

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Franklin Township

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

March 23, 2023

Chairman Fleshman called the meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at approximately 12:00PM.

Pastor Snodgrass opened in prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by resident Jan Legg.

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

Old Business: Meeting minutes

Chairman Fleshman made separate motions to accept the 2/23/23 regular, 3/9/23 special, and 3/9/23 regular minutes.

Trustee Horn seconded each time

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

New Business: Police Department

Chief Smith began by explaining the stats will be read for the entire month of March at the next meeting.

Chief Smith introduced a resolution to hire Troy Hale, who worked previously with Ohio State Patrol and was ranked top in state three times.

Chairman Fleshman made motion for resolution 2023-036 to accept the hiring of Officer Hale.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Chief Smith continued with introducing a second new hire, Isaac Oberer, who previously worked with both Circleville and Pike counties, has five years of experience and had served with the Marine Corp.

Chairman Fleshman made motion for resolution 2023-037 to accept the hiring of Isaac Oberer.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Chief Smith moved on to explain an injury sustained by Norm Baldwin while on duty March 9th and the necessity for 80 hours of injury leave. There was discussion amongst the board regarding using the correct bank of hours, per the training with Mark Long with the Auditor of State. Chief Smith explained that BWC is not actually paying for it, but from the injury bank. Trustee Leezer questioned proper whether there was proper documentation and Administrator Mazer answered that he working on it today.

Chairman Fleshman made motion for resolution 2023-035 approving 80 hours of injury leave for Norm Baldwin.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Lastly, Chief Smith introduced Resolution 2023-039 regarding the increase in dispatch fees from \$11.80 to \$15.99 per call. There was discussion and confirmation that this had been reviewed with the budget, which it had, and the fee is set through the end of 2024.

Chairman Fleshman made motion for resolution-039 approving the increase in dispatch fees.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

New Business: Fire Department

Chief Arnold began by commending his crews regarding a house fire on Breeze Hill where they responded to a difficulty breathing call and realized the home was on fire, and they were able to save the victim and put out the fire. He went on to recount the actions of off-duty firefighter Taner Smith while vacationing in Cleveland who heard the cries of someone in the water near the pier, helping to pull them in and began medical treatment. He received a letter from the Assistant Chief of Cleveland Fire Department who is extremely pleased with Taner Smith for saving the civilians' life.

Chairman Fleshman had discussion with Chief Arnold on the status of training which is going very well and regarding a training scheduled for this week at Westland Mall.

New Business: Roads Department

Jim Stevens received the latest Road Mileage Certificate showing there are 32.580 miles to maintain within the township. He then brought up a request from residents in a neighborhood on Roland that every year shut down their block for a Halloween party and would like to do the same on Easter Sunday from 3-9pm. Jim said he will supply signs.

Chairman Fleshman made motion for resolution-2023-041 closing Roland Ave from 3-9pm on Easter Sunday.

Leezer seconded

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

Jim went on reporting that an extremely large tree was removed on Little Ave yesterday. The stump will need to be discussed at a later time. The board discussed a tree on Dover in an alley, Jim is gathering information, it is on a right of way and is split, about to fall into a garage and the necessity of removing it. Chairman Fleshman asked if we can do a resolution now rather than waiting for a potential emergency meeting. Jim reported they do not have a quote yet but assume it will be less than \$3,000.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for resolution 2023-042 to take down the tree on Dover with a cost not to exceed \$3,000.

Trustee Leezer seconded.

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

Jim continued reporting about a large tree on Hopkins by the alley sitting in the right of way with dead limbs falling. Peterman Tree Service wants to wait until it blooms to remove just the dead material. Expecting the cost to be about \$5,600.

New Business: Fiscal Department

Fiscal Officer Trodden made a Motion for bills and payroll covering 3/10/23-3/23/23 totaling \$263,775.96.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Jeff Wilcheck gave updates on the reconciliations from 7/2017-12/2021 which are mostly complete. 2020 is not fully reconciled and he does not expect to be able to complete it, but has made progress from \$10 million to start he is down to \$12,000. He went on to summarize the adjustments for each year and the adjustments relating to each year. The bulk of the adjustments are in 2017-2019.

Chairman Fleshman asked where did this money go and what does this mean? Jeff explained there was not necessarily money missing from the account, but rather that it was not accounted for properly. He is making corrections to the records, 2020 and 2021 are reasonably accurate and 2022 is correct. He is in the process of reviewing and double checking before finalizing, and reported that he has 150 hours left on his contract.

New Business: Administration

Administrator Mazer introduced resolution 2023-038 replacing 2021-130 approving obligations authorized by the Township Administrator. Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer introduced resolution 2023-034 regarding no parking on Rea Avenue. In conjunction these will be filed with Franklin County Municipal Court. There are additional plans for Chippewa and Havenwood as well. Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer introduced resolution 2023-033 to provide supplemental appropriations #4 for 1/1/23-12/31/2023 including expenditures for public safety.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer introduced resolution 2023-032 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer introduced resolution 2023-040 to transfer \$87,500 from Emergency Medical Services Fund to the EMS Vehicle Replacement fund, which was planned in 2022 upon reappropriation.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Chairman Fleshman had nothing additional to discuss during the meeting

Vice Chairman Leezer asked the board for a resolution to chair a new committee to create 5-year/ 3-year/ 1-year plans and budgets for the Township along with local business owners and residents.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to allow Vice Chairman Leezer to head the new committee.

Trustee Horn seconded after mentioning Chief Arnold would join the committee

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

Trustee Horn began discussion on the Juanita Kauffman Award and asked that nominations be submitted for this year, as there had not been awards given in the last few years. Nominations will be accepted until July 13th with the intention of voting on them by July 27th 2023.

Resident Angela asked whether Home Rule will be put on the ballot in November. She pointed out that we are missing out on money that could be gained by fines. Chairman Fleshman reported that discussion had been had with their attorneys and Administrator Mazer confirmed we are permitted to handle nuisance properties and that the subject is being worked on.

She continued that the township was established in 1804, would like to do something to celebrate the 220nd anniversary next year. She concluded with advising of a fundraiser for the athletic program taking place at Shakers.

Resident Chip Tate brought up the issue with 1626 Rosemont and whether anything had been done regarding the business that was being run from the home, that he had introduced in the prior meeting. Chairman Fleshman confirmed the board was turning the matter over to the County Zoning Board.

Resident Jan Legg asked whether anyone would be held accountable once the Auditor completed their review of the financial records that Jeff Wilcheck was reporting on. Chairman Fleshman confirmed that this was a State matter and that it would be handled appropriately once conclusions can be drawn.

Resident Mike Blevins asked Chief Smith regarding how many officers are working third shift, as he had heard there was an officer working alone. Chief confirmed there was only one currently on third shift, but once the two new hires from today were trained that the township would be adequately staffed 24/7, in the meantime the Sherriff Department was providing assistance.

Mike continued asking if the township was still requesting three bids prior to spending township funds. Administrator Mazer confirmed that multiple quotes would continue to be the policy going forward and that money would not be spent haphazardly.

With no further discussion Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 12:58PM.

Chairman John Fleshman

Vice Chairman James Leezer

Trustee Ralph Horn

Fiscal Officer, Marguerite Trodden

-audio available by public records request