

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Franklin Township

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

February 23rd, 2023

Chairman Fleshman called the special meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order and opened in prayer.

Resident Jan Legg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Old Business: meeting minutes

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to table the 02/09/23 regular and special meeting minutes.

Trustee Leezer seconded

New Business: Police Department

Lieutenant Ratliff read a letter of resignation from Officer Kevin Distelhorst.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resignation.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Trustee Leezer inquired about plans to obtain flock cameras which assist police in identifying vehicles of interest. They are about \$5,000, along with a monthly fee. The city plans to launch some out west of the Township which we will be included in.

Chairman Fleshman inquired of Deputy Hamilton regarding the statistics of stolen vehicles. He did not have figures for the Township, but CPD and Franklin County had about 6200 in 2022, up from 2300 the year before.

New Business: Fire Department

Chief Arnold requested the final approval to use ARPA Funds if the BWC grant is approved to purchase a Power Cot, as requested at the last meeting. Administrator Mazer confirmed that the Trustees agree to allow the use of ARPA funds for the purchase.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for resolution 2023-021 for the purchase of a power cot not to exceed \$24,000, contingent on if the Township is awarded the applicable BWC grant.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes

New Business: Roads Department

Superintendent Stevens updated the board with a quote to remove the tree located at 1840 Little Ave. The quote is \$2,997.00. The quote is to take the tree down and cut it down to ground level and does not cover stump removal due to the paved driveway surrounding the tree.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for resolution 2023-022 approving Peterman Tree Service to remove a tree from the public right of way, located at 1840 Little Avenue, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Superintendent Stevens spoke to the board about the status of the Road Department building. It is deteriorating quickly. He has put renderings together and obtained a few quotes. He and his department are capable of completing many aspects of the work needed. He has been informed that the board would prefer the project be completed as a turnkey, requiring architectural drawings to receive accurate quotes. Trustee Fleshman asked Administrator Mazer if he could facilitate this within his scope of expense approval. Administrator Mazer asked for clarification regarding the type of builder and plans requested.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to allow Mr. Stevens and the administrator to continue fact-finding, cost, layout drawings, and remnants of said building to replace the existing building.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

New Business: Fiscal Department

Motion for Bills and Payroll- Approve accounts payable from February 10th, 2023, through February 23rd, 2023, in the amount of \$167,473.46 and payroll dated February 17th, 2023 totaling \$165,875.21 for a combined amount of \$333,348.67. From check number 68778-68807 and electronic vouchers #232/2023- 316/2023

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins asked for a resolution for a supplemental appropriation of \$9,000 regarding the purchase of a new EMS Supervisor vehicle not to exceed \$60,000- formally approved at \$51,000 in resolution 2022-150.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve resolution 2023-018 for Supplemental Appropriation #3 of \$9,000.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Trustee Fleshman asked Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins, who was handling the meeting minutes. Robyn explained that the Administrative Assistant, Nicole, is currently preparing the minutes due to the staffing shortage with the lack of a current Fiscal Officer. Trustee Fleshman states it is great that we can work together, but per the ORC, that is to be handled by the fiscal department. The administrator has approved Nicole to assist the fiscal department temporarily, and all agreed.

New Business: Administrative

Motion for resolution 2023-020 approving obligations authorized by the Township Administrator from February 10th, 2023, through February 22nd, 2023, in the amount of \$61,298.80.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Chairman Fleshman acknowledged that an employee had their hand raised, commenting that the board is not taking any questions at this time.

Motion for resolution 2023-017 to accept engagement letter #19 between the Franklin Township Board of Trustees and Jeff Wilcheck, CPA (retired), for 200 hours at \$55.00 an hour for a total of \$11,000.00.

Trustee Fleshman proposed an amendment from 200 hours to 500 hours to ensure Wilcheck has enough hours to continue what he is currently working on without having to return to the board for additional approval for a total of \$27,500.

There was a discussion about the current agreement by the administrator and Jeff Wilcheck and whether it was necessary to approve 500 hours. Trustee Horn would like to keep the current agreement of 200 hours. Trustee Fleshman agreed to approve the resolution as currently written.

Administrator Mazer informs the board that the new fiscal officer will start on March 1st. An executive session has been scheduled for March 2nd for the Trustees to meet with her. Appointed by Probate Judge Mackey, he has also offered to swear her in. It was confirmed that the Oath of Office would take place at a time that works best with her and Judge Mackey's schedule.

Trustee Leezer seconded

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes

Lastly, Administrator Mazer touched on the previous meeting; Laura Esterline with Heart of It All Realty proposed a 2-year contract; however, the board has decided that a term of 6 months on a per-listing basis with no requirement to utilize Mrs. Esterline for every transaction would be better suited for the Township.

Trustee Fleshman authorized the administrator to draft a letter of engagement for the board to review.

Chairman Fleshman and Trustee Leezer had nothing further.

Trustee Horn spoke about concerns voiced at Linda Mercers Block watch. There is a concern with the townships' lack of participation in the recent National Night Out Event. She wants to see the Township and its residents more present at the event.

Trustee Leezer said that he shares this concern as well. He asked to table this topic as he is working on gathering information from businesses to increase participation as well as a potential new venue to host the event.

Trustee Horn then asked if we could assist a resident by erecting a handicapped parking sign for their son.

Lastly, Trustee Horn said he would like to return the focus to Juanita Coffman Day and the Juanita Coffman Award during National Night Out, as previously approved by resolution.

Guest Speaker: Larry Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell asked if a representative from the Township would attend any future hearings regarding 1945 Jackson Road. Trustee Fleshman confirmed that Captain Broecker with the Fire department would. Mr. Mitchell also asked how a resident could learn more about block watch meetings. Currently, there is no single source for that information. Still, resident Chip Tate offered to give Mr. Mitchell information about his block watch.

Guest Speaker: Chip Tate

Mr. Tate feels that 1623 Rosemont is running a business out of his home. He has multiple box trucks on the property, and it appears he is running a crew starting as early as 7 AM. He wants to get with superintendent Stevens to talk about his block watch starting a quarterly alley clean-up.

With no further discussion, Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 12:53 PM.

Chairman John Fleshman

Vice Chairman James Leezer

Trustee Ralph Horn

Fiscal Officer, Marguerite Trodden

-audio available by public records request