

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Held at 2193 Frank Road**

**May 2, 2019**

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Chairman Fleshman called the Regular Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on May 2, 2019, at 2193 Frank Road.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Fleshman opened the meeting

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Pastor Snodgrass, Fire Department Chaplain

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

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

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

*Fleshman made a motion to approve the following minutes. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

- April 18, 2019                      Special Meeting
- April 18, 2019                      Regular Meeting
- April 24, 2019                      Special Meeting

**Guest Speaker:**

*Mark Potts –Final Candidate for Township Administrator*

He introduced himself to the audience and provided a summary of his experience and takes pride in being a resident of the Westside of Columbus for approximately 17 years.

*Fleshman moved for the adoption of the following resolution. Alex seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Fleshman, yes; Horn, no; Alex, yes.*

**Resolution 19-073**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board will create a Memo of Understanding (MOU) for the position of Township Administrator including salary. Once the MOU and salary is reviewed, the Board will accept or deny the position of Administrator.

**Old Business**

**Resolutions:**

*Fleshman moved for the adoption of the following resolution. Alex seconded the motion, the roll was called for its adoption and the vote was as follows: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

**Resolution 19-072**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the May 3, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$149,387.77 and bills in the amount of \$147,501.43 for a total of \$296,889.92 from check number 50175 to 50292.

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With no questions from the audience, Fleshman moved to New Business.

## **New Business:**

### **Police Department Report:**

*Byron Smith, Police Chief* had nothing to report.

With no questions from the audience, Fleshman moved to the Fire Department.

### **Fire Department Report:**

*Charles (Chas) Adams, Assistant Fire Chief* shared that the fire department will be hosting a free CPR class to Township residents on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Station 192 located at 4100 Sullivant Avenue.

Chief Adams reminded everyone to read the article in the Spring/Summer news letter from the fire department related to their home owners insurance and how the new Township rating could provide a reduction in premiums.

Alex thanked the fire department for their donation of \$500 cash and bikes/helmets to a local school carnival in our Township. Chief Adams said it was a great opportunity for the fire department to engage in the community. We took the fire engine and smoke house to the carnival to participate in the carnival, said Adams.

Fleshman shared how the smoke house works in providing education to children on how to escape in case of a fire.

Alex asked Adams to explain the Community Health Action Team the Township is forming. The Township met with Franklin County Public Health to identify food access for our citizens due to the Westside being a “food desert”, said Adams.

Horn said partnering with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank is an intricate part of establishing a food pantry in Franklin Township. Horn shared his experience in working with Mid-Ohio Food Bank in the past.

Fleshman acknowledged Horn’s efforts on securing a new trucking company into the Township with no annexation to the City of Columbus.

With no further discussion, Fleshman moved to the Road Department.

### **Road Department Report:**

*Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent* updated the Board on the results of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Facilities Audit. We passed the audit with flying colors with no infractions, said Stevens.

Stevens provided a progress report on the property located at 2173 Frank Road in preparation for the Police Department’s modular unit. Currently the project

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is under budget as the goal is to complete the required tasks in house without hiring an outside company to remove trees or other items from the property, Stevens reported.

Fleshman asked if there were plans to retain the small barn-like building to the rear of the structure. Stevens said this building was built on and would not be a structure which could be moved, so the plan is to demolish all structures which are located on the property, said Stevens. There had been talk of reaching out to Habitat for Humanity to see if there was anything inside the house that their organization could use but after accessing the house there was nothing left worth salvaging at this point said Stevens.

The Road Crew has begun identifying House Bill 50 properties for notification on high grass and noxious weeds due to all of the rain. Based on the House Bill 50 ruling the properties have to time out before the Township has authority to enter the grounds to mow, said Stevens. Stevens reminded everyone that the Road Crew is still short handed in staff so we ask the residents to please be patience as we are working as quickly as we can to address reported issues.

Currently we are advertising for part-time summer help to assisting in getting caught up, said Stevens.

Fleshman asked Stevens if he followed up with a resident about standing water and the rocks inhibiting the water flow near his yard. Stevens confirmed he followed up with the resident and verified that the water is flowing.

Horn asked both the Road Superintendent and Assistant Fire Chief about the flooding which occurred in the Westfield/Eastfield areas. The Road Superintendent said his crew was not involved in this event and the Assistant Fire Chief said he would follow up with the Fire Chief and the fire fighters which were on duty at the time.

Mike Blevins, member of the audience asked Stevens if he was aware of a company on Harrisburg Pike who is parking trucks just north of the new American Electric Power (AEP) substation. They laid rocks in the culvert and are driving over them versus placing in a drain which is going to cause water to back up, said Blevins. The Township would not be notified of this project since it is located in an Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) right of way, but I am happy to check in to it, said Stevens.

With no further questions, Fleshman moved to the Fiscal Department.

### **Fiscal Department Report:**

Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer is not present and the Fiscal Department had nothing on the agenda to report.

With no questions from the audience, Fleshman moved to Trustee Reports.

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### **Trustee Reports:**

*John Fleshman, Trustee* had nothing to report.

*Ralph Horn, Trustee* brought to the Board's attention that the Board needs to do a better job reviewing vendor contracts in the future. Fleshman agreed that with hiring an Administrator they will assist the Board on timelines and contract language.

*Aryeh Alex, Trustee* thanked everyone who came out to the Westland Area Economic Development Meeting that was held by Franklin County. There were over 100 people who attended the meeting and this is the first time in a long time I've seen residents so excited, said Alex.

Fleshman agreed that this meeting was a great representation how the residents of the Township support the redevelopment. The County is supporting the Township and doing their part to assist in retaining the property at the Westland Mall site within Franklin Township with no annexation, said Fleshman.

Horn recommended to the Board if Aryeh would reach out to Mr. Shimmer from the County to see if he would come down to the Township prior to the next Regular Meeting. Also, he would like to spend some time speaking with Chief Welch on resuming conversation on creating a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD), said Horn. The Board was really close to creating a JEDD but with the advice of our Township attorney we decided to place the JEDD on hold, said Horn. It's time to resume those conversations again and see if a JEDD can become reality, stated Fleshman.

Fleshman explained to the audience what it means to create a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD). It simply means it protects the district within the JEDD from annexation for fifty (50) years as well as provides incentives to the local businesses within the JEDD area, explained Fleshman.

With no further discussion and no questions from the audience, Fleshman moved to Speaker Cards.

### **Speaker Cards:**

*Scott Rodgers, Rodgers Technologies, LLC.* Thanked the department heads for their support during his contract with the Township. My contract has been cancelled by the Township with a new IT company being brought in at a higher rate. I am also very disappointed in how things were handled in cancelling my contract. I would have preferred if someone would have come to me and ask if there was anything I could do to assist the Township, said Rodgers. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Horn for calling me and bringing this contract cancellation to my attention, said Rodgers.

Rodgers stated the Township broke a three (3) year contract. The contract was signed by the Board of Trustees and was effective from 12/31/2016 through 12/31/2019. Fleshman said per his understanding the Township had a thirty

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(30) day notice to cancel the contract. Fleshman said from time to time the Township chooses to change vendors. Rodgers said the contract was clearly broken and that he had contacted his lawyer. With that being said, this conversation is over said Fleshman.

With no further discussion Fleshman moved to take questions from the audience.

### **Question from the Audience:**

*Patty Spencer, member of the audience* introduced herself as the newest member of the Southwest Area Commission. She shared that she has been a Boy Scout leader for over 20 years and offered that when the time comes for the new Police Department modular to build a handicap ramp this can be considered an Eagle Scout community service project. The Eagle Scouts would have a mentor on site to guide them on the project, said Spencer. Fleshman said the Township would have to ensure the Township has plans ADA approved to build the ramp before the Eagle Scouts could begin. Spencer agreed. The Eagle Scouts are also available to assist with community gardens as well, said Spencer.

Spencer shared public comments she has obtained (pros and cons) on their perspective of the new traffic camera system.

The Township has only one (1) officer specifically scheduled to sit and monitor speeders in the Township. We have other officers on the same shift covering the other needs of the Township in the areas of police protection, said Fleshman. Spencer said she was told (undocumented) by an individual that they received a speeding ticket going only one (1) mile over the posted speed limited. Fleshman asked Spencer to have this individual bring the ticket in to the Township and if it is true, he will pay the ticket himself. Fleshman turned this over to the Police Chief to comment.

*Byron Smith, Police Chief* said if an individual is sited with a ticket which reflects them only going one (1) mile over the speed limit they need to contact the Township immediately because there is a glitch in the system. The radar is set to only identify those vehicles that are going over a specified speed only.

*Assistant Chief Adams* shared how the he has witnessed a change in the speed of traffic through the school zones since the traffic camera program has been implemented. Before the cameras the Fire Department would sit a fire truck near the school zone in hopes to slow drivers down and it did not work. The traffic cameras are definitely working to reduce speeders in the school zones, said Adams.

Horn said he attended the last Southwest Area Commission meeting in April 2019, as well as our Township Secretary Erin Crome to address the traffic camera issues presented by the Commission and the residents in attendance at their meeting. Spencer agreed that she took the answers and posted them on the Commissions Facebook page. Horn said, if questions continue that he is

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happy to address them individually. If you just drive the speed limit then you won't get a ticket, said Fleshman.

Horn thanked Spencer for attending both the Township and Southwest Area Commission meetings.

*Mike Blevins, audience member* thanked the Department Heads for their contribution to the latest newsletter. The information provided by the departments was very helpful, said Blevins. Fleshman said, the woman in the office were responsible for putting the newsletter together and thank you for your comment.

*Linda Mercer, audience member* said she was very disappointed that the newsletter did not provide more information about the Township block watch groups. We were hoping the newsletter notice would enable our block watch to grow and increase attendance, said Mercer. Mercer also asked when the deadline is to submit a Township logo sample. Alex stated that the deadline for a logo submission is May 16, 2019. Mercer said she is working on a sample to submit.

*With no further discussion, Fleshman made a motion to adjourn. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Signature on File  
John Fleshman, Chairman

Signature on File  
Ralph Horn, Vice-Chairman

Signature on File  
Aryeh Alex, Trustee

Signature on File  
Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer  
Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Minutes were taken by: Erin Crome  
Minute were typed by: Robyn Watkins  
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 05/16/19