

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

July 27, 2023

Chairman Fleshman called the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to order at approximately 12:00 P.M. on July 27, 2023.

Pastor Womack led the opening prayer.

Audience member Curtis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Old Business:

Meeting minutes tabled until the next regular meeting: the 6/20/23 Special Meeting, the 6/30/23 Special Meeting, and the 07/07/23 Special Meeting.

New Business

Patty Spencer, Southwest Area Commission (SWAC) Zoning Chairperson, had nothing to report.

Administrator Steve Mazer:

Mr. Mazer distributed the 2023 Juanita Kaufman Award Nomination Forms for the board to review.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to award the 2023 Juanita Kaufman Award to resident Jann Legge. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes.

Motion approved.

Police Department:

Byron Smith, Chief of Police, was not present.

Administrator Mazer read the June 2023 police stats that totaled 872 calls. (Audio available for details)

Deputy Hamilton from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office was not present for comment.

Fire Department:

Robert (Bob) Arnold, Fire Chief, requested the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to buy 10 (ten) bulletproof vests for the fire department. Chief Arnold stated he was working with Administrator Mazer on the funds needed and the specifics of the request.

Chief Arnold shared that a former fire department employee currently provides a wellness and lifestyle training program. The former employee is offering to provide a program designed for Franklin Township to assist employees in wellness and lifestyle balance. The program would be held once a week, tentatively from 9 A.M. to 10 A.M. on Wednesdays. Chief Arnold also said that the cost of this program is yet to be determined.

The Chief also provided stats for the last thirty (30) days:

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Nine hundred eighty-three (983) runs which average to sixteen (16) runs per twenty-four (24) hour shift per firehouse.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to allow Chief Arnold to explore the wellness and lifestyle balance program for Franklin Township. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn)- yes.

Motion approved.

Road Department:

Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens, had nothing to report.

Fiscal Department:

Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer, read the motion to approve accounts payable from July 14, 2023 – July 27, 2023, in the amount of \$76,332.17, and payroll paid on July 21, 2023, in the amount of \$179,143.36 for a combined total of \$255,475.53. From check numbers 69288 to 69337 and electronic vouchers 1179-2023 through 1251-2023.

Chairman Fleshman accepted the motion as read. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn) – yes.

Motion approved.

The Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal Officer distributed copies of checks obtained through grants with which the Fiscal Department was not involved. They explained that the Fiscal Department has had little to no involvement in these grants except for receiving the checks in the mail. It is important that the Fiscal Department have prior knowledge of any grant to ensure deliverables can be made. For example, it has been determined that the traffic grant obtained by the police department required the fiscal officer to be listed and involved. The application had the name of an employee of the police department in place of the fiscal officer on the grant application. The Fiscal Department requested copies of the grant, grant plans, and all documentation related to the grant; not all these items have been submitted.

The Assistant Fiscal Officer also explained that former Fiscal Officer Nick Dunn resigned on December 31, 2022, and she has not been shown anything about the fire department's SAFER grant. The Township has allowed the contracted CPA to oversee the SAFER grant; how is this possible, they asked? They continued to explain that the CPA is coming and going as they please and that the new fiscal officer has been here for almost one (1) month. The CPA has not offered or approached the fiscal officer for training. Someone needs to schedule a time to review the expectations of their role with the CPA. The Fiscal Officer said the CPA is doing day-to-day work (not audit work as they were hired) and not training her as a form of job security within the Township.

The board agreed that a meeting needs to be scheduled to walk the CPA through the Township's expectations now that a fiscal officer is in place.

Administrator Report:

Administrator Mazer read Resolution 2023-142 approving eighty (80) hours of injury leave for employee David Ratliff, 07/19/23 – 08/01/23, per the employee's MOU.

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Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn) – yes.

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-143** obligations approved by the Township Administrator from 07/14/23 – 07/27/23 in the amount of \$18,285.50.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn) – yes.

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-144** approving the renewal of ARAG, legal insurance for the police department from 2023-2026.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn) – yes.

Administrator Mazer shared that employee Doug Fleahman of the fire department was currently on light duty while an injury was healing. The Administrator explained that Fleahman comes to work every day, and the fire chief keeps him busy in the office.

Administrator Mazer asked the board where they stood with Trebel Energy, committing to a five (5) year contract with them. The Administrator also reminded the board that the residents of Franklin Township can choose to select any energy supplier that is available to them, the same as Trebel.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to allow Administrator Mazer to notify Trebel Energy that Franklin Township would not be placing a utility aggregate on the ballot in November 2023. Trustee Horn seconded.

The vote was as follows: John (Chairman Fleshman)- yes, Jim (Vice-Chairman Leezer)- excused, Ralph (Trustee Horn) – yes.

Trustee Reports:

Chairman Fleshman had nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Leezer was not present and excused from the meeting.

Trustee Horn had nothing to report.

Questions from the Audience:

Tom Waller of Westwood Drive explained his frustration with the Greyhound bus terminal on N. Wilson Road and recommended that the terminal lease an area near Polaris.

Chairman Fleshman explained that the Board of Trustees could not send a letter to the City of Columbus but that residents are actively communicating with the city on this matter. The city is letting the terminal remain open to see if it will comply with zoning regulations. The Township cannot do anything; the city must want to make a change, said Fleshman.

Trustee Horn said the Township had nothing to do with the terminal moving to the west side of Columbus. Trustee Horn recommended that Mr. Waller contact the Greater Hilltop Area Commission or that he attend a City of Columbus council meeting.

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Chairman Fleshman thanked Mr. Waller for his comments.

Carol Schoonover of Rae Avenue asked the board if they attended a Columbus School Board meeting related to the parent pick-up situation on Rae Avenue, as promised in a prior meeting.

Chairman Fleshman said that no one had attended a school board meeting but that the police chief is working with the school to find a resolution. If there is no resolution, the Township will contact the school board. Chairman Fleshman confirmed that an officer will be in the area when school starts this year.

Trustee Horn recommended that the Township schedule a meeting with the principal before school resumes.

Chairman Fleshman thanked Ms. Schoonover for her comments.


Mike Blevins of Ransburg Avenue asked the board what the status was on the redevelopment of 771 Harrisburg Pike and if the owner of Mark Gray Enterprises was returning to a township meeting to provide another presentation to the public on the intent of use for the property as promised at the previous meeting.

Trustee Horn said that the owner was working through zoning at that there were no updates at this time.

Jann Legge of Brownleaf Avenue thanked everyone for the award and asked everyone to be safe.

Chairman Fleshman thanked Ms. Legge for her comment.

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 1:10 P.M.



Chairman John Fleshman

EXCUSED

Vice Chairman James Leezer



Trustee Ralph Horn



Fiscal Department

Audio of meeting available by public records request

Full resolutions available by record request