

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio

Regular Meeting

Held at 2193 Frank Road

August 10, 2023

Chairman Fleshman called the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to order at approximately 12:00 P.M. on August 10, 2023.

Vice-Chairman Leezer led the opening prayer.

Audience member Jann Legge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Old Business:

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve the following meeting minutes from the July 13, 2023, regular meeting, and the July 19, 2023, special meeting as written. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Motion approved.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 27, 2023, as written. Trustee Horn seconded the motion.

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

Motion approved.

New Business

Patty Spencer, Southwest Area Commission (SWAC) Zoning Chairperson.

Ms. Spencer shared information with the board about an O.D. Awareness Day is being hosted by Maryhaven on August 12, 2023, from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. She also stated that the City of Columbus would be having a Violence Prevention Seminar on September 19, 2023, and welcomes community conversation. More details can be found on the City of Columbus' website.

Chairman Fleshman opened the floor for questions, with no questions, the floor was closed.

Police Department:

Byron Smith, Chief of Police, was not present.

Administrator Mazer read the July 2023 police stats that totaled 887 calls for service.

Administrator Mazer presented **Resolution 2023-152**, approving 80 hours of injury leave for David Ratliff, from August 2, 2023 – August 15, 2023, per the employee's MOU. Administrator Mazer confirmed all required documents are on file for this employee at this time.

Discussion:

Trustee Horn asked for clarification on the specifics of the leave dates.

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Vice-Chairman Leezer asked Administrator Mazer if he had checked with Sedgwick on moving injured employees from the Township payroll onto the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (OBWC). Administrator Mazer explained that he is in conversation with Sedgwick and the OBWC on this matter.

Chairman Fleshman asked if this employee is utilizing their leave bank or if the Township is giving them the 80 hours. Administrator Mazer confirmed the Township is giving the employee 80 hours and that the employee is not using any of their leave balances. Vice-Chairman Leezer recommended the Administrator continue to keep moving forward in exploring this matter to save money in the police budget. Chairman Fleshman said if the Township is paying the premium to the OBWC, then the employee's wages should come from the OBWC and not the Township. The Assistant Fiscal Officer confirmed that the Township's monthly OBWC premium is over \$9,800.00 per month.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Motion approved.

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

Fire Department:

Robert (Bob) Arnold, Fire Chief, asked the board to consider **Resolution 2023-147**, accepting a grant from the Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program (OATP) in the amount of \$21,622.78.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Motion approved.

Chief Arnold read **Resolution 2023-149** requesting the use of ARPA Funds to purchase eight bulletproof vests for the fire department at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.00.

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

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

Motion approved.

Chief Arnold read **Resolution 2023-154** requesting the use of ARPA Funds to purchase turnout gear for a new firefighter at a cost not to exceed \$2,700.00.

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

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

Motion approved.

Chief Arnold asked the board to consider **Resolution 2023-146**, accepting a grant from the Energy Transfer First Responder Fund in the amount of \$15,000.00.

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Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution if the Fiscal Department receives all the necessary paperwork. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion with the understanding all documentation would be submitted to the Fiscal Department.

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

Motion approved.

Road Department:

Road Superintendent, Jim Stevens, read **Resolution 2023-145**, approving scrapping the old asphalt roller (SRH150) and placing any funds received back into the appropriate road department fund.

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

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

Motion approved.

Mr. Stevens distributed building plans for a potentially new maintenance shop at 4100 Sullivant Avenue next to Station 192. Chairman Fleshman asked Mr. Stevens to make sure that all funding to support this project is accounted for. Mr. Stevens said he has spoken to the Auditor of the State as well about this project. Administrator Mazer said the Township residents have invested thousands of dollars into equipment that is sitting outside in the elements. Trustee Horn asked Mr. Stevens what is the intended use of the building that is located at 2193 Frank Road. Mr. Stevens said it could be converted into various uses. Mr. Stevens said that no decisions were needed today and that this was just for informational purposes only to ensure the board was good at continuing to work on building a structure at that location. All board members agreed.

Fiscal Department:

The Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal Officer updated the board on how their efforts have been unsuccessful in connecting with the CPA to schedule time to train the new fiscal officer.

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.

Robyn Watkins, Assistant Fiscal Officer, read the motion to approve accounts payable from July 28, 2023 – August 10, 2023, in the amount of \$152,107.75, and payroll paid on August 1, 2023, in the amount of \$9,125.82, and payroll paid on August 4, 2023, in the amount of \$185,151.30, for a combined total of \$346,384.87. From check numbers 69338 to 69384 and electronic vouchers 1252-2023 through 1349-2023.

Chairman Fleshman accepted the motion as read. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded.

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

Motion approved.

Administrator Report:

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-153**, approving Supplemental Appropriation #9.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded.

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

Motion approved.

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Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-150** obligations approved by the Township Administrator from 07/28/23 – 08/10/23 in the amount of \$54,588.95.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded.

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

Motion approved.

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-151** approving 64 hours of injury leave for Byron Smith from 07/28/23 – 08/10/23, per the employee's MOU.

Discussion:

Vice-Chairman Leezer asked why only 64 hours were being requested. Administrator Mazer explained that the employee is working light duty one day a week for eight hours a day which is 16 hours per pay period. The board continued their discussion with Administrator Mazer on his efforts in working with Sedgwick and the OBWC.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded.

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

Motion approved.

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-151** approving the purchase of new tires for the backhoe, not to exceed \$2,200.00.

Discussion:

Vice-Chairman Leezer brought an error in the quote to the Road Superintendent's attention, requesting a revised quote to be submitted to reflect the correct piece of equipment.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded.

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

Motion approved.

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-155** announcing Jann Legge as the recipient of the 2023 Juanita Kaufman Award.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded.

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

Motion approved.

Administrator Mazer explained that a decision has been made to change the pay periods for the township employees beginning the second pay date in January 2024. The employees' wages will not be impacted, but this change is needed to allow the Fiscal Department adequate time to process payroll. Administrator Mazer explained that beginning on September 15, 2023, the pay date, the Fiscal Department will only pay each employee their wages via one direct deposit bank account. The Fiscal Officer explained several employees have two accounts for their wages to be deposited and that is coming to an end as of September 15, 2023.

Administrator Mazer announced that Sargent Moore has been temporarily assigned as the interim police lieutenant until both the police chief and police lieutenant are back to work full-time from injury leave. Vice-

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Chairman Leezer asked if Lieutenant Moore would be moving to the first shift. Administrator Mazer said he would review the police officer's schedule as the trustees need to know how the police department is operating. The Assistant Fiscal Officer asked the trustees if Lieutenant Moore would have use of the cruiser assigned to the lieutenant position. Chairman Fleshman and Vice-Chairman Leezer said Lieutenant Moore would only receive the benefits outlined in the collective bargaining agreement. Chairman Fleshman said the board can leave things alone unless issues surface within the department.

Administrator Mazer explained the LinkUS initiative and their request for a letter of support from Franklin Township.

Chairman Fleshman made a motion for the township to send a letter of support for the LinkUS initiative. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion.

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

Motion approved.

Administrator Mazer explained that with the support of the Mid-Ohio Regional Plan Commission (MORPC), the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the Franklin County Engineers Office, and other agencies; the township is in the running to receive approximately \$1.5M to install sidewalks in the Westbrook subdivision. Administrator Mazer shared that this project would include roads within the Eastfield subdivision as well. The County will be approaching the landowners of this project very soon, said Mazer.

Administrator Mazer updated the trustees that COCIC is working to secure 1053 Brown Road as we speak.

Trustee Reports:

Chairman Fleshman had nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman Leezer asked the Fiscal Department for an update on Resolution 2023-139 as it relates to the overtime traffic grant and the required documentation needed to accept the grant funds. The Assistant Fiscal Officer explained that this issue was presented at the July 27, 2023, meeting that the Vice-Chairman was excused from. The Assistant Fiscal Officer explained that the Fiscal Department still does not have the required documents needed to cash the funds that have been received so far on the grant.

Administrator Mazer explained that an auditor is coming from the Ohio Department of Transportation to go over how the grant dollars are being applied even though the township has not cashed the check. The trustees asked Administrator Mazer what he would like to do. Administrator Mazer recommended that the auditors should come as scheduled and then the township can explain the issue. Chairman Fleshman said if this cannot be resolved then the funds need to go back. The board approved Administrator Mazer to reach out to the police chief to obtain the necessary documents.

Trustee Horn had nothing to report.

Questions from the Audience:

Michael Copeland of Brownleaf Road expressed his disappointment and the lack of response from the road superintendent concerning the groundwater draining issue on his property. Mr. Copeland explained that he has been working with Chairman Fleshman and has been asking for a storm drain grate to be placed in front of his house and nothing is being done. The road superintendent explained that the township did do something to aid in the groundwater issue by installing a drain under Mr. Copeland's driveway to push the water away from his property. The road superintendent explained that he had just spoken with Chairman Fleshman yesterday and was under the impression the issue was handled. The road superintendent asked Mr. Copeland to identify the location where he would like a new grate and that the township would install one. Mr. Copeland continued to

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express his dissatisfaction with the road superintendent. Chairman Fleshman said that based on information provided today the solution is not as easy as he initially thought.

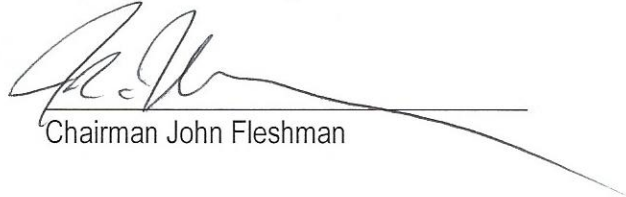
Chairman Fleshman thanked Mr. Copeland for his comments.

Jann Legge of Brownleaf Road thanked everyone for their work and for receiving the 2023 Juanita Kaufman Award.

Mike Blevins of Ransburg Avenue explained he had never heard of any other entity providing injured workers with 100% of their wages and benefits, it gives the employee no initiative to return to work. The township has been providing injured workers with 100% of their wages for years, this is past practice. Mr. Blevins shared that several years ago he asked the fire chief at the time, James Welch, about this matter and the chief reported that it was cheaper for the township to pay 100% of an employee's wages/benefits than to have them apply for benefits through the OBWC at that time, the board can go back and look at past minutes.

Vice-Chairman Leezer responded by saying that the board of trustees is working on correcting the ship, We now have a policy handbook in place that supersedes an employee's MOU. The township may have had a better rate with OBWC back then but not now, Vice-Chairman Leezer, replied.

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 2:03 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