

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Held at 2193 Frank Road**

**May 23, 2023**

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

Chairman Fleshman opened in prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by resident Jann Legge.

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

### Old Business:

Meeting minutes – no minutes were presented for approval.

### Speakers

*Patty Spencer, Southwest Area Commission (SWAC), Zoning Chair*

MS. Spencer thanked those trustees who attended the most recent SWAC meeting.

Chairman Fleshman spoke about his experience while attending the SWAC meeting. He shared that American Electric Power (AEP) conducted a presentation and encouraged customers to find a new provider.

Ms. Spencer shared with the audience her experience changing electricity providers and how to properly read an electric bill.

Ms. Spencer distributed information on illegal dumping in the City of Columbus and how to report illegal dumping activity within the city's boundaries by calling the central Ohio hotline, 311. In conclusion, Ms. Spencer shared information about a tool rental provider in the area.

Chairman Fleshman thanked Ms. Spencer and introduced the next guest speaker.

*Scott Belcastro, Principal of Trebel Inc., Energy Services*

Mr. Belcastro explained how Trebel Inc. is a community aggregation company throughout Ohio and represents many Townships. He also provided a historical picture of how Franklin Township attempted to implement an aggregation program by placing the electric and natural gas aggregation on the ballot about ten (10) years ago. Still, the voters turned down the idea twice.

Chairman Fleshman expanded on Mr. Belcastro's historical narrative by providing more specifics about how the ballot process works and how important it is for the residents to be educated on how aggregation works and the benefits of participating in a no-risk program such as Trebel, Inc.

Chairman Fleshman thanked Mr. Belcastro for his presentation.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

### New Business: Police Department

Chief Byron Smith had nothing to report.

Deputy Hamilton of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office had nothing to report.

### New Business: Fire Department

Chief Arnold had nothing to report.

### New Business: Road Department

Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent, had nothing to report.

### New Business: Fiscal Department

Assistant Fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins read a request for a Motion for bills and payroll covering 05/05/23 – 05/23/23, totaling \$222,138.76.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded the motion.

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

### New Business: Administration

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-065** regarding the timing of the submission of Resolutions for board review.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-066** regarding Supplemental Appropriation #7.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-067** regarding obligations approved by the Township Administrator.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-068** regarding using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to purchase AEDs for the Police Department.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-069** regarding using ARPA Funds to purchase a new business sign for 2193 Frank Road.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-070** regarding the approval of the Sedwick Retrospective Rating Program for BWC in the amount of \$12,740.00.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-071** regarding the removal of junk vehicles from 1053 Broad Road.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-072**, approving Ohio Deferred Compensation Roth 457(b) as an optional employee benefit at no cost to the Township.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-073** regarding the resignation of Fiscal Officer Marguerite Trodden, effective May 31, 2023.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-074** regarding using ARPA funds to purchase drop-sticks for the Police Department, not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-075** regarding the approval of 80 (eighty) hours of injury leave for Officer Timothy Myers, per contract.

Chairman Fleshman asked Administrator Mazer if all necessary documentation had been submitted to approve these hours. Administrator Mazer confirmed. With no further discussion, Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-076**, rescinding Resolution 2023-029 – installation of a handicapped parking sign on Eastbrook Drive.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-077** approving the installation of a handicap parking sign in front of a residential home on 1639 Eastbrook Drive.

Chairman Fleshman asked Administrator Mazer to explain the purpose of the sign. With no further discussion, Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-078** approving the Assistant Fiscal Officer to sign and pay re-occurring accounts payables, receivables, ACH, and any necessary documents in the absence of the Fiscal Officer.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-079** regarding signing a Then & Now Purchase Order by the Board of Trustees for All-American Fire.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Trustee Horn seconded.

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

Administrator Mazer provided an update on the property at 61 Volney, stating that the owner has cleaned up the property and secured the structure.

**Trustee Reports:**

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Fleshman shared that he drove through the MonEBak area and discovered sheep and chickens living free rein in the neighborhood and large commercial trucks utilizing parking in residential yards. Chairman Fleshman asked Administrator Mazer to investigate the road weight limit in the Township. Administrator Mazer said he would contact the Franklin County Engineers Officer for guidance.

Chairman Fleshman moved on to explain the reason for a No Outlet Sign and No Parking Signs to be installed along Finland Avenue. Chairman Fleshman said these signs are needed due to the construction of a new middle school. He also asked audience member Juanita Ward of Finland Avenue if she had any comments; Ms. Ward confirmed that signage is needed.

Chairman Fleshman asked Trustee Horn if he had anything to report.

Trustee Horn reminded everyone of the upcoming demolition of Westland Mall, the resurfacing road project within Franklin Township in the Rosemary Addition, and in closing, reminded everyone that he was running for re-election.

### Questions from the Audience:

*John Hughes of Oakview Drive* informed the board that he had tried to reach Trustee Leezer but that his voicemail was not activated. Mr. Hughes also spoke about his perspective on reducing and preventing crime in the Township by bringing businesses and churches together. Mr. Hughes also expressed his displeasure with the Township for hiring Chaplain Abdullahi. Chairman Fleshman and Trustee Horn advised Mr. Hughes to speak with Chief Smith.

*Julie Bruce of El Paso Drive* explained that the storm drain in front of her home has backed up into her front yard, and she cannot mow the grass due to standing water. Ms. Bruce also said she had spoken to Road Superintendent Jim Stevens several times about this matter. She feels nothing is getting done, and, in her opinion, this has been an ongoing issue for at least ten (10) years.

Chairman Fleshman said he would get with Mr. Stevens and advise his team to use the new camera system the Township recently purchased to explore the storm drains and detect blockages. Chairman Fleshman said the camera will be run down the entire street to ensure all blockages are found.

Chairman Fleshman made **Resolution 2023-080** approving the Franklin Township Road Department overtime as necessary to address the storm drain issue on El Paso Drive (between N. Hague Avenue and Wilson Road). Trustee Horn seconded.

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

*Jann Legge of Brownleaf Road* asked the Township to investigate a business operating out of a residential home across the street from her home. Ms. Legge also expressed her disappointment in whoever made a family living in an RV on private property move their RV. Ms. Legge explained that this family lost their home and a child in a fire, and all they had was the RV to live in and were given permission by the property owner to park the RV in their yard.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*Nelson Hane of Little Avenue* explained that the house across the street from him, located at 1962 Little Avenue, stores large amounts of lumber and debris. Mr. Hane continued explaining how lumber attracts animals such as groundhogs and rats. Chairman Fleshman asked Fire Chief Arnold to see if the Fire Department could assess the storing of lumber for any fire safety issues. Chairman Fleshman also asked Administrator Mazer if there was anything else the Township could do? Administrator Mazer said he can review the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) for specific zoning/health standards that could connect back to the property. In closing, Mr. Hane shared that since the fire hydrant was moved in front of his home, the storm drain appears to be sinking into the ground.

Chairman Fleshman thanked all those who signed up to speak and explained that he would not do this. Still, since there were so many discussion items at this meeting, he would open the floor up for any additional questions or comments from the audience.

*John Hughes of Oakview Drive* stated that, in his opinion, the Township as-a-whole has drainage issues due to the aging/deterioration of the existing storm drains.

*Joyce Phillips of Lowell Drive* asked Chairman Fleshman to explain how the Township gets their money back for the cost of the cleanup work completed at 1053 Brown Road. Chairman Fleshman explained the tax abatement process and ensured Ms. Phillips that when a special assessment is placed on a property, and any money is paid towards the property taxes, the Township will get their money first. Trustee Horn said that the Township has sold many abandoned properties to make money for the Township.

With no further discussion, questions, or comments, Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 2:10 P.M.

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Chairman John Fleshman

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Vice Chairman James Leezer

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Trustee Ralph Horn

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Fiscal Department

*Audio of meeting available by public records request*

*Full resolutions available by record request*