

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Special Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting**

**Held at 2193 Frank Road**

**September 26, 2018**

Chairman Horn called the Special Meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on September 26, 2018, at 2193 Frank Road.

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

The Purpose of the Meeting: 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting

*Horn made a motion to suspend the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of any previous meeting minutes. Alex seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, yes.*

Those in attendance were the Board of Trustees, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Administrative Coordinator, Fiscal Officer, Assistant Fiscal Officer, Road Superintendent, and Township Secretary. The meeting was open to the public but there was no one from the public present in the audience.

Horn began the meeting by addressing the environmental issues present at 1963 Harrisburg Pike (also referred to as the white house). Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens distributed photos of the water damage and moisture in the basement of the white house. Fleshman asked Stevens if a second opinion is needed based on the results of the photos. Stevens shared that the Township had previously paid for a professional company to assess the basement. Those assessments determined that there is a constant flow of water entering the basement (spring fed). The best solution at that time was for the Township to keep a sump pump running 24/7 to keep the water moving out of the basement. Stevens shared if the Board is looking for a more permanent solution then the Township should expect to pay several thousand dollars to a professional.

Alex agreed that based on the photos the conditions in the basement are a health issue for staff and all who enter the house. Alex also stated he would like to see all Township staff working under the same roof. Horn supports moving the staff out of the white house immediately.

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Alex said moving everyone to 2193 Frank Road is not going to be ideal due to lack of space but he asked everyone to be patient while this issue is addressed. Police Chief updated the Board on the modular unit indicating that once the unit is available this will be a viable solution for the police department. Assistant Fire Chief Adams let the Board know that once a modular unit is put into place it is permanent and is designed not to be moved.

Since the Board is aware of this issue, Chief Welch shared that no one should be entering 1963 Harrisburg Pike without a respirator and/or a mask.

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 18-185**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves immediately that Township staff cannot enter 1963 Harrisburg Pike (the white house) until the house has been inspected by a professional and the environment and air-quality is determined to be safe.**

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 18-186**

**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Assistant Fire Chief and/or the Road Superintendent to contact the Franklin County Public Health as well as a company who focuses on treatment of water damage to inspect and test 1963 Harrisburg Pike for hazards and air quality.**

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### **ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens distributed to the Board a written acquisition developed by the Township attorney permitting the Board to take action to purchase the property located at 2173 Frank Road. The acquisition was signed by the Board as well as the Fiscal Officer.

The Assistant Fire Chief confirmed that the fire department will be responsible for the destruction of the structure on 2173 Frank Road. The Fire Chief indicated he would prepare an estimate of cost for the destruction of the structure for the Board to review.

Stevens resumed by sharing with the Board that the Township has two trees which are located on Township property in the Broadlawn area which need to be removed due to safety issues as one tree has fallen onto private property. Stevens continued by sharing the estimates he received for the trees to be removed. The estimate to remove the fallen tree at 3633 Harding is \$2,177.00 and to remove the second smaller tree in the alley off Annette Street is \$577.00.

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 18-187**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio that the Board approves the Road Superintendent to contact *Peterman Tree and Lawn Service* for removal of two trees. One tree which has fallen onto private property located at 3633 Harding as well as a second tree located in the alley off of Annette Road. The removal of both trees shall not exceed \$2,900.00.

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### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Fire Chief, James Welch updated the Board on the ongoing maintenance issues related to Engine 193. Currently, the fire department is using a fire engine on loan from Clinton Township while Engine 193 is in the repair shop.

Chief Welch stated that he is researching data to determine if a Township-wide levy is possible in 2019.

Welch stated that the new fire truck should arrive in February 2019 as scheduled.

Welch also shared that he has instructed all firefighters that if a fire should break-out at the former Westland Mall structure that they are not to go onto the roof due to structural failure. The Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) also inspected the structure and agreed with the Township on the failing structure. FCPH will not be taking any action due to the structure being unoccupied. The Township did notify the owner of the property of the structural findings based on code enforcement.

Fire Chief Adams is pursuing grants for potential equipment for the fire department in 2019.

Welch updated the Board that discussions related to a potential JEDD (Joint Economic Development District) are surfacing again. He has reached out to the City of Grandview for continued conversation. Also, Franklin County is exploring the idea of a County-wide Tax Increment Taxing (TIF) which Townships in Franklin County would benefit from.

Welch informed the Board that he would be reaching out to the Township insurance agent, Linda Faulk to begin discussion on the health insurance premiums for 2019.

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### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Police Chief, Byron Smith began by saying that Columbus Preparatory Academy is requesting police to be present in the mornings at the intersection of N. Hague Avenue and Chippewa Street for traffic direction control. Smith stated that currently he does not have enough police officers on duty at any given time to dedicate specifically for traffic control. The Board agreed with Chief Smith that Franklin Township cannot support having officers designated to Columbus Preparatory School to conduct traffic control. Smith stated the only way he would be able to supply an officer to conduct traffic control at this intersection is if the school is willing to pay for a special duty officer. Alex recommended that the school contact the school board which they are affiliated with to update them on the traffic flow issue the school is experiencing.

Smith reported that he continues to work to identify a modular unit for the police department. Smith continued that the modular unit would be placed at the property located at 2173 Frank Road once the property is purchased by the Township, permits are in place and the land is prepared for the placement of the modular. He also stated that the entire police department as well as his office will be housed in the modular unit. Smith indicated he has reached out to his contact and is waiting on a response related to obtaining a modular unit via donation or purchase.

The Chief said that the fleet of police cars is holding up well mechanically that the most common expense is preventative maintenance and brakes. In 2019, the Chief will be rotating his fleet and replacing a couple of the older cruisers with a newer model. Rotating the fleet is cheaper than high maintenance costs to operate older cars, said Smith.

Smith indicated the police officers have had to use Narcan in several instances lately. Franklin Township is one of the highest areas within Franklin County with opioid overdose cases.

The Police Chief distributed the latest special duty overtime spreadsheet to the Board for review. Smith said that his next overtime report will have a breakdown of time spent specifically related to drug activity.

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### **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

*John Fleshman* wanted to remind everyone that if outside groups are invited to use 2193 Frank Road for a meeting that there is to be a Township employee on the premises to ensure the building is securely locked after the meeting.

*Ralph Horn* shared the most recent invoice from the Township attorney with the Board and explained that the invoice keeps increasing each month and he wants to know why. Alex stated he has never contacted the Township attorney. Fleshman said he keeps his contact with the attorney brief. Horn stressed that the Board needs to communicate their legal needs with each Board member before contacting the attorney and incurring legal fees. The County Prosecutor's Office is a free service which the Township can utilize, said Horn.

*Aryeh Alex* recommends the Township release a Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2019 to other attorneys who specialize in local government. This would allow the Township to explore legal options and the going rate of other attorneys in the field, says Alex.

Trustee Alex left the meeting at 9:56 a.m. due to another business obligation. Chairman Horn and Trustee Fleshman proceeded with the meeting.

### **SECRETARY REPORT:**

Secretary, Erin Crome reported that Township cleaning and paper supplies are disappearing from the supply cabinet and she is requesting a lock to be placed on the cabinet.

*Fleshman made the following motion that a lock is to be placed on the cabinet which holds the cleaning and paper supplies at 2193 Frank Road. Horn seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Fleshman, yes; Alex, absent.*

Ms. Crome also shared that when she went to use the Township vacuum cleaner the handle was broken on the canister. The vacuum can still be used, but Ms. Crome is unclear as to how the canister was broken.

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### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Administrative Coordinator, Jessica Rice discussed the contract between the Township and the City of Columbus related to the Hollywood Casino. Jessica asked the Board if she could speak with the County Prosecutor pertaining to specific language within the contract.

*Fleshman made the following motion to allow the Administrative Coordinator permission to contact the County Prosecutor related to the language within the agreement between Franklin Township and the City of Columbus pertaining to the Hollywood Casino. Horn seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Horn, yes; Fleshman, yes; Alex, absent.*

Ms. Rice presented a letter of support for House Bill 620 to Chairman Horn for his signature, per Resolution 18-158.

10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – brief break took place.

10:15 a.m. – meeting resumed with Horn proceeding to the Fiscal Department.

### **FISCAL DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Assistant Fiscal Officer, Robyn Watkins distributed new forms which the Fiscal Department is asking each department to use related to documenting attendance, corrective action, and employee files. The Board reviewed the documents and accepted the Fiscal Officer's recommendation to be implemented within each department. Ms. Watkins asked Chairman Horn if

he would be available the second week in October to begin the annual record retention documentation and schedule. Chairman Horn agreed the second week in October would work for him.

The Fiscal Officer, Lisa Morris asked the Board what the status was on the draft version of the Employee Handbook which the Assistant Fiscal Officer submitted for Board review several months ago. Both Horn and Fleshman asked that Trustee Alex be present for that conversation. With that being said, the topic of the Employee Handbook was tabled.

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*With no other business to discuss, Horn motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Fleshman seconded the motion. A vote was taken: Fleshman, yes; Horn, yes; Alex, absent. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.*

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Ralph Horn, Chairman

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Aryeh Alex, Vice-Chairman

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John Fleshman, Trustee

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Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer or  
Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Minutes were taken and typed by: Robyn Watkins  
Minutes approved by Board of Trustees on 10/04/18