

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Franklin Township

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

April 20th, 2023

Chairman Fleshman called the special meeting of the Franklin Township Board of Trustees to order at approximately 12:00PM. He invited Pastor Womack to open the meeting 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 called for approval of the meeting minutes from April 6, 2023.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

New Business: Police Department

Chief Smith reported that the township was awarded the 2023 Traffic Grant from the State of Ohio in the amount of \$20,600 in overtime for traffic enforcement. There is a plan to divide the township into quadrants and focus on the hotspots, the funds will last until September. Chairman Fleshman asked about a traffic issue on Chippewa near the school, Chief Smith advised that officers have been monitoring the situation and traffic has been flowing better. Chairman Fleshman asked if that area could be included as a monitored hotspot at some point using the overtime funds. Trustee Leezer advised that Chief get with the Fiscal department to create a specific fund with this grant.

Chief Smith made a motion for resolution 2023-048 to donate five of the thirty-five radios that had been previously donated to the township by the state to Ohio to Ross County Sheriff Department.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Chairman Fleshman asked how many radios are still left from the original donation, Chief Smith reported that there were twenty five left and they were likely to keep those as spares.

Chief Smith made motion for resolution-2023-049 approving additional 80 hours injury leave for Norm Baldwin.

Chairman Fleshman asked for confirmation from Administrator Mazer that all necessary paperwork had been received for approval of the leave, which was confirmed by Mazer and Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Sargeant Todd Moore brought to the board's attention a proposal to amend their schedule to four ten-hour shifts per week. He explained the benefits to the officer's wellbeing, without any cost to the township, and could potentially cut down on overtime costs during shift change. Chairman Fleshman would like to sit down with Chief Smith and the rest of the board to review the schedule change. Sargeant Moore explained that there was no issue with their contract with this adjustment according to their leave, holidays, etc. but shift differentials will be

affected slightly. It was decided that the matter would be discussed further and then likely implemented for a trial period.

New Business: Sheriff Department

Chairman Fleshman asked Deputy Hamilton to report on the incidence of stolen vehicles, Deputy reported that their analyst has been out and he does not have the stats available.

New Business: Fire Department

Chief Arnold has nothing new to report.

New Business: Roads Department

Superintendent Jim Stevens advised that the 2023-2024 salt contract was available. Administrator Mazer made a motion for resolution 2023-050 approving contract 018-24 with The Ohio Department of Transportation's winter salt program for 150 tons of road salt.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

New Business: Fiscal Department

Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins made a motion to approve accounts payable from April 7th through April 20th, 2023 in the amount of \$139,214.26 and payroll paid on April 14th in the amount of \$171,900.93 for a combined total of \$311,115.19 from check number 6899 to 69014 and electronic vouchers 565-2023 through 692-2023.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins presented the board with the quarterly financial reports for first quarter 2023.

New Business: Administration

Administrator Mazer made a motion for resolution 2023-051 approving obligations for Township Administrator for the period from April 7th through April 20th, 2023 per Ohio Revised Code 507.11 in the amount of \$60,179.75.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer advised that a new employee handbook had been adopted and related to that the pay period was being amended from Monday 7:01AM to Monday 7:00AM. There will be an issue where employees may be shorted on the first pay period following this change, but they will be made whole on the following pay period. There will be a sixty-day notice made to the employees. This will be a large benefit to the Fiscal Department to allow for sufficient time to complete payroll as currently the pay period is from Tuesday through Wednesday, only giving two days to complete the payroll for Friday.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for resolution allowing for the change of the pay period.

Trustee Horn seconded

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

Administrator Mazer reported that Chief Arnold secured a grant from Bureau of Workers Compensation for the Fire Department in the amount of \$40,000 for a power cot so there will now be one for each medic. There is a requirement for \$22,000 in matching funds from the township, and he would like to use ARP funds.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for resolution 2023-052 approving up to \$22,000 in funds required for the new power cot per the terms of the grant.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Lastly Administrator Mazer requested allocation of ARP funds for the purchase of a commercial mower for the Fire Department not to exceed \$9,000. Chairman Fleshman asked Jim Stevens about the possibility of the Road Department giving one of their newer mowers to the Fire Department and buying a new one for the Road Department. After discussion it was decided to proceed with the original suggestion for the Fire Department to purchase a new one. Chairman Fleshman put forward resolution 2023-

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Trustee Leezer mentioned that he was contacted last week by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department relating to an insurance claim from a few years ago where funds were fraudulently intercepted from the township's account during a purchase of police cruisers. Detectives reported that there is a possibility that they have tracked the perpetrator down to Houston and wanted confirmation that the township would agree to prosecute. It is unlikely that the township would receive restitution, however.

Trustee Horn explained regarding the Juanita Kaufmann award that a form is available to anyone that would like to make a nomination. Secondly, Linda Mercer asked for a meeting to be set up as soon as possible for the organization of National Night Out. He asked Chief Smith to choose a forthcoming date with the other department heads. There was discussion amongst the board of the possibility of a one-time donation of \$400 for NNO that will be brought for resolution. Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins confirmed there is a line item in the budget for contributions to other organizations already for \$1,000.

Linda Mercer asked if money that had originally been appropriated in the past for National Night Out had been transferred to other accounts. Chairman Fleshman advised that there had been a meeting with the State Auditor Mark Long earlier about the specific purpose of some funds. Assistant Fiscal Officer Watkins confirmed that the NNO fund had been reappropriated over the past few years when the event had not been taking place. The question has been deferred to Jeff Wilcheck. Linda advised that the \$400 was not needed but asked that the funds be allocated to other township events. Chairman Fleshman explained that since these funds were earmarked for NNO, that her organization can make the determination on how exactly the funds will be used as long as she supplies receipts.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for resolution 2023-054 to donate \$400 to the Westbrook Eastville Blockwatch for National Night Out from the 'contributions to other organizations' fund.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Township Resident Speakers:

- Patty distributed flyers, she explained: Columbus Parks now has a mobile produce market, the closest being Dodge off Sullivant Ave. Columbus Department of Public Health is offering free gun lock boxes. They are also offering housing for pregnant women. COTA is updating their short-range transit plan, they are hosting public meetings for the rest of the month. Southwest Area commission's next meeting is

Tuesday May 9th at 2193 Frank Road at 6:30PM. Franklin County Engineers have advised there will be a roundabout installed at Frank Road, Hardee Parkway, Brown Road interchange in 2026-2027 due to that intersection having one of the highest accident rates in the city. A second roundabout is being discussed for Old Brown Road. Lastly, the proposed Speedway development at Frank Road by the highway has a site plan submitted, and they are adding this to their next meeting agenda.

- Mr. Blevins: asked if he could set brush out for pickup, Jim Stevens confirmed that yes, that can be done. He also encouraged other residents to set up cameras around their home to assist the Police Department. He asked Chief Smith if any additional officers were being hired, and he reported that no were being hired. A discussion ensued with the board regarding the department's budget and challenges it was facing.
- Chip Tate: asked (again) that the regular meeting time be changed from noon due to the inconvenience to the residents. Trustee Leezer advised that the meetings were to be held at the board's leisure. Chip went on to thank Trustee Horn for attending a recent block watch meeting.
- Jan wanted to say thanks to the police, fire, and road crew. She has concerns about semi's being able to navigate the proposed roundabouts.

With no further discussion Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 1:05PM

Chairman John Fleshman

Vice Chairman, James Leezer

Trustee Ralph Horn

Fiscal Officer, Marguerite Trodden

-audio available by public records request