Chairman Fleshman called the Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, Board of Trustees Special Meeting to order at approximately 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

Vice-Chairman Leezer led the opening prayer.

Trustee Horn led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Old Business:**

*No Old Business to report.*

**New Business:**

Administrator Mazer read **Resolution 2023-179**, approving Supplemental Appropriation #10.

*Chairman Fleshman made a motion to accept the resolution as read. 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 read **Resolution 2023-180**, approving the purchase of four (4) compact body shields for the Police Department. The cost will be taken from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) money at a cost not to exceed $12,000.00.

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

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

*Motion approved.*

Vice-Chairman Leezer recommended to the other members of the board that the Township consider purchasing law enforcement safety lighting from *Guardian Angel Devices.* He explained that these are personal lighting devices the officers can attach to their uniforms and be visible to each other if they pursue someone in a low-lit or dark environment. Vice-Chairman Leezer offered to provide a quote to the board at their next meeting.

Vice-Chairman Leezer asked the board to consider writing a support letter to the *Royale Cigar Lounge,* located on Georgesville Road, in their attempts to obtain their revoked liquor license. The owners of the lounge accidentally forgot to renew their liquor license. They are asking for this letter so they can take it to their hearing in front of the State Liquor Board on September 6, 2023, said Vice-Chairman Leezer.

*Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve the Township Administrator to write a letter of support for the Royale Cigar Lounge to present at their State Liquor Board hearing. Trustee Horn seconded the motion.*

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

*Motion approved.*

Administrator Mazer said the next item on the agenda relates to Trustee Horn’s concerns about recent postings on the Police Department’s Facebook page. He said that he received a call from the Police Department this morning requesting that this topic be tabled until a representative from the Police Department can be present at the meeting to address the board’s concerns directly. The board agreed to table the topic.

Administrator Mazer said that the board has never officially made a motion to set a cost for public request requests when the requestor asks for paper copies of the records. In most cases, the requestor accepts their records electronically. Administrator Mazer recommended that the board approve black and white copies for $0.05 (five cents) per page and colored copies at $0.10 (ten cents) per page.

*Chairman Fleshman made a motion to approve public record requests requiring paper to cost $0.05 (five cents) per sheet of paper for black and white copies and $0.10 (ten cents) per sheet of paper for color copies. Vice-Chairman Leezer seconded the motion. Motion approved.*

Administrator Mazer explained that he had informed all departments of the upcoming changes involving reporting injury leave, the change in the pay period beginning in January of 2024, and the elimination of multiple bank accounts for employees’ payroll wages as of September 15, 2023. Administrator Mazer said that when he returns from vacation, he would like to meet with the board and the department heads implementing these changes. Administrator Mazer asked the board for their support when implementing these changes. The department heads have trouble adjusting, and he needs each board member to do their part to support him.

Vice-Chairman Leezer said that the board has already given Administrator Mazer the authority to operate the day-to-day operations (including discipline), and the Board of Trustees needs to back him in his efforts. Trustee Horn agreed with Vice-Chairman Leezer and stated that Administrator Mazer had been roughed up verbally by many.

Chairman Fleshman reminded everyone that when a special meeting is scheduled, the board needs to remain on topic and not add items to the agenda without the chairman’s knowledge.

Chairman Fleshman opened the floor up for questions from the audience even though it was not listed on the agenda.

*Mike Blevins of Ransburg Avenue* stated that he appreciated the board solidifying the cost for public record requests because, in March of 2023, he paid $0.05 (five cents) per page. This week, He received a call indicating that his most recent record request would be $0.25 (twenty-five cents) per page, which seems outrageous.

Chairman Fleshman adjourned the meeting at 10:27 A.M with no further discussion or comments.

Adopted on: 08/29/23

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The Chair, John Fleshman

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The Vice-Chair James Leezer

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Trustee Ralph Horn

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Fiscal Department/Officer