

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

February 20, 2020

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Alex called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 20, 2020, at 2193 Frank Road.

Opening Prayer: Led by Pastor Snodgrass, Fire Chaplain.

The Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Trustee Fleshman.

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

Prior Meeting Minutes:

Alex motioned to approve the following minutes from the January 23, 2020, Regular Meeting, the January 29, 2020 Special Meeting and the February 6, 2020, Regular Meeting. Fleshman seconded the motion. With no discussion a vote was taken as follows: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes. The motion was passed.

Old Business

Resolutions:

The Fiscal Officer recommended the adoption of the following resolution. Alex moved, Fleshman seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes. Resolution passed.

Resolution 20-038

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves payroll ending on February 21, 2020, in the amount of \$273,478.80 and bills in the amount of \$42,044.08 for a total of \$315 531.88 from check number 62388 to check# 62423.

The Fiscal Officer recommended the adoption of the following resolution. Alex moved, Fleshman seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Horn, yes; Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes. Resolution passed.

Resolution 20-039

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves to pay Ricart Ford for repairs on M193 related to tires and acceleration issues. Expenditure to be paid out of EMS account number 2281-210-323-00. At a cost not to exceed \$3,024.65.

With no questions from the Board, Alex recognized Police Chief Smith to the floor to provide a report.

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New Business

Police Department Report:

Police Chief, Byron Smith informed the Board of an environmental issue at the rear of a business located at 101 Phillipi Road. Upon investigation this business was found to be dumping vehicle oil into the ditch to the west of their facility. The special investigative unit of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) is involved, said Smith.

With no questions from the Board, Alex recognized Deputy Carter from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to the floor to provide a report.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office Report:

Deputy Carter shared the following stats beginning on 02/06/202 and ending on 02/20/2020 for services rendered through the sheriff's office.

- 513 calls of service
- 75 accident reports
- 6 drug related offenses (includes 3 overdoses)
- 4 burglaries
- 15 stolen vehicles
- 3 stolen vehicles recovered
- 3 weapons related
- 1 robbery
- 21 thefts

With no questions from the Board, Alex recognized Fire Chief Welch to the floor to provide a report.

Fire Department Report:

Chief Welch informed the board that he had nothing to report on at this time.

With no questions from the Board, Alex recognized Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens to the floor to provide a report.

Road Department Report:

Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent asked the Board if he could explore options and the possibility of placing guard rails as well as posts with chains at the dead end of Longwood Avenue.

Fleshman explained that the Township could stagger the poles and chains there would be no way for cars or four-wheelers, can get through moving forward.

With no further discussion from the Board, Alex recognized the Fiscal Department to the floor for a report.

Fiscal Department Report:

Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer updated the Board that the annual Ohio Township Association Risk Management Association's (OTARMA) annual renewal

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questionnaire is due on May 2, 2020. Each department will need to complete their portion of the questionnaire, said Morris.

Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer, thanked Pastor Snodgrass for his prayer mentioning how the suicide rates related to first responders is on the rise. Watkins explained her involvement on the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Community Advisory Council and how the Sheriff's Office is working to bring on more clergy to support the deputies and the staff of the FCSO.

With no questions from the Board, each Board of Trustee member was recognized individually to the floor to provide a comment or an update.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Alex: Reminding everyone that early voting began today.

Trustee Fleshman: nothing to report

Trustee Horn: nothing to report

With no further comments from the Board, Alex recognized Administrator Potts to the floor to provide a report.

Administrator Report:

Administrator Potts shared that he spoke with the Administrator at Prairie Township and they are supportive on monitoring the illegal semi-truck parking in the Havenwood Townhome Community.

Potts also shared that he is working with our Township attorney to create a draft version of a *No Knock* policy utilizing language from a similar policy in Jefferson Township. More updates will come once the draft becomes available to review, said Potts.

With no comments from the Board, Alex recognized the speaker card participant, Charlene Combs.

Speaker Cards:

Charlene Combs, audience member shared that she received an informational sheet explaining the upcoming fire levy in the mail. She shared that even after reading the notice she is still confused as to what the actual tax increase will be for the taxpayers including herself.

Alex recognized Potts to answer Combs comments.

Potts explained the levy calculator which is available on the Franklin County Auditor's web page. Fleshman also shared how a Township wide levy works. If a Township-wide levy is passed this will bring previous entities who annexed into the City of Columbus (including residential and commercial) as far back as 2001 being required to pay into the fire levy fund.

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Steve Morris, member of the audience said the only reason the fire department needs an increased levy is due to their hefty pay raises and longevity pay.

Alex reminded Steve Morris not to speak out of turn. With no further comments Alex took questions from the audience.

Questions from the Audience:

Mike Blevins, audience member asked the fire chief that is states in a recent article within the Westside Messenger that the fire department plans to provide educational opportunities for the public to learn more about the levy. Blevins asked when these educational opportunities or public meetings would occur. Welch said that past levy meetings had minimal turnout from the public (one person to be exact), but based on what he heard tonight he believes a public meeting is needed.

The Board then asked Welch if he could look at his calendar tonight and provide a date/time so the public can be made aware before this meeting is over. Welch reviewed his calendar and stated a public meeting for the fire levy per Board approval can be scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2020, at 2193 Frank Road. The Board agreed for the fire department/union to host the meeting.

Alex asked Blevins if he had anything else and Blevins then asked for confirmation from Trustee Horn related to a comment he made in the same Westside Messenger article that if the fire levy does not pass there will be layoffs within the fire department. Horn said that he does not recall saying that layoffs would be inevitable. Blevins thanked Horn for the clarification. Horn said he does not appreciate members of the audience picking on the Board.

Trustee Horn as well as members of the audience were speaking out of turn and Alex reminded everyone that it is his responsibility as the chairman to keep order in the meetings. The chairman will announce each individual's name or title as to their turn on the floor. When someone has the floor, everyone is to remain quiet until I recognize them for comment, said Alex.

Alex recognized Mike Blevins who asked the Fiscal Officer what the status was on the advancements which were attempted to be read as resolutions at the February 6, 2020, Regular Board Meeting of which the Board tabled. Morris explained that the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) has been made aware and they will be addressing the historic advances which due to the general fund with the Board in the future.

Horn said the advancements are on hold because it is old money. Morris said the AOS Office is handling this matter not the board. Alex reminded Horn that the Fiscal Officer has the floor.

Blevins continued his questions with Morris and asked if the 2020 budget was good. Morris replied that the Township is currently working out of a

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temporary budget and that the AOS Office is assisting to ensure the Township's finances are stable. Alex recognized Fleshman to make a comment.

Fleshman shared how cuts in state/local funding have impacted each department and their revenue stream. Morris confirmed that the Tangible Personal Property Tax has reduced greatly over the last several years.

Alex recognized the Assistant Fiscal Officer, Robyn Watkins for comment. Watkins shared that the Fiscal Department is working closely with the AOS Office and Local Government Services (LGS) as the township prepares for our audit process. This process does include properly documenting all the 2020 budget related materials. We have a long way to go, but we have the right people helping us, said Watkins.

Alex reminded everyone of the fire levy meeting on February 24th.

With no further comment or discussion. Alex adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Signature on file with original
Aryeh Alex, Chairman

Signature on file with original
John Fleshman, Vice-Chairman

Signature on file with original
Ralph Horn, Trustee

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

Minutes were taken & typed by: R. Watkins
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 03/05/2020