

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Regular Meeting**

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

**June 11, 2020**

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**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 June 11, 2020, via teleconference.

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Trustee Fleshman

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

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

**Prior Meeting Minutes:**

*Alex made a motion to approve the following minutes from the Special Meetings held on May 26, 2020, May 29, 2020 and June 2, 2020, and the Regular Meeting held on May 28, 2020. Fleshman seconded the motion. With no discussion a vote was taken as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. The motion was passed.*

**Old Business**

**Resolutions:**

Fiscal Officer, Mary Rhinehart recommended the following resolution to read as follows:

**Resolution 20-112**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves:

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of Franklin Township, Franklin County during the year ending December 31, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, these are supplemental appropriations to adjust the annual appropriations that are effective from January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020,

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

SECTION 1, the sums presented in Exhibit A, hereto attached, be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made for and during the year ending December 31, 2020.

*Fleshman moved, Alex seconded the motion, with no discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. Resolution passed.*

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Fiscal Officer, Mary Rhinehart recommended the following resolution to read as follows:

**Resolution 20-113**

*BE IT RESOLVED* by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves bills in the amount of \$48,058.72 and payroll ending on 06/09/2020 in the amount of \$174,369.61 for a total of \$222,428.33. From check number 63386 to 63497 and electronic payments 169-2020 through 181-2020.

*Alex moved, Fleshman seconded the motion, with no discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. Resolution passed.*

**New Business:**

**Trustee Alex:**

Alex shared that other government entities such as the Franklin County Public Health and the Franklin County Commissioners have formally declared racism a public health crisis. Alex acknowledges that the health impact of racism in Ohio is affecting our entire community including Franklin Township.

Alex moved for the following resolution to be read as follows:

**Resolution \_\_\_\_\_**

Whereas on May 12, 2020, Franklin County Public Health passed a resolution stating that racism is a public health crisis; and

Whereas on May 19, 2020, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution Number 0341-20 declaring racism as a public health crisis; and

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio Board of Trustees fully support these resolutions and acknowledge along with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin County Public Health that racism is a public health crisis.

Motion failed due to lack of a second. Resolution did not pass.

Alex said that various parks and recreation centers throughout Central Ohio have implemented no smoking bans in their public parks and recreational areas. Franklin Township has one public park located in the Havenwood Townhome area and we should join other entities and support a smoke-free environment in our park, said Alex.

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Alex moved for the following resolution to be read as follows:

**Resolution 20-115**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio Board of Trustees that all Township parks are a smoke free zone. No person shall smoke or use any tobacco in the form of smokeless tobacco, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, including electronic cigarette cartridges and related products in any Township park.”

Fleshman said he would gladly support such a cause because this also impacts animals who ingest cigarette butts which are thrown on the ground.

*Fleshman seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. Resolution passed.*

Alex updated the board that currently the SB310/CARES Act is still pending and that he will present a resolution related to revenue from the CARES Act at a future meeting.

Alex welcomed Administrator Potts to speak on opening the front office to the public. Potts shared that effective Monday, June 15, 2020, the front office/window will reopen daily. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer will be available for public use when doing business at the window. We will resume providing police accident and incident reports at the window for a \$4.00 fee, Potts said.

Potts recommended the Board rescind resolution 2020-069 which stopped the \$4.00 police accident and incident reports \$4.00 fee.

**Resolution 20-116**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board rescinds Resolution 2020-069 and resumes the \$4.00 fee for police incident and accident reports effective June 15, 2020.

*Alex moved, Fleshman seconded the motion, with no discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. Resolution passed.*

**Trustee Fleshman:**

Fleshman said he has been attending the Franklin County Commissioner meetings via teleconferencing and was notified that the township has lost two additional parcels of land due to annexation into the City of Columbus.

Fleshman asked Alex when the public meetings would resume with the public in attendance at the township hall. Alex replied that as long as the social

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distancing order is in place that all public meetings they would continue to be held via teleconference.

Trustee Horn:

Horn said he has noticed recently that the trash is not being picked up by the trash hauler and that he has notified Paul Ebert of Franklin County, as well as Jim Stevens, our road superintendent, to assist in this matter.

Alex shared that Administrator Potts has been working closely with SWACO (Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio) as it related to a township-wide trash hauler consortium. Potts stated that the board should have a contract to review from the bid process in the coming weeks.

Fiscal Department:

Fiscal Officer Rhinehart recommended the following resolution as read:

**Resolution 20-114**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board hereby agrees to pay Goodyear Auto Service Center for new tires for M192 and the repair of a flat tire on E193 at a cost not to exceed \$1,314.86.

*Fleshman moved, Alex seconded the motion, with no discussion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. Resolution passed.*

Administrator Potts:

Potts welcomed Police Chief Smith to speak on police body cameras.

Horn asked Potts to ensure social distancing was being exercised as the business office window opens on June 15, 2020. Potts said he will go over safety precautions with the staff.

Police Department:

Chief Smith explained that he has been researching for the last several months the cost of purchasing and implementing a body camera program within the police department. There are a couple of options through Watch Guard Body Cameras:

1. Purchase of (1) one camera per police officer (total of 16 cameras)
2. Purchase of (1) once camera per police officer per shift (total of 6 cameras)

Watch Guard is the same company which the City of Columbus Police Department uses as well as other jurisdictions, said Smith.

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Smith continued with the cost of the program with implementing only (6) six cameras, set-up, software, etc. would cost the township approximately \$20,000.00 for the first year, then there would be an annual fee of \$4,000.00 to follow.

Alex and Horn welcomed the idea of the body cameras.

Smith said he would like the board to consider this expenditure to come out of the general fund as body cameras may potentially become a requirement of Ohio law. Smith said he will bring more information to the next meeting but wanted to inform the board of his research and the potential cost.

Smith also shared that he has received (2) two letters of support from former Judge VanDerKarr, and Mary Jo Dickerson, of Mount Carmel Hospitals, related to our previous discussion on creating tiny homes in Franklin Township.

Fleshman said Jordan's Crossing is a great supporter of this initiative and does great work in the community. They are not involved in housing, but provide services to people without resources/homes.

Rhinehart asked Smith if he was going to provide the crime statistics as listed on the agenda. Smith said he would report these statistics at the next meeting.

## Fire Department:

Fire Chief Welch provided fire/EMS runs for the month of May as 262 fire runs and 330 EMS runs.

Welch shared that Assistant Fire Chief, Charles Adams has submitted his resignation effective June 19, 2020.

*Alex made the following motion to accept the resignation of Charles Adams, effective June 19, 2020. Fleshman seconded the motion. Fleshman shared his thoughts on Adams and agreed he would be missed. With no further discussion a vote was taken as follows: Alex, yes; Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes. The motion was passed.*

Welch explained that with the resignation of Adams he was looking to streamline the tasks and obligations. With that be said, creating an EMS Coordinator Position would satisfy the needs of the fire department at this time. Lieutenant Arnold has stepped up and is willing to accept this position. He is the only employee who showed interest after the job was posted, said Welch.

Welch said he plans to come back to the board at a future meeting with a memo of understanding outlining the additional tasks Arnold will be taking on outside of the collective bargaining agreement.

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Potts reported that he had one comment from the public asking where Charles Adams is going. Welch said, Charles Adams accepted a position at Madison Township.

Potts explained that there were no further comments from the public via telephone, email or social media.

Alex asked if there were any other comments or questions. Rhinehart shared that the Auditor of State's Office met with the department heads today and recommended that they halt any new hires and new expenses until next month when the budget is complete. Horn agreed with Rhinehart and added the board needs to decide on the type of fire levy they are going to place on the ballot in November, and that he strongly supports a renewal levy.

Fleshman shared that the township would be receiving revenue from property taxes in a few months. Rhinehart reminded everyone that not all residents will be able to pay their property taxes and those arrears will be delayed payments to the township. She also noted that the revenues and appropriations are estimated amounts and therefore we need to hold down spending so that we have adequate funds at the end of the year.

With no further discussion, Alex adjourned the meeting at 7:32 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  
Mary Rhinehart, Fiscal Officer