

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

June 1, 2023

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

Vice-Chairman Leezer opened in prayer.

Resident Jann Legge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Old Business:

Meeting minutes – Regular Meetings dated 04/20/23 and 05/04/23.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from April 20, 2023, and May 4, 2023, as written.

Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Guest Speaker:

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

Ms. Spencer shared that the SWAC has suggested upgrading Stoneridge Park, Willow Creek Park, and McCoy Park to the City of Columbus. On June 3, 2023, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., volunteers from the City of Columbus will spread fresh mulch at Stoneridge Park in the playground area. Linda Mercer from the audience asked Ms. Spencer where Stoneridge Park was located. Ms. Spencer explained the park is in the Stoneridge subdivision near the back.

New Business: Road Department

Road Superintendent Jim Stevens updated the Board that the storm drain project on El Paso Drive is now completed. Mr. Stevens distributed a photo of a tree in the Township's right of way that is causing a root problem with the storm drain in front of 3136 El Paso Drive. Mr. Steven explained that the tree needed to be removed, or it would continue to cause drain problems. Chairman Fleshman asked Mr. Stevens about the resident's driveway. Mr. Stevens said the Township would fix the damaged area due to the repair. Chairman Fleshman said the resident had mentioned they planned to have their driveway re-paved. Vice-Chairman Leezer said when the resident has their driveway re-paved, the company will go over what the Township has patched. Mr. Stevens said that, unfortunately, this resident's home is at the bottom of the grade in the road. Hence, the water flows toward their property.

Chairman Fleshman asked the Assistant Fiscal Officer if a Resolution was on record for this request. The Assistant Fiscal Officer said there was no Resolution on record. Chairman Fleshman explained that it is essential that the Board have all Resolution requests submitted to the Board before the meeting for review. Vice-Chairman Leezer said this is not an emergency,

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and we need to obtain three (3) quotes for removing the tree. Chairman Fleshman stated the Board would table this until the next scheduled Board meeting so the required quotes can be gathered and a Resolution can be generated for record. Trustee Horn asked Mr. Stevens for clarification on the current quote. Mr. Stevens provided additional clarification.

Mr. Stevens explained that he has in his budget for 2023 the funds to hire two (2) individuals for summer help at \$17.00 per hour.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for a resolution, then rescinded the motion.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to allow Jim Stevens to hire Jonas Fitzgerald as part-time summer help in the Road Department, effective June 7, 2023.

Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Stevens distributed a model work schedule reflecting how the four (4) days – ten (10) hours working day schedule will look. (4 days at 10 hours per day) Mr. Stevens explained that the Road Department has been working the four-tens for over 5 (five) years, and this does not mean the Road Department will not be working on Fridays. “We will have employees on call and available if an emergency should arise on a Friday or if a specific job requires the hours,” said Mr. Stevens. Chairman Fleshman asked if the Road Department was currently operating under the four-tens. Mr. Stevens said the Road Department was still working five (5) days a week/eight (8) hours daily. Vice-Chairman Leezer agrees with the four-tens as it gives the employees an adequate break. Chairman Fleshman said no matter how you work, 40 (forty) hours is 40 (forty) hours no matter how you work it. Chairman Fleshman said he is opposed to this schedule due to the numerous phone calls he has received. He must tell the caller the Road Department will not return to the office until Monday. Many times, the caller’s perception is questioning if anyone at the Township works. Chairman Fleshman does not believe this model will work for the Township.

Trustee Horn supports the idea that if it is a project that can be completed in 10 (ten) hours, this could be a time savings when moving equipment back and forth. Trustee Horn said he had received no more than half-dozen calls related to the Road Department and Friday hours during the summer in his tenure as Trustee.

Vice-Chairman Leezer made a motion to allow the Road Department to operate under the four (4) – tens (10) from June 7, 2023 – September 12, 2203.

Trustee Horn seconded the motion.

Roll Call: John (Chairman Fleshman)- no, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- yes, Ralph (Trustee Horn) – yes.

Trustee Horn asked Mr. Stevens to check on two (2) properties located at 1795 and 1799 Eastfield Drive. Mr. Stevens said he would check but believes his crew addressed those properties this morning. Mr. Stevens also explained that it is exceedingly difficult for the Road Department to see tall grass/weeds in the backyards or the rear of most structures and/or homes; those properties would have to be reported directly to the Township for them to be addressed.

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Trustee Leezer asked Mr. Stevens if he had received his email about tall grass on Brownleaf Road. Mr. Stevens said the Brownleaf Road property is on their list. Chairman Fleshman explained how he experienced a door-to-door solicitor at his home and inquired about the Township's No-Knock regulation and establishing a No-Knock sticker that residents can buy from the Township. Mr. Stevens said this question should be directed to Administrator Mazer.

Administrator Mazer said the sticker is unnecessary if a resident has no trespassing or other signage on their property. Administrator Mazer thanked Mr. Stevens and his team for their assistance in cleaning up the property at 1053 Brown Road.

Mr. Stevens asked the Board if he could be excused to address a personal matter. Chairman Fleshman excused Mr. Stevens from the meeting.

Ryan Phillippi, Team Lead for the Road Department, remained for any further questions.

New Business: Police Department

Police Chief Byron Smith

Chief Smith reported that Capital Towing removed the two abandoned trailers/campers at 1053 Brown Road today. Chief Smith said that the shipping container in the backyard of 1053 Brown Road would remain as Capital Towing does not remove those types of items.

Chief Smith reported the following stats from May 2023 related to the traffic grant:

- 58 (fifty-eight) hours of overtime have been worked by the department.
- 86 (eight-six) traffic stops have been made by the department.
- 72 (seventy-two) citations were written by the department.
- Traffic officers assisted with a fatal crash located on Phillippi Road.
- Two (2) stolen vehicles were recovered by officers.
- Addressed ATV complaints with parents on Richmond, Belmead, Jackson, and Ransburg.
- Some reckless operators on Brown Road were driving more than sixty mph.

Chairman Fleshman confirmed with Chief Smith that the Township received \$20,000.00 in grant funds. Chairman Fleshman asked Chief Smith what percentage of the grant dollars has the officers utilized thus far. Chief Smith said the grant will carry the Township into September 2023. They have used approximately 6 (six) to 7 (seven) percent of the grant. Chief Smith also shared that with the injuries the Police Department has now, limited officers are available to participate in the grant.

Chairman Fleshman asked the Board if anyone had questions for the Police Chief.

Vice-Chairman Leezer asked Chief Smith where he was with establishing the training required to utilize the beanbag shotguns. Chief Smith said that Sargent Moore is scheduled to attend training next week. Chief Smith said he got the run around for the City and County as they both said they could train the Township on the beanbag shotguns. Still, when the rubber hit the

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road, they both said the Township would have to pay to send one of our employees to special training on the beanbag shotguns, and then that person would then train our people.

Vice-Chairman Leezer asked Chief Smith if the body camera footage was being reviewed after our officers reported an on-the-job injury. This footage could be extracted and used as training material to help other officers not get injured while working. Chief Smith said he had reviewed all body camera footage from the most recent staff injuries. As far as training is concerned, these employees did nothing wrong. Vice-Chairman Leezer asked Chief Smith to send the Board and Administrator Mazer a copy of the body cam footage from the injured employees for their reference so, if requested can be sent to the BWC (Bureau of Worker's Compensation).

Vice-Chairman Leezer asked Chief Smith if he could get his work computer connected to the UAN (Unified Accounting Network) software. Chief Smith replied no, that he has not, and that Revolution Group said he needed a new computer, so he might need to change computers to obtain access to UAN. Leezer confirmed that all other department heads have been able to connect UAN on their computers.

Trustee Horn asked Chief Smith about the status of Lieutenant Ratliff. Administrator Mazer said the status is still pending.

FCSO (Franklin County Sheriff's Officer) Deputy Hamilton was not present to provide a report.

New Business: Fire Department

Fire Chief Robert (Bob) Arnold had nothing to report.

New Business: Fiscal Department

Assistant Fiscal Officer Robyn Watkins read a request for a Motion for bills and payroll covering 05/24/23 – 06/01/23, totaling \$379,716.32.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

New Business: Administrator

Administrator Mazer presented Resolution 2023-081 regarding the obligations approved by the Township Administrator.

Chairman Fleshman asked for clarification on one of the obligations. The Assistant Fiscal Officer explained that no vendor is listed as this is a blanket purchase order, meaning multiple vendors can be posted from this purchase order.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Mazer presented Resolution 2023-082 regarding approving 80 (eighty) hours of injury leave for Officer Timothy Myers, per contract.

Administrator Mazer confirmed all documentation had been collected for this employee. This employee is undergoing treatment and has no established return to work date. Vice-Chairman

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asked if this employee could come back light-duty. Administrator Mazer said this would need to be approved by the treating physician.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-083** regarding the unsafe structure at 1053 Brown Road per ORC 505.86. (Ohio Revised Code)

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for approval. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Mazer updated a once blighted property at 1240 Eureka Avenue. He explained that the property owner stepped in and demolished the structures; all that was left was a vacant lot. Chairman Fleshman stated that some people are pleased to see that eye sore gone.

Administrator Mazer said the property owners of 1053 Brown Road shall be given notice of a hearing on June 15. If they do not show, the Township can proceed as outlined in the Resolution.

Administrator Mazer explained that the property owner has secured the property at 61 Volney, and the Township will keep an eye on the property to ensure the owner remains in compliance with the Township. Chairman Fleshman asked Administrator Mazer what the owner intends to do with the property at 61 Volney. Administrator Mazer said that based on his understanding, the owner plans to rehab the property.

Trustee Comments:

Chairman Fleshman asked Administrator Mazer how the zoning regulation read for those who wish to have chickens and roosters on their property and the maximum quantity. Administrator Mazer said he has been so busy with other items that he has no answer. The Assistant Fiscal Officer shared that the Franklin County Board of Commissioners does have a written policy and application for chickens, ducks, and rabbits. The application explains in detail the number of animals and the size of the coops, which is determined by the size of the property listed on the application. Chairman Fleshman asked the Assistant Fiscal Officer to send him and Administrator Mazer a copy of the County application.

Chairman Fleshman said he received a call about the steel plates on Frank Road and how noisy these plates are as the semi-trucks are traveling over them. Cindy Cline, a resident of Frank Road, said she called the Chief Engineer, and someone came out and adjusted the steel plate in front of her home. "This project has been going on since May, and they do not seem to know when they will be finished," said resident Cindy Cline. Chairman Fleshman said he appreciated Ms. Cline's information.

Trustee Leezer followed up from the last meeting and assured everyone that he now has his voicemail set up on his Township cell phone. He apologized for the delay, as he thought he had the phone set up. Still, the Township phone is an iPhone, and his personal phone is an Android, so they are different when activating the various features, Leezer explained.

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Trustee Horn indicated that neighbors are complaining about a residential home on Alkire Road where they are storing pallets in their yard. Administrator Mazer said this address had been submitted to Franklin County Zoning for review.

Questions from the Audience:

Jim Youngman of Geneva Avenue reported knee-tall grass/noxious weeds in the backyard of 891 Wilson Avenue. This property is adjacent to Mr. Youngman, and he wants to know what can be done. He continues to share the ongoing issue of ATVs running up and down the roads all day and night and cutting through neighbor's yards. Mr. Youngman shared that he lives close to the dead end at Geneva Avenue as the road ends into the property owned by AEP (American Electric Power), and there is no guardrail. Also, he continued to explain (in his opinion) the pavement condition (blacktop) on Geneva Avenue needs attention. And in conclusion, his final comment was that a green pickup truck has been sitting on Geneva Avenue for two (2) months and has not moved; he is requesting that something be done about the truck, said Mr. Youngman.

Chairman Fleshman thanked Mr. Youngman for attending the meeting to address his issues.

Chairman Fleshman asked Ryan Phillippi of the Road Department if he could exchange information with Mr. Youngman to address the tall grass and guard rail. Chairman Fleshman explained that the County accesses our Township roads each year to determine the priority of repair/re-paving. Chairman Fleshman asked the Chief of Police to address the green truck.

Mr. Youngman thanked the Board of Trustees for listening to his concerns.

Carol Schoonover of Rae Avenue acknowledged that the Township installed the much-needed no parking signs on Rae Avenue to reduce the traffic congestion due to parents dropping off and/or picking up their children at W. Mound Elementary School. Soon after the signs were installed, a resident of Rae Avenue was confronted by a hostile parent who refused to move their car so they could get into their driveway. Ms. Schoonover recommended someone from Franklin Township attend a Columbus School Board meeting this summer to address this issue.

Schoonover is asking the Township for help to assist with this problem.

Trustee Horn recommended Ms. Schoonover contact city maintenance to see if they can help you. If that does not work, come back to the Board, and we can see what we can do. Chairman Fleshman said he would like to try a different strategy by attending the Columbus School Board meeting to present this issue. Chairman Fleshman asked Chief Smith what a good avenue would be to address this. Chief Smith said he only has so many people to work on this. Chairman Fleshman said we cannot let the City trespass on this issue in the Township. It would behoove us to attend a school board meeting as well as issue tickets to violators. Chief Smith said the Township could shut down the road during those hours. The Township can try to communicate this to the city before we act, but we need to do something, said Chairman Fleshman.

The Board thanked Ms. Schoonover for her dedication and continued efforts to pick up illegally dumped trash and debris along Rae Avenue.

Ms. Schoonover said a special duty officer might help with this situation.

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Jann Legge of Brownleaf Road asked the Board what gives the trustees the right to pick and choose who they help in the Township. How do they do a favor for a friend and then destroy other people's lives? Is it "call in for a favor" time? Ms. Legge explained that she was getting ready to share the information she obtained independently and not from anyone in this building. She received her information from a person within her neighborhood, and they bragged about who here at the Township helped him do it. A family who lost everything, including a child, in a house fire and working to re-group and move to Alabama temporarily lives in an RV on private property (with the owner's permission). Ms. Legg said she contacted everyone to ensure it was OK for them to park there. It took just one neighbor who reported them, and they were told they had to leave and threatened them and are now bragging about their actions.

Chairman Fleshman said this was the first time he had heard about this. Vice-Chairman Leezer said he received an email about tall grass on Brownleaf, and that is all he addressed with this individual. Vice-Chairman Leezer said Ms. Legge should not accuse people of actions if she does not have all the information. Chairman Fleshman noted we do not have the right to tell someone they have to leave. The Board said they only remember Ms. Legge speaking about a boxed trailer.

Chairman Fleshman acknowledged Patty Spencer from the audience. Ms. Spencer recommended that the Township contact the principal and W. Mound Elementary School directly so they know the issue. They can then send a notice home with every student. Chairman Fleshman thanks Ms. Spencer for her recommendation.

With no further discussion, questions, or comments, Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Chairman John Fleshman

Vice Chairman James Leezer

Trustee Ralph Horn

Fiscal Department

*Audio of meeting available by public records request
Full resolutions available by record request*