

## **2/9/2023 Regular Meeting – 12:00 pm**

**Chairman Fleshman opened the meeting at 12:00 pm**

**Prayer:** Chaplain Snodgrass

**Pledge:** Jann Legge

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

**Old Business:** *Approval of meeting minutes- 1/2/2023, 1/12/2023, 1/20/23, 1/24/2023*

Trustee Fleshman inquired whether the minutes were sent to them. Assistant fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins and fellow board members confirmed. Trustee Fleshman stated that he would have to abstain again, as he did not see/read them. She reminded him that the administrator has been responsible for sending the minutes to the trustees for review.

Trustee Horn seconded.

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

**New Business:** Laura Esterline with “Heart of It All” Realty spoke about her role in real estate and her desire to help benefit the Township by auctioning/selling properties on their behalf. Having recently become an auctioneer, she explained some benefits of auctioning a property versus selling. Esterline stated that she recently spoke with Jake at COCIC (Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation) about a few properties coming available soon, which may be beneficial when turned over to the Township. Laura Esterline updated the board about the new build at 1765 Marsdale. Recently construction finished and was placed on the market for \$249,000.

Additionally, there are several properties on Rhea Ave that she would like to auction off rather than sell. She asked for another commitment of two years. There was previously a 2-year verbal commitment that has since expired. Trustee Fleshman said the administrator would schedule an executive session to discuss this further.

Trustee Horn requested that the board seriously consider this as he feels that Laura has done a phenomenal job for the Township in the past.

**Police Department: Chief Smith-**

**Deputy Hamilton:** Started by following up on a prior inquiry by Trustee Fleshman regarding statistics involving the number of stolen cars within the city. He approximated that for 2022 there were 610 incidents in Franklin County.

**Fire Department: Chief Arnold-** presents to the board an opportunity from the BWC through the “Safety Initiative Grant to obtain a second power cot. The grant is a 4 to 1 match, with 75% of the cost covered by the grant, leaving about \$22,000 that the township would absorb. Chief Arnold reminded the board about using ARPA funds to purchase the first power cot and requested to have ARPA funds reviewed for utilization again.

Trustee Fleshman made a motion for Chief Arnold to work with Steve Mazer and review the availability of ARPA funds to secure a power cot for the township.

Trustee Leezer seconded.

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

Chief Arnold brought to the board's attention that Medic 193 replacement is due next year, 2024. He reminded the board of the program created in 2017 to use a portion of the E.M.S. billing to enable them to purchase a new medic every three years. He informed the board that the delivery of a new medic is approximately two years from the order placement date. Chief Arnold sought the board's approval to gather pricing details on a replacement medic.

Trustee Fleshman asked for a motion to pursue the purchase of the medic

Trustee Leezer made a motion and agreed to gather information regarding the replacement of the medic.

Trustee Fleshman stated he made a motion.

Trustee Leezer seconded.

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

Lastly, Chief Arnold stated that Captain Broecker would like to speak about a company that would eliminate paperwork and inspection visits at no cost to the Township.

**Building Department: Captain Broecker-** provided details about Brycer, L.L.C., which is a compliance engine that would eliminate the township's obligations to physical inspect businesses located in the township that have alarm systems, fire suppression systems, cooking hoods, etc. There is a mandatory 3-year commitment from, Brycer, LLC which then allows them to send notices to businesses about timely inspections and reminders for upcoming inspection due dates. Charges are billed directly to the local business owners and not the township.

Trustee Fleshman made a motion to “look into The Compliance Engine” and for Chief Arnold and Captain Broecker to work with Mr. Mazer to gather more information about this company and the process for inspections.

Trustee Leezer seconded.

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

Trustee Fleshman asked about the fees we charge for permits, Captain Broecker explained that the board of building standards sets the fees, but he will inquire with Toole and Associates to confirm.

Trustee Fleshman acknowledged that he accidentally skipped the police department and allowed the Lieutenant to speak.

**Lieutenant Ratliff-** Provided Stats of 818 dispatched runs for January. Trustee Fleshman asked what were typical statistics. Lieutenant Ratliff explained that winter and summer have different run fluctuations; winter has an average of 1000 runs a month. Additionally, the more cars that are out

patrolling helps to reduce the number of runs. Ultimately, now that the department can respond to more calls and there is an officer back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift, he is hopeful that we will see that number decrease.

**Road Department: Jim Stevens**- Nothing for today –

Trustee Fleshman asked the Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens, about the tree in front of 1840 Little ave. He inquired about its estimated completion. Mr. Stevens reminded Trustee Fleshman that the board had yet to give him any directives to remove the tree. He states that he did have an arborist look at the tree, but given that it is still alive, the arborist suggested that we not remove it. Trustee Fleshman said that he given direction to have the tree removed. Mr. Stevens responded that they did not. asked the resident, Elena, to speak to the board and refresh them on the situation. Due to the recent repaving of the driveway surrounding the tree, the resident agreed that the Township would not be responsible for any damage to her driveway concerning the removal of the tree. After a brief discussion between the board and the resident, Trustee Fleshman made a motion to have Mr. Stevens get a quote for tree removal and would be reviewed at the next meeting on 2/23/2023.

Trustee Horn seconded.

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

**Fiscal Office: Robyn Watkins**- **Motion for Bills and Payroll**- Approve account payable from January 24th, 2023, through February 9th, 2023, for \$226,928.09 and payroll dated February 1<sup>st</sup>,2023, totaling \$6,302.49, payroll dated February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 totaling \$164,830.23 for a combined amount of \$398,060.81

Trustee Fleshman asked for second

Trustee Leezer seconded.

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

Robyn reviewed the appropriation status reports and where it stands as of January 31st. Revenue for the year is \$389,325.88.

**Administrator: Steve Mazer**-

**Resolution 2023-016 -Approving Obligations Authorized by the Township Administrator (January 25th, 2023 – February 9th, 2023)**

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

Mr. Mazer begins by discussing his current progress on handling nuisance properties. He has been reviewing and becoming familiar with the legal process that the Township can pursue without being "Home Rule." He explains that the O.R.C. Gives the township the ability to tow junk vehicles and demolish or take possession of blighted properties. He wanted to make sure the public and the board knew that we were working on being able to address these issues.

Trustee Fleshman inquired about the property on Eureka Avenue; Jim Stevens explained how they could assist with removing the trash and making improvements on the property. Mr. Stevens expressed how grateful the property owners was for the Township's help.

Mr. Mazer informed the board that they now possess the finalized handbook for review. After they have read and review it, he will give them some additional policies and procedures for their approval.

Mr. Mazer discusses the process in regards to the Westland Mall demolition. The grant received for the demolition, was initially \$13 million. The grant was reduced to \$9.6 million and will cover 75% of the cost of demolition, leaving the owner responsible for the remaining 25%. They have one year to demolish the mall and hope to start after March 1<sup>st</sup>. On February 22, 2023, the board and administrator have a joint meeting with Prairie Township to discuss the future of the mall and the importance of keeping the property in the townships.

Mr. Mazer stated the township is are switching cleaning companies. We are discontinuing Clean Turn, which charges over \$370 a month and will hire a new company that will charge \$70 per week for cleaning services.

Mr. Mazer announced that we had two applicants for the Fiscal officer position. Both applicants, per mandate, have been submitted to the probate judge, Judge Mackey, for review.

Trustee Horn explains to the public that the board has 30 days to find a candidate to nominate for the position; their 30-day deadline expired, having zero candidates at that time. Any applicant submissions after that time are reviewed and decided on by the court.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

**Chip Tate-** Spoke about a resident near him with piling trash that the Township previously cleaned up. He stated that it is once again the trash is becoming a nuisance. Jim Stevens with the Road Department noted that they would look into it and may be able to clean it up again via HB50.

**Jann Legge-** Wanted to thank everyone and express her appreciation to all departments that keep residents safe.

**Cindi Cline-** Ask about the status of applicants for the police department. Lt. Ratliff tells her they currently have an Ad placed with Indeed. They have also reached out to the five academies' in our area. Cindi Cline then asked how many businesses are in the Township and how many business owners the board thinks would be able to attend a meeting at Noon. She points out that business owners may have difficulty attending day meetings.

Trustee Fleshman stated that he has been doing this for ten years and only one business has ever attended a meeting at 6. The business owner actually complained about waiting for a 6:00pm meeting. Cindi Cline expressed that she was just curious and thanked the board.

With nothing further to add, Trustee Fleshman adjourns the meeting- Time not stated.