

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

Regular Meeting

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

September 24, 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 September 24, 2020, via teleconference (ZOOM).

Opening Prayer: Led by Trustee Fleshman

The Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Trustee Horn

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Alex made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 10, 2020.

Fleshman asked the Assistant Fiscal Officer, Robyn Watkins, if his editing suggestion to rearrange the trustee names when voting was reviewed. Watkins agreed and said Fleshman's suggestion would be implemented with the next set of meeting minutes beginning with September 24, 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

SWACO Consortium II:

Alex provided a brief review from the September 10, 2020 regular meeting related to Consortium II. Alex asked the other board members if they had any comments for discussion. Horn said that he has not had an opportunity to review any of the material which was sent to him via email in the last few weeks related to Consortium II. Horn asked Alex if he could have some time to review the material provided. Alex agreed that a special meeting could be scheduled. Fleshman asked Alex if there was time to have a public meeting related to Consortium II to allow for public comment. Fleshman said he would like to ensure the public has adequate notice and has an opportunity for their comments to be heard. Alex asked Administrator Potts to schedule a special public meeting next week. Fleshman asked Potts to make sure this special meeting notice and login information was on the Township website for the public to access. Alex also asked Potts to connect with Horn before the meeting to review the Consortium II details so he is prepared for the special meeting.

Horn said that trash has been a terror in the past (due to non-payers). I am not sure the board can pull a reasonable contract together by the end of September, said Horn. Alex said that Potts has been working with SWACO for over the past year to address the non-payer issue. Fleshman commented that many issues were addressed with SWACO but not all issues were resolved.

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With no further discussion, Alex moved to resolutions.

Resolutions:

The Fiscal Officer recommended the following resolution:

Resolution 2020-182

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, the Annual Appropriations Resolutions 2020-103 for the period from January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020 needs amended.

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

SECTION 1, the amounts presented below are hereby appropriated.

<u>Fund/Program/Department</u>	<u>Current Appropriations</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Revised Appropriations</u>
<u>General (1000)</u>			
<u>Other Financing Uses</u>			
Other Financing Uses	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$125,000
<u>Fire Levy (2191)</u>			
Other Expenses	1,245,100	35,000	1,280,100
<u>CARES Provided Relief (2906)</u>			
Other Expenses	0	20,502	20,502

Fleshman asked Fiscal Officer Rhinehart how much the Township has incurred in penalties and late fees. Rhinehart said the penalties and late fees go back to 2014 and total approximately a half million dollars and that is not everything, said Rhinehart.

Alex moved and Fleshman seconded the Resolution, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:

Alex: YES/ NO

Fleshman: YES/ NO

Horn: YES/ NO

The Fiscal Officer recommended the following resolution:

Resolution 2020-182

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. Training and guidance in the areas of Ohio Budgetary requirements and accounting and financial reporting;
2. Assist in reconciling the 2020 financial records with the bank;
3. Assist with the budgets for 2020 and 2021;
4. Assist in reviewing the issues identified by the Auditor of State Audit and Local Government Services divisions relating to 2017 through 2019; and
5. Other services at the request of the Township and within the dollar limitations of this agreement;

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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. The work completed is subject to review and acceptance by the Township Fiscal Officer.

Fleshman said this would be his last time saying yes. Horn said he did not anticipate spending this kind of money. Horn said that since the board is currently working to schedule a time to meet with the Auditors of the State's Office (AOS) that he would like to propose only forty (40) hours for Wilcheck until this meeting. Wilcheck is helping Local Government Services (LGS) with the three-year bank reconciliations with which the Township paid LGS \$15,000.00, said Rhinehart. Horn said he understands what the board previously agreed to pay LGS but he would like to wait until the meeting with the AOS. Horn said we have paid Wilcheck close to \$20,000.00.

Rhinehart explained the Wilcheck has been paid \$12,000.00. Rhinehart asked the board for a compromise and could she propose them approving an engagement letter for Wilcheck for eighty (80) hours versus one-hundred sixty (160) as the resolution reads. Fleshman asked Rhinehart if Wilcheck would go through eighty (80) hours in two (2) weeks? Rhinehart said she was unsure how much time Wilcheck would go through.

Fleshman moved for the following resolution:

Resolution 2020-183

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. Training and guidance in the areas of Ohio Budgetary requirements and accounting and financial reporting;
2. Assist in reconciling the 2020 financial records with the bank;
3. Assist with the budgets for 2020 and 2021;
4. Assist in reviewing the issues identified by the Auditor of State Audit and Local Government Services divisions relating to 2017 through 2019; and
5. Other services at the request of the Township and within the dollar limitations of this agreement;

The fees are not to exceed \$3,000, for 80 hours of service billed periodically to the Township at a rate of \$37.50 per hour. The work completed is subject to review and acceptance by the Township Fiscal Officer.

Alex seconded the Resolution; the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:

Alex: ✓ YES/□ NO

Fleshman: ✓ YES/□ NO

Horn: ✓ YES/□ NO

The Fiscal Officer recommended the following resolution:

Resolution 2020-184

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the Board approves the accounts payables in the amount of \$26,704.78 and payroll ending on 09/15/2020 in the amount of \$163,665.26 for a total of \$190,370.04. From check number 64267 to 64418 and electronic vouchers from #448 through 485-2020.

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Alex moved. Fleshman seconded the Resolution; the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows:

Alex: YES/ NO

Fleshman: YES/ NO

Horn: YES/ NO

Rhinehart reported to the board that the Fiscal Department is still in need of a desk phone that will receive incoming calls for her assistant. We are also in need of cell phones for when there are instances when we have to work remotely. Several staff members have left who were assigned cell phones, those phones should be available, said Rhinehart. Fleshman asked Potts what the problem is on transferring to the new phone system. Potts explained that there have been issues porting the telephones from the old vendor to the new vendor. Potts shared that he will contact Verizon on the availability of cell phones. Fleshman said he is happy to intervene if this problem isn't solved soon. Horn said he will look into this as well.

With no further discussion, Alex moved to new business:

New Business:

Police Department:

Chief Byron Smith, who was not on the call, had nothing to report.

Fire Department:

Chief James Welch reported there was an accident involving Engine 192 on September 23, 2020, when the driver backed into Station 192. The accident is with the review board, said Welch.

Road Department:

Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens, who was not on the call, had nothing to report.

Trustee Report:

Aryeh Alex had nothing to report.

John Fleshman explained that the Mon-E-Bak/Brown Road East Sewer Project is still in progress.

Ralph Horn reminded staff that it is time to submit their contributions to the fall/winter newsletter. Horn said he is hoping that newsletter reaches the residents by mid-October 2020.

Fleshman asked to review the remaining meeting dates scheduled for 2020 and see if the board would like to return back to the normal schedule where meetings fall on payroll week.

The Assistant Fiscal Officer, Robyn Watkins asked the board to consider leaving the meetings on the opposite weeks of payroll. This change has made

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work in the fiscal department more streamlined and not pushed right on top of preparing for the meeting, said Watkins. When the meetings are on payroll week there is little time to process accounts payable, payroll and prepare the necessary documents for the meeting, Watkins explained.

Potts shared that there are only four (4) meetings left in 2020. Watkins said that she is fine with whatever the board decides for the remainder of 2020 but would ask for consideration as they create the schedule for the regular meetings in 2021 to be on non-payroll weeks.

Fleshman said if this new schedule is helping the Fiscal Department then he will remove his request for any further discussion on this matter.

Fiscal Department:

Fiscal Officer, Mary Rhinehart, had nothing further to report.

Administrator Report:

Administrator, Mark Potts explained to the board that he is obtaining quotes on what it would cost to increase the internet speed at the Township. The new body camera software requires a high volume of speed which is slowing down other equipment and reduces download speed. Once the quotes are obtained they will be presented to the board, said Potts.

With no further discussion, Alex moved to public questions.

Questions:

Potts checked to see if there were any comments via email or social media and then unmuted the listener phone lines for public comment.

Resident Mike Blevins asked the board the status of the high school scholarship program and if there would be any additional information coming out about the upcoming fire levy.

Alex said he would notify Chief Smith on the scholarship question for a later meeting and asked Welch to provide an answer on the fire levy question. Welch said a flier is being worked on by the fire union and also two (2) articles have been featured recently in the Westside Messenger highlighting the fire levy. Fleshman commented that this is a renewal levy which is the same as the current levy on the books.

Resident Robbyne Chaney expressed her dissatisfaction with Local Waste as her trash hauler and is not supportive of Consortium II. She also indicated there is a high volume of traffic at Volney & Harding with increased foot-traffic at 61 Volney. Chaney asked the board what the Township is doing for beggars' night 2020. She continued by asking what happened to the misdemeanor police investigator. Her final comment was that no one in the Township receives the Westside Messenger at their home so it has a limited audience.

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Alex explained that the investigator left to go to another entity and that he would report the activity on Volney to the police chief. Alex shared that the Township will follow the guideline outlined by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for beggars' night 2020. Alex thanked Chaney for her feedback related to Local Waste. Horn said that the MORPC website has guidelines posted about beggars' night.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, Alex adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Aryeh Alex, Chairman/Trustee

John Fleshman, Vice-Chairman/Trustee

Ralph Horn, Trustee

Mary Rhinehart, Fiscal Officer

Minutes were taken & typed by: R. Watkins
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 10/08/2020