**01/12/2023 Regular Meeting 12:00 PM**

**Chairman Leezer called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM**

**Pledge**: Jan Legge

**Prayer**: Chaplain Snodgross

**Roll Call:** Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes, Fleshman: Yes, AFO Robyn: Yes

Leezer asked Steve Mazer to lead realignment of the board.

Steve asked for nominations for Chairman- Leezer nominated John Fleshman, Fleshman seconded.

Leezer stated it was fair practice as Fleshman has not been chair for the longest out of the three of them

**Roll Call**- Leezer: Yes, Horn: Abstain, John: Yes.

Steve asked for nominations for Vice Chair- John stated that he would like to nominate Leezer for Vice as per fair practice. Leezer Seconded

**Roll Call**- Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes, John: Yes.

2023 Chairman: Fleshman - Vice Chairman: Leezer

Leezer gave thanks to the residents, and the opportunity to have served as chair.

**Old Business:** Approval of meeting minutes: 12/1/22, 12/8/22, 12/13/22, 12/15/22, 12/21/22, 1/5/23

John asked if they received them- Steve confirmed that they had received them in email prior to the meeting. John states that he did not see/read them.

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: abstain, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**New Business:**

**Police Department-Chief Smith:**

Gave stats inform about speed trailer on hart rd. and surrounding areas. 52 traffic stops- 8 citations, many warnings and also impounds. Speed trailer will be placed on Hopkins rd. next.

**Deputy Hamilton:** Taking applications for Citizens Academy with the franklin county sheriffs office.

**Fire Department-Chief Arnold:**

Gave general information about 2022: Run Numbers- Our fire department responded to 10,804 emergencies- of that 1,560 were in township. Station 192 took 5,481. Station 193 took 5,323

Medics took about 4,000 Engines just under 3,000. 120 working fire responses.

Fleshman asked about giving out smoke detectors. Chief Arnold said we will come out and install a free smoke detector, just contact the office (Nicole) and it will get scheduled for you.

**Chief Arnold requested a Motion to accept resignation of FF Jordan Bittner effective December 22nd, 2022. Fleshman Made Motion, Leezer Seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: abstain, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Chief Arnold presented resolution to hire Elijah Malench, who has been a firefighter with the township previously. Fleshman asked if he had any additional skill skills or education that he was bringing back with him. Chief said that they do tons of training at the firehouse he is coming back from, but nothing formal.

Fleshman made motion to accept Resolution 2023-002 to hire Firefighter Elijah Malench level FF1, Leezer Seconded.

**Resolution 2023-002 to hire Firefighter Elijah Malench level FF1,**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Arnold presented resolution to increase EMS Rates. Fleshman agreed that it is necessary, and asked for a second onResolution 2023-004 to increase EMS rates, if there was no further discussion. Leezer Seconded.

**Resolution 2023-004 to increase EMS rates**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Road Department- Jim Stevens-** wants to let people know they are spending time cleaning up alleys, and foliage and trash. Jim and his crew are thanked for their hard and long work clearing roads during the recent winter storm.

Leezer talked about how he in impressed with Ryan and how he handled pedestrian vehicles while plowing the roadways during the storm.

**Fiscal Office- Robyn Watkins:**

**motion to approve accounts payable from December 16, 2022, through January 12, 2023**, in the amount of $200,613.23 and payroll dated December 23, 2022, totaling $164,644.60, payroll dated December 30, 2022, totaling $8,970.86, and payroll dated January 6, 2023, totaling $168,722.42, for a combined amount of $542,951.11. From check number 68573 to 68641 and electronic vouchers in 2022.from 1985-2022 ending with 2069-2022 and electronic vouchers in 2023 beginning with 1-2023 through 64-2023. Fleshman Made Motion, Leezer seconded

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Robyn then discussed Supplemental Appropriations #1 for $600,000 for the police department, this amount was in the budget meetings had with the board, but somehow did not get included when submitted to the budget commission. It has been corrected and is being asked for approval with Resolution 2023-008. John makes motion to accept, Leezer seconded.

**Resolution 2023-008 a resolution to provide supplemental appropriations #1 for the period commencing January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Assistant Fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins makes request, that during this time while she is in the temporary role of assuming the Fiscal Officers duties, she be included in any and all conversations that are fiscal related. In order to be kept aware of what is happening, as it relates to the fiscal office, she asks for the board support to be included during this temporary time, in conversations related to finance.

**Fleshman makes motion to recognize Robyn Watkins, that Robyn be informed of any and all future meetings that are held, and that she be at each meeting. Leezer seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Leezer thanked Robyn for stepping up, compliments her insurance negotiations, and thanks her for her dedication and time while we are lacking a Fiscal Officer.

**Administrator- Steve Mazer:**

**Resolution 2023-007 -Approving Obligations Authorized by the Township Administrator (December 16, 2022 – January 12, 2023)**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Resolution 2023-005- Approving the use of ARPA Funds for the Purchase of 2.34 Acres of Property for the Township**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Fleshman makes motion to amend Resolution 2022-200:** *$235,000 for property on Harrisburg Pike and Frank Roads for 3 parcels, to state* **“Not to exceed $240,000”**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Abstain

**Resolution 2023-003 for the donation of a Traffic Counter to the Lithopolis PD, Fleshman makes motion to accept, Horn seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Resolution 2023-006 approving advanced property tax payments, Fleshman makes motion to accept, Jim seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Resolution 2022-198 accepting Nicholas Dunn’s resignation, Fleshman makes motion to accept, Jim seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Motion to approve meeting schedule for 2023-** discussion is had about the meeting time of noon versus the previous time of 6pm. Ralph has concerns about how it excludes the residents that work during the day. Jim suggest splitting them. Fleshman comments to keep them the same stating “You can’t please everyone”, then moves onto months that have three meeting dates. Leezer reminds Fleshman that the next meeting date of January 26th conflicts with the OTA conference. Fleshman motions to move the 26th meeting date to the 24th, and to otherwise accept the calendar as presented, with meeting times set at 12 Noon. Leezer seconded.

Ralph ask for clarification on the meeting times, as he feels that the public was not considered. Due to this he chose to abstain.

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Abstain

**Motion to approve medical insurance rates for 2023-2024 Employee portion of Insurance rates for for Elected Officials and administrator. Fleshman made motion, Leezer seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Motion to approve assistant Fiscal Officer to sign documents including checks and PO’s, temporarily until new Fiscal Officer is appointed. Fleshman made motion, Horn seconded.**

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

**Resolution 2023-001** approving the removal of former Fiscal Officer, Nicholas Dunn from all Township accounts, including removal as a signer of the PNC bank account effective January 5, 2023

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Fleshman make motion to request of, and approve the Administrator to do research on a Township wide levy, and to report back to the board his findings. Fleshman made motion, Horn Seconded.

**Roll Call:** Fleshman: Yes, Leezer: Yes, Horn: Yes

Mazer briefs the board on the upcoming event meetings for the OTA, FCTA, and Rapid 5.

**Guest speaker sign-up**

**Patty Spencer of the southwest area commission** speaks- lets residents know that many of them are also within the SWAC borders and invites them to their meetings, and to even join the commission.

**Chip Tate**- reminds people that his block watch is set to meet, here at the township, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm.

**Pastor Snodgrass**, speaking as a resident of the township- regarding resolution 2023-005- using funds to purchase 2.34 acres. He states he was at the meeting where the board approved the purchase for 235,000, and today they increased it to $240,000. He states he a 3-part question regarding this purchase.

1. What is the boards vision for that property

2. Have we entered into an agreement for feasibility for that goal.

3. When is the board going to present that to the township, as this is the townships money being spent and the residents have the right to be informed of this.

Fleshman states that yes, we have a purpose, we have a new building that we are already getting into for the design because the building back here is not safe, so that is the feasibility for that property starting off right away. He talks more about getting a new building, hopefully through a Bi-annual Capital budget, and this eventually could be a parking lot. Thirdly tax payer dollars were not used, uncle Sam’s dollars were used. Fleshman says when you are negotiating property that you do not discuss it in open meetings.

Trustee Horn makes a statement that he is opposed to the purchase of the property, that it was not a financially wise purchase, as we have other needs which the 235,000 could have been utilized for.

Fleshman interjects and states that it has been something that has he and others have had in the works for some time, around 2 years.

Horn begins to comment on the immediate uses, Fleshman tell him he will let him speak in a minute. Fleshman mentions obtaining a million-dollar complex that cost us practically nothing, if we can get this “what I’m working on”, the property itself did not cost the taxpayers a dollar, each trustee had their own opinion and made it in a public meeting. Pastor Snodgrass says that it the way they presented the purchase of this property was misleading. Fleshman apologizes that it was misleading, and refuses Trustee Horn the ability to comment further.

Cindi Cline ask where this property is located- and confirms that it has been sitting for 20 years. She goes on to question prior year financial records, that had no resolution as of yet, she states 2014 in error, referring to 2020 reconciliations that Jeff Wilcheck made statements about moneys not being posted to the account. Robyn Watkins updates the public that she and Admin Assistant Nicole Randazzio found the transactions in the account, that Jeff claimed were not there.

Fleshman recognizes Trustee Horn to speak at 1:14:42- Ralph Horn says he has been told that the property we have on Sullivant Ave. has more than enough size to accommodate the needs of the Road Dept. He feels like we have another situation where the other 2 trustees want to spend money on things that we do not need, He feels they are money hungry, Jim Leezer even more so than former trustee Alex. Fleshman cuts him off and stops him at 1:15:57 and adjourns the meeting at 1:16:02, no time is given.