. Upon commencement of employment, the Employee shall be granted a day off from work in observance of the following legal holidays while in active service with the Township, which holidays shall occur and be taken at the following times:

- (a) the first day of January, known as New Year's Day;
- (b) the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King Day;
- (c) the third Monday in February, known as Washington-Lincoln (President's Day);
- (d) the thirtieth day of May, known as Decoration or Memorial Day;
- (e) the fourth day of July, known as Independence Day;
- (f) the first Monday in September, known as Labor Day;
- (g) the second Monday in October, known as Columbus Day;
- (h) the holiday is known as Veterans Day (November)
- (i) the fourth Thursday in November, known as Thanksgiving Day; and
- (j) the twenty-fifth day of December, known as Christmas Day;

or, if any of the holiday dates are changed or additional holidays added under Ohio Revised Code §511.10, or any future statute of like tenor and effect, the dates are changed or added. If any date designated above as a holiday falls on Saturday, the Friday immediately preceding shall be the holiday, and if any date designated above as a holiday falls on Sunday, the next succeeding Monday shall be the holiday.

10. Sick Leave. The Employee shall be entitled to accrue 3.077 hours per bi-weekly pay (equals 80 hours annually) and use sick leave in accordance with the applicable Sick Leave provisions established by the Township.

11. Insurance Coverage. Upon commencement of employment, health care insurance, dental care insurance, and vision insurance uniformly provided to all full-time employees of the Township will be made available to the Employee at his option in accordance with applicable law. All such insurance shall be subject to the terms and conditions contained in the applicable insurance policies and/or plan documents maintained, from time to time, by the Township. If the employee elects to participate in the health insurance program, the Employee may be required to pay the Township a

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monthly reimbursement in the amount of \$19.23 or as determined by the Board and generally charged to other Township employees. (2021: Insurance withholding \$19.23 per pay)

12. Professional Membership Fees. The Township shall pay reasonable membership fees to appropriate professional organizations on behalf of the Employee upon the Employee's written request therefore. The Board, after consultation with the Employee, shall determine which organizations are "appropriate" and what fees are "reasonable," and the Board's decision shall be final.

13. Disciplinary Actions. The Township, through the Board, is authorized to take such disciplinary actions as it deems necessary in the event the Employee does not fulfill the Employees' employment duties, or in such other instances as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems necessary. Nothing contained herein shall impair or otherwise alter the Employee's status as one of employment at will, and the Employee's status shall be as set forth in paragraph 14 hereof.

14. Status and Termination of Employment. The Employee shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and is employed by the Township at will and on an indefinite basis until such time as the Employee or the Board terminates such employment. This Resolution is not a contract of employment and the Employee or the Township, by a majority vote of the Board, may terminate the Employee's employment with the Township at any time, with or without cause, for any reason or for no reason whatsoever, and, in the case of the Township, in the sole and absolute discretion of the Board, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) For Cause. The Board may initiate termination of the Employee's employment for cause. The term "for cause" shall mean that the Employee has engaged in one or more of the following types of actions: misconduct, insubordination or lack of cooperation; possession, use, sale or being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance on work premises or during work hours; poor or inadequate performance; incompetence or inability to perform the duties of the position; bribery; neglect of duty; abuse of Township property; removing Township property without prior authorization; falsification of employment application or other personnel records; falsifying Township reports or records; conviction of any felony; conduct involving theft, dishonesty or moral turpitude; improper physical or verbal harassment; sexual harassment; abuse or improper use of sick leave; or any other failure of good behavior. Upon termination of the Employee's employment for cause, the Employee shall not be entitled to any further wages or benefits hereunder.

(b) Without Cause. Either the Board or the Employee may initiate termination of the Employee's employment at any time without cause as follows:

(i) The Board shall notify the Employee in writing of his termination thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such termination. If the Township terminates the employment of the Employee without cause, the Township agrees to pay the Employee "severance pay" as hereinafter defined.

(ii) If the Employee desires to terminate his employment, the Employee shall notify the Board in writing sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of such termination. The Employee understands that if he terminates employment, no further salary or benefits shall be paid to him after the effective date of his termination.

(c) Job Abolishment. If the Employee's employment is terminated due to the abolishment of the position, it will be considered termination "without cause" pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph (b)(i) of paragraph 14 of this Resolution.

15. Interpretations, Determinations, and Decisions. To the fullest extent permitted by law, all interpretations, determinations, and decisions with regard to this Resolution and all matters relating thereto and contained therein shall be made by the Board, and such interpretations, determinations, and decisions on such matters shall be final and binding on all persons.

16. Entire Understanding. Unless otherwise changed or modified by the Board after the effective date of this Resolution, or unless otherwise specifically required by applicable law, this Resolution constitutes the entire compensation and benefits afforded to the Employee named above if and while the Employee continues to serve as the Franklin Township Administrator, and, for these purposes, all prior Resolutions, directives, and practices establishing or relating to any such benefits or compensation are hereby superseded in their entirety.

17. Amendment, Modification, and/or Termination of Resolution. The Township, through the Board, shall have the right and authority to amend or otherwise modify this Resolution, from time to time, provided that no amendment or modification shall deprive the Employee of previously accrued and vested vacation and/or sick leave benefits standing to the Employee's credit or, without the written consent of the Employee. Furthermore, while it is the expectation of the Township to continue this

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Resolution in substantially its present form, no-obligation, contractually or otherwise, to do so is assumed by the Township, and the Township expressly reserves the right to discontinue and/or rescind this Resolution, in whole or in part, at any time.

18. Duration of Resolution. This Resolution shall become effective on or as of 10/27/2021 and will continue in full force and effect until otherwise amended, modified, and/or terminated by the Board; provided, however, that the Employee's employment with the Township is at will and may be terminated at any time as hereinbefore provided, and the Township, through the Board, has the right and authority to amend, modify and/or terminate this Resolution as set forth above.

19. Acknowledgment. As a condition of employment, the Employee shall sign a statement, which is to be returned to the Board, stating, in effect, that the Employee has read the foregoing Resolution and fully understands and agrees with its terms.

This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time provided by law.

Fleshman asked Dunn to explain the America Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. Dunn asked if he could explain the ARP under the Fiscal Department section of the agenda. The board agreed.

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

Dunn explained that this resolution goes back to the executive session held on October 21, 2021, where the board passed a resolution in error without inviting the public back inside the building for the reading of the resolution. Dunn said he was advised by the legal counsel to bring this up in a regular meeting and asked the board to re-read resolution 2021-171 to clear the air on this matter.

Horn asked for an explanation as to what this matter was about. Fleshman explained that Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson were in attendance early for the October 21, 2021, meeting and was asked to step outside for the executive session of the special meeting. The Tomlinson's understood this as though there was no meeting and they went home, so there was no one to invite back inside, after the executive session, said Fleshman. For clarification the board re-read the resolution into this meeting, Fleshman said.

Alex re-read the following resolution as presented in the October 21, 2021, special meeting.

***Resolution 2021-171
Legal Counsel to Prepare Real Estate Purchase Agreement
for 1836 Harrisburg Pike***

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves Broshius, Johnson, and Griggs (legal counsel) to prepare a real estate purchase agreement for 1836 Harrisburg Pike at a purchase price of \$235,000.00.

Alex made a motion to adopt the above-stated resolution, Fleshman seconded the motion; with no further discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

Resolution passed.

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Fleshman said that the people standing outside the main door at the conclusion of the special meeting were waiting to come inside for the regular meeting; they did not hear from the special meeting.

Horn shared that the Township is asking to purchase property that that Township is going to spend money on. If the residents are interested in this topic please follow up.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to *New Business*.

New Business:

Police Department Report:

Chief Smith reported that due to the levy failing the police department is moving to twenty-four/seven (24/7) priority runs only immediately. Smith said he is meeting with Chief Gilbert of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) about the changes the township is making. Smith said brownouts are possible when there are no officers to a cover shift.

Fleshman said he spoke with Chief Smith earlier this evening and stated that a letter from the Chief should go out to the residents explaining the hard facts. Also, a survey should be included asking the residents what they expect from their police department and what they would like to do going forward, Said Fleshman. Alex said the survey is a good way to get good feedback.

Smith said he would present the letter to the board for their approval. Dunn asked Smith about overtime. Smith said with the brownout in place this will alleviate any overtime. Lt. Ratliff encouraged everyone to sign up for the online newsletter and to follow the police department on Facebook to get the latest information. Alex commented on the newsletter.

Chief Smith introduced Deputy Haren from the FCSO who spoke on behalf of Deputy Hamilton. The following are stats for the last two (2) weeks:

- 389 Total Calls for Service (Dispatched)
- 48 Reports Taken
- 12 Arrests

Haren welcomed folks to submit complaints or tips through the FCSO website. Lt. Ratliff encouraged folks to submit tips through the Franklin Township Police Department's website. When someone places a complaint or a tip on the website every officer will see those, said Ratliff.

Haren reminded everyone that we are approaching that time of year when folks like to warm up their cars in the morning and then they get stolen. Last winter and the winter before the FCSO, the Ohio Highway Patrol, and Franklin Township joined together to combat this issue and we will be starting that up this year as well, said Haren. Please do not start your car and leave it unlocked because someone will steal it, said Haren. Lt. Ratliff said the township has had ten to twelve (10-12) cars stolen in the same day due to unlocked cars warming up.

With no further discussion, Horn moved on to the fire department:

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Fire Department Report:

Horn introduced Assistant Fire Chief, Robert (Bob) Arnold to the audience.

Assistant Fire Chief Arnold explained that he applied for a grant which is a three (3) year \$3.5M (three point five million dollars) grant that will allow the Township to hire ten (10) new firefighters and put the fire engine back in service at Station 192. The new firefighter's tentative start date is December 8, 2021, so hopefully, the engine is back in service for the holidays to protect that end of the Township, said Arnold.

Fleshman confirmed that the Township did not lay off any firefighters during this time. Arnold agreed, but the Township did lose ten (10) firefighters by attrition but not by any layoffs.

Dunn commented that Arnold is working closely with the Fiscal Department to ensure the Township follows the SAFER grant guidelines correctly. There are many items to prepare for and the new employees will have to be front-loaded from the fire fund, to begin with, said Dunn.

With nothing further to discuss, Horn moved to the road department:

Road Department Report:

Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent explained that they are into the second phase of the heating/cooling unit to be installed in the maintenance barn. Stevens explained that he asked for four (4) quotes from various vendors for installations/parts for the heating/cooling unit. Stevens explained that he received only two (2) quotes back and distributed those to the board for their review.

Stevens explained that their maintenance department was moved to another building so a new ceiling and cooling/heating unit can be installed. The temperature inside of the buildings needs to be above freezing to keep our equipment working. Stevens continued by sharing that he has been working closely with the Fiscal Department to ensure funds are available to complete this phase. Stevens asked Dunn to further explain.

Dunn explained that the road department has a line item for capital improvements and there are enough funds to cover this phase of the project. Dunn asked the board to review one of the quotes where an adjustment was made due to the road department being able to do a portion of the work so the quote was reduced. Stevens said the goal is for the new heating/cooling unit to be hooked into the natural gas line that exists near the police station. Due to weather restraints, Stevens spoke with the vendor and they are able to install a propane tank on the backside of the building and this unit can be switched over from propane to natural gas when that time comes. Stevens said he is working with a company located in Grove City that is willing to donate the propane tank, so they can run on propane through the Winter months, and then in the Spring months the Township can work on getting connected to the natural gas line, said Stevens.

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Dunn said it is just important to keep the building above thirty-two (32) degrees. Fleshman agreed it is important to keep the hydraulic lines to all of the equipment above freezing.

Resolution 2021-181
Accept the Bid from Dave's Heating and Cooling

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves the Road Superintendent to contract with Dave's Heating and Cooling Service to install a heating and cooling unit in the Township maintenance barn, not to exceed \$42,500.00.

Alex made a motion to adopt the above-stated resolution, Fleshman seconded the motion; with no further discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

Resolution passed.

Stevens explained that during the COVID epidemic it is difficult to find the unit and when the unit is found the prices have quadrupled.

Fleshman said we will make this back in savings with the new unit.

With nothing further to discuss, Horn moved to the trustees for their report.

Trustee Report:

Aryeh Alex, Trustee, said he had nothing to report.

John Fleshman, Trustee, thanked everyone for their support and the following quote:

Ships do not sink due to the water around them, Ships sink because of the water that gets inside of them. Don't let what happens around you get inside you and weigh you down.

Fleshman said he takes this as a grade card, as different things have been said, and obviously, the people do like the service that is being serviced to them because, in the end, the residents are our boss, Fleshman gave one final thanks.

Ralph Horn, Trustee, asked Mazer to schedule a meeting with the Teamsters to begin the contract re-negotiations with the Road Department. Horn asked the other board members if they wanted to meet with the Teamsters.

Alex said in the past the board has created a negotiating committee that includes the Fiscal Department, a trustee, the administrator, and the department head. This will then form the management side of the negating team, said Alex. Horn said he is willing to attend the meeting with the administrator.

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MOTION

Alex made a motion to approve the creation of a negotiating committee for the management side of the re-negotiations of Teamsters 413 for the renewal of the Road Department contract. This will include a representative from the Fiscal Department, the Administrator, the Road Superintendent, and a member of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees as determined by the board.

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.

Horn asked for clarification on the request to approve the revised Memo of Understanding (MOU) for Jim Stevens. Fleshman explained that the only thing that is changed in the MOU is language recommendations by the auditors. Fleshman mentioned that Stevens has not requested a cost-of-living raise in quite some time. Alex reminded Fleshman that if there are any financial changes then those changes would need to be run through the Fiscal Department first. The board can schedule a separate special meeting and go into an executive session to discuss compensation. Alex said Stevens is deserving of a compensation discussion but that he is distinguishing the two different things that are going on. Currently, the board is updating the language in the MOU with no financial changes.

If there are no financial changes Alex said he would agree to pass a resolution this evening. Horn commented that he is not opposed to the language changes in Stevens' MOU but he is worried about the auditors. The auditors are in the office every day and the Township has been under a great deal of stress for the last several years, and that is why I am so paranoid about spending money, said Horn.

Recently, the board approved to pay the Auditors of the State fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) and this was confirmed by Nick Dunn, and Robyn Watkins, then Jeff Wilcheck is getting paid forty-seven fifty (\$47.50) an hour. Just to process bills and payroll will probably cost us at least a half-million dollars (\$500,000.00) this year, and we are still not going to be done, said Horn.

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Resolution 2021-182
Accept James Stevens Language Update (MOU)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to accept the language updates within Jim Stevens, Memo of Understanding with no financial changes.

Alex made a motion to adopt the above-stated resolution, Fleshman seconded the motion; with no further discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

Resolution passed.

Horn asked Mazer to make sure all of the language changes for Jim Stevens MOU are updated.

Fiscal Department Report:

Nick Dunn, Fiscal Officer, shared with the board the Driving Policy which is a recommendation from OTARMA, and asked the board to adopt this policy.

Resolution 2021-179
Accept the Driving Policy

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves to accept and adopt the Driving Policy and presented by the Fiscal Officer, effective immediately.

Alex made a motion to adopt the above-stated resolution, Fleshman seconded the motion; with no further discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

Resolution passed.

Fleshman asked Dunn to make sure Mazer is brought up-to-speed on all of the policies and procedures. Fleshman and Alex thanked Dunn for working on this policy.

Dunn shared that there has been a series of budget meetings that have been held with each department and there will be another round of budget meetings which will include the board. There will be a final meeting in December to approve the appropriations which are outlined in the budget. Dunn said he will be sending out an email to the board asking for their availability and layout of the public budget meeting(s).

Fleshman said many years ago the board met on a Saturday and reviewed the budget line item by line item. Dunn said he is open to suggestions.

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Dunn explained that the next item on the agenda is the engagement letter for Jeff Wilcheck. Dunn said that Wilcheck has been working on the budget, past things, the monthly bank reconciliation, and pension reports. Wilcheck is charging the Township less than what he probably should be. I continue to research other CPA firms and there are other firms that charge thirty (30) to forty (40) more dollars per hour. There is a copy of the engagement letter which is asking for another two hundred (200) hours, this will likely carry him through the end of this year, said Dunn.

***Resolution 2021-183
Approve Engagement Letter #11 for Jeff Wilcheck***

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approved to accept engagement letter #11 between Franklin Township and Jeff Wilcheck for 200 hours at \$47.50 an hour.

Alex made a motion to adopt the above-stated resolution, Fleshman seconded the motion; with no further discussion, the roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Horn: abstained Fleshman: YES/ NO Alex: YES/ NO

Resolution passed.

Dunn explained that the American Rescue Plan (ARP) money ruling has had some changes which have not yet fully been explained. Dunn said he is waiting on clarification from the township's legal team. Once there is a clear definition of what these funds can be used for the board will be informed, said Dunn.

Fleshman said he is concerned about the short time the township has to use the money and we will be receiving another round of this funding soon. Dunn explained that the next round of ARP funding will not reach the township until September of 2022, so there is plenty of time.

Fleshman said he would like to be able to put the APR money into the police department. Dunn said once he obtains clarity on how the ARP money can be used he will let the board know.

Horn said we are not having a financial meeting. Fleshman said it is important that the public knows what the ARP money is about. Horn said Fleshman could call Dunn tomorrow. Dunn re-explained that the township has received these funds in 2021 and will receive the remaining balance in 2022.

Dunn introduced himself to the audience as the newly appointed/elected Fiscal Officer and offered his contact information to the public.

With no further discussion, Horn moved to questions from the audience.

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Questions from the Audience:

Dunn reminded everyone that they would be held to a three-minute limitation.

Joyce Phillips, an audience member, congratulated Fleshman for his service and his re-election. Phillips outlined Fleshman's traits in public office and admires him for his willingness to do for others.

Doug Tomlinson, an audience member, congratulated Fleshman for winning the elections. He recognized all of the departments and said that those departments can only do their work with the support of those who are elected. It is unfortunate that those who have previously been in the office end up being a sour egg over a lot of issues that concern all of us and it becomes personal to them instead of thinking of all of us. We have to eliminate staff like that. Ralph shared tonight that he does not want to be here. He is aggravated at the other two trustees and whatever is brought up to him, said Tomlinson. If you are tired of all of it Ralph, you should leave, said Tomlinson.

Horn said he might just do that. Horn said how would you like to be served before a regular meeting a lawsuit from your beloved John Fleshman. Tomlinson asked Horn what for? Horn said he did not know because he had to get ready for tonight's meeting. (audience laughed) Horn said he has worked to tell the truth in an unselfish way. Horn apologized for looking out for the Township's money and it is unfortunate that Tomlinson does not feel the same way. Tomlinson said businesses will not come into Franklin Township without a police or fire department. Horn said who was out on Sunday and Monday campaigning for the police levy? I was, said Horn, campaigning in the pouring down rain. Horn asked Tomlinson why he did not join him canvassing in support of the police levy?

Pastor Snodgrass said he thinks this enough on this issue and there are others who are waiting to speak.

Shirlee Hara, the audience member, explained the challenges that she has been facing related to her property located at 3217 Fisher Road, in tapping into the sanitary sewer lines. She shared that she has reached out to all appropriate parties and is still not getting anywhere.

Hara shared that there is a rooster crowing in a nearby neighbors yard and she did not think we were allowed to have roosters, a nine thousand (9000) square foot storage building next door and was given a variance, a salvage yard two houses to the east, a hoarder two houses to the west and at least two house on Fisher Road (between Wilson and Hague) that are multi-family homes. This is a possible indication of undocumented migrants, with many cars in the yard. Also, there is a foreclosed home across the street that was recently remodeled and is now a multi-family dwelling. There is also a salvage yard at the end of Fisher just beyond the prison (jail) at the corner of McKinley Avenue and Fisher Road.

Fleshman offered to help Hara with her property and connect her to the correct people from the County. Fleshman said he would have Mazer assist her in splitting her property. Fleshman said he is willing to put the leg work in to see if there is anything the Township can do.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Regular Meeting
November 4, 2021**

Mr. Ho, an audience member, compared Hopkins Avenue to Highway 88 at night. He then explains an incident where an individual smashed into a woman's car with two (2) children in the back seat where both of the children were taken to an area hospital. Ho continued to share that he reached out to Fleshman and then Fleshman got with Santa Claus (pointing at Horn), and was able to get two stop signs installed on Hopkins Avenue. Ho expressed his appreciation for everything they did and can now listen to the stolen catalytic converters as they drive away from the stop signs. Ho explained that that is nothing compared to everything slowing down.

Ho asked Horn to explain the audit and if it was from the Don Cook era? Ho said he saw political signs that said "re-elect Don Cook", and you cannot elect someone who is not elected in the first place. He is glad that Fleshman was re-elected because he knows that he can come to Fleshman when he needs something done.

Ho addressed Chief Smith from the police department and let him know that he did support the police levy and that he will keep the police levy sign in his front yard until they say yes to the police department. Ho told Horn it is time for him to be replaced.

Lt. Ratliff thanked Ho for campaigning and going out and spreading the word about the police levy. Ho said he went door-to-door encouraging folks to vote for the police levy.

With no other comments from the in-person audience, Dunn went to those members of the audience attending on ZOOM.

Adjournment:

With nothing further to discuss and no further comments or questions from the audience, Alex adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Aryeh Alex, Trustee

John Fleshman, Vice-Chairman/Trustee

Ralph Horn, Chairman/Trustee

Attested on the 4th day of November 2021

Nick Dunn, Fiscal Officer

Minutes were taken by ND and typed by RW
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 11/17/2021