

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Franklin Township

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

May 4, 2023

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

Vice- chairman Leezer 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

Trustee Fleshman introduced Dave Dobos- newly elected State Legislative Representative of District 10, responsible for West and Southwest Columbus which includes most of Franklin Township, Grove City, and far South side of Columbus. His two-year term started in January 2023 and goes through January 2025. Redistricting will be taking place soon though, he mentioned. He came to offer State assistance and advocacy to Franklin Township.

Chairman Fleshman inquired of Representative Dobos why is it not possible for a resident to annex from Columbus back to the township? It is very easy to annex into Columbus, but not the other way. The availability of utilities has been the main driver of residents opting to be annexed to Columbus, but there are new rules regarding hooking up to utilities without having to be annexed.

Representative Dobos conceded this point and agreed to look into this issue. He promised to make himself available to any citizens that needed his assistance through his aid at 614-466-9690.

New Business: Southwest Area Commission

Patty Spencer advised that their next meeting will be Tuesday at 2193 Frank Rd and invited Representative Dobos to come. Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy, Franklin County Clerk of Courts, will also be attending the meeting. Applicants for Speedway at Frank Rd by the freeway will be presenting. She advised of the demolition of structure at McCoy Park. The Commission's acting president is trying to get more facilities built as well. Lastly, they are thinking of creating a new block watch within the Commission and will discuss at the meeting.

New Business: Police Department

Chief Smith reported that there were 1,032 runs in April, which does not include online reporting. This is a modest increase from last month. As of May 1st the traffic grant is starting and will report on citations.

Chief Smith made a motion for resolution 2023-060 approving donation of one police radio to Lithopolis Police Department.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Chief Smith made a motion for resolution 2023-058 approving 120 hours of injury leave for Tim Myers, per article twenty-four of the collective bargaining agreement.

Administrator Mazer confirmed that we have all of the documentation and statutory requirements.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Chief Smith made motion for [resolution-2023-059](#) approving additional 80 hours injury leave for Norm Baldwin, per article twenty-four of the collective bargaining agreement.

Chief said Norm had been expected to return on the 8th originally, but now looking more like the end of the month for his return. Administrator Mazer confirmed we have all paperwork needed.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

New Business: Sheriff's Department

Deputy Hamilton not present.

New Business: Fire Department

Chief Arnold has nothing to report today.

Administrator Mazer made a motion for [resolution 2023-064](#) approving 40 hours of injury leave for Fire Lieutenant Todd Broecker. He had knee surgery last month and is already back to work, Administrator Mazer confirmed that all necessary paperwork was obtained.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

New Business: Roads Department

Superintendent Stevens was not present. Administrator Mazer explained that they would like to amend their weekly schedule to four ten-hour days per week Monday through Thursday. The Police Department is going to test a similar schedule out for a 3-month period, per Chief Smith, but they have coverage every day of the week and have more manpower.

Chairman Fleshman reported his opposition to this proposed schedule because we don't have the manpower to do it effectively like the county does. If there is a Monday holiday, for instance, then no one is working for 4 days in a row. He wants an alternative schedule to provide more coverage.

Trustee Leezer made a motion to approve the schedule change as he believes it to be the most beneficial system for the crews. He believed it is also part of the union contract, Chairman Fleshman answered that it was not required by the contract. Trustee Horn agreed that the schedule was effective over time. If there is an emergency, they would be called in anyway and it has been in use for several years. However, Chairman Fleshman would prefer to table the discussion until Superintendent Stevens is back and to look through the actual work schedule in regard to the Federal holidays, he asked Administrator Mazer to put this together.

Lastly, Administrator Mazer advised that the tentative project list for 2023 will be sent out.

New Business: Fiscal Department

Fiscal Officer Trodden read the Motion for Bills and Payroll from April 21st through May 4th 2023.

Trustee Leezer Second

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

Fiscal Officer Trodden made a motion for [resolution 2023-062](#) for supplemental appropriations #6

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

New Business: Administration

Administrator Mazer made a motion for resolution 2023-061 approving Township Administrator obligations from April 21st through May 4th 2023.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer made a motion for resolution 2023-055 declaring the property owned by Charles and Deborah Rife at 1053 Brown Road a nuisance property due to refuse, vegetation, garbage and debris. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 505.87 - The owners must remove the garbage etc. within seven days and if they do not, the township will do so and enter the cost of such removal upon the tax duplicate for the property.

Trustee Leezer made a statement regarding his intent to clean up these type of nuisance properties in the township.

Administrator Mazer showed a slideshow of photos from this property demonstrating the state disrepair and refuse visible from the road. County Zoning, public health, and environmental court have all given blessing to proceed with action.

Question about homerule from the audience, Administrator Mazer confirmed that per ORC 505.8 the township is allowed to do this- which was confirmed with township attorney. Further question on whether this was being added to the ballot which Chairman Fleshman answered by saying that the board has worked with the county, and we are taking the lead. The board is researching and applying the law about these issues.

Chairman Fleshman asked for a second on the motion

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Trustee Horn thanked Nicole and Robyn for their efforts on this matter.

Administrator Mazer made a motion for resolution 2023-056 declaring the property owned by ITAY LEVY LLC at 61 Volney a nuisance property due to refuse, vegetation, garbage and debris. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 505.87 - The owners must remove the garbage etc. within seven days and if they do not, the township will do so and enter the cost of such removal upon the tax duplicate for the property.

Administrator Mazer showed a slideshow of photos from this property demonstrating the state disrepair and refuse visible from the road.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer promised more action on similar properties within the township in future meetings. Explained that there is a form online that residents can fill out with information on nuisance properties. Franklin County Public Health and Zoning Departments are working with the township on this problem. There are plans to proceed with abandoned vehicles next. He has a meeting with The Land Bank this afternoon, who could possibly intercede and absorb the cost. Quotes have been requested to clean up the properties on Brown Rd (\$6,000) and Volney (\$2,000), which would be reimbursed by a lien put on the property.

Administrator Mazer made a motion for [resolution 2023-057](#) setting a hearing and providing notice concerning an unsafe structure on 61 Volney pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 505.86, if measures are not taken within 30 days by owners.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer brought to discussion a new sign for 2193 Frank Road utilizing ARP funds. The old one has already been removed. There is a quote from a local manufacturer for \$2,000 made of aluminum and PVC which is weather resistant.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Administrator Mazer next brought up the need to order four new AED CPR machines for police cruisers with ARP Funds. Chief Smith said the ones they have have been out of date for 5-6 years. They are traded in when out of date.

Administrator Mazer will have resolution at the next meeting.

Trustee Leezer seconded

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

Lastly Administrator Mazer made [resolution 2023-063](#) pertaining to a letter of engagement for Jeff Wilchek, CPA for an additional 200 hours, with cost not to exceed \$11,000 which should get Jeff through the summer assisting the Fiscal Department with the ongoing audit. Will need to appropriate additional funds, presently available in the accounting and legal fund there is \$27,164 available which is 53% of what was funded for 2023. The board will need to appropriate funds out of the general fund to ensure there is sufficient funds available in the appropriate fund.

Trustee Horn seconded the motion

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

Chairman Fleshman made a resolution that any resolution that comes before the board must have come through the Administrator and confirmed funds have been appropriated at least 48 hours prior meeting. Trustee Horn questioned whether the board preferred to bring up new resolutions at the table, as in the past they had decided against it. The board agreed that this particular resolution would move forward.

Trustee Leezer seconded the motion

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

Trustee Horn reported on a meeting for National Night Out including Linda Mercer, Jan, Jeff, Pastor Womack, Bill Snodgrass, Chief Smith among its attendants. They discussed the set up amongst the different departments, the plan for food, as well as donations. Chairman Fleshman committed to visiting every booth in attendance.

Trustee Horn finished by mentioning the Juanita Kauffman award and asked the public to submit their nominations so they can be voted on come July.

Township Resident Speakers:

- Mike Blevins of 1855 Ransburg Ave- speeding is getting worse on the street in front of his home. Two weeks ago there was a terrible accident, one of six in the past year. The speed limit is 25 MPH, but a lot of people are going much faster. He pleaded with the board to do something about this before anyone else is injured, and lots of children play in front of his home. Chief Smith is doing what he can to assist with the

speeding. Mike also made a request to get an update on the township's audit. Administrator Mazer expects an update by the end of August. Trustee Horn is concerned about the amount of money being spent on the audit.

- Jan wanted to say thanks to the police, fire, and road crew. She brought up the issue of fireworks being set off already. Chief Smith explained that they are shot off at their busiest time which makes it difficult to follow up on. Trustee Leezer explained that the Governor legalized fireworks to be set off for several dates during the year (Cinco de Mayo day before, of, and after, fourth of July for two weeks before and one week after, etc.)
- Trustee Horn asked Chief Smith to get together with Chief Arnold and Jim Stevens about suggestions for Mike's neighborhood on Ransburg Ave and the speeding. Chief Smith confirmed that the issue was already being addressed.

With no further discussion Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 1:27PM.

Chairman John Fleshman

Vice Chairman, James Leezer

Trustee Ralph Horn

Fiscal Officer, Marguerite Trodden

-audio available by public records request