

The Franklin Township Board of Trustees met on April 12, 2017 at 6 p.m. Trustee Callahan, Trustee Ruppert, Trustee Morris, Fiscal Officer Fromeyer, Administrator Stivers and Cemetery Superintendent Bishop were all in attendance.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS:

Joe Garrett, Trebel LLC., was in attendance and discussed the aggregation issue that Franklin Township voters passed in November 2016. The competitive bidding process was complete and the results were presented to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Garrett stated that our residents should receive an opt-out letter in approximately 3 weeks.

Mr. Ruppert made a motion to enter into a contract with Dinergy, for a period of 36 months, so long as they are the price remains lower than that of Duke Energy.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes

Mr. Morris - Yes

Mrs. Callahan - Yes

Motion carried.

Major Steve Arrasmith, Warren County Drug Task Force, attended and spoke about the operations his department worked on in 2016 and thanked the Township for their continued support.

Carol Hershey attended. Ms. Hershey spoke about the changes in cemetery policies. She recently learned that her decorations had been removed. Mr. Morris said he sympathizes but it's more than just an aesthetics issue, but also a safety issue. Mr. Ruppert stated that he appreciated Ms. Hershey attending. He said that most of the rules had been longstanding, but not enforced. There are more than 12,000 graves that must be mowed around and trimmed around. Ms. Hershey was informed that the policies were changed in September of 2016 and have been advertised for many months. The changes were posted in the cemetery on signs throughout the grounds since October 2016; the changes were published in both the Middletown Journal and the Franklin Chronicle in January on two different occasions. Mrs. Callahan suggested that Ms. Hershey join the cemetery committee to join others in making the cemetery look better.

Lewis Raby was scheduled to attend, but did not come. Mr. Lewis is having some difficulties with semis in his neighborhood. Mrs. Stivers said that we can discuss it more later in the agenda.

Mark Boy, 7855 Sherri Lane, attended. Mr. Boy read a statement accusing multiple employees of wrong doing. He stated that he had reported the wrong doing of one employee to Trustee Callahan and she had then discussed it with the other members of management in an executive session. Mr. Boy alleges that the Administrator then used his name when disciplining the original employee in question. Mr. Ruppert stated that he takes Mr. Boy's complaints very seriously, but that if that is what happened, no laws or rules were broken by using his name. Matters discussed in executive session are only required to be confidential if they are privileged legal conversations with an attorney present. Mrs. Stivers stated that she did not tell any of the employees that Mr. Boy made the complaint. She said that one employee did say something regarding Mr. Boy, and she stated to the employee "I did not say Mark Boy's name." Mr. Boy asked how that employee would know that it was Mr. Boy, Mrs. Stivers replied to Mr. Boy that his frequent public records requests were a pretty big indicator that it might be him. Mr. Boy asked several questions, but left the Township property before anyone could answer his questions stating that he had to leave for a family obligation.

OLD BUSINESS:

The community pool agreement was discussed. Trustee Morris said that he asked Mrs. Stivers to relay his questions to Mr. Lewis at the City of Franklin. Mr. Morris would like Mrs. Stivers to ask Mr. Lewis if we could put a cap on the expenses of the pool. Mr. Ruppert said he didn't understand, that the agreement already states that the Board of Trustees have to approve the annual budget, so we should already know what was being spent. Mr. Morris is concerned about unexpected expenses. Mr. Ruppert stated that if it's not in the budget that the City would have to come to us and ask permission to get it covered if it's not in the budget. Mrs. Callahan said since she hasn't been to any of the pool meetings she is not comfortable signing the pool contract. Mrs. Callahan is the President of the Board and therefore would be the one to sign any contracts. Mrs. Callahan said that she would like the individual who attends the pool meetings to be the person who signs. Mr. Morris suggested an amendment to say "a representative of Franklin Township Board of Trustees."

The budget for the pool was discussed. The Trustees were presented with a budget sheet, which was previously emailed to them. Mrs. Stivers said that there were two line items for cosmetic repairs that the City of Franklin has agreed to cover entirely, she pointed out those two line items to the Trustees. Mrs. Stivers said that it was projected that our share would be roughly \$30,000.

Mr. Morris suggested we approve the agreement with the amendments discussed. Mr. Ruppert said that the last page should say that the contract can be terminated if either party chooses to do so. Mrs. Callahan asked Mr. Fromeyer about appropriations, Mr. Fromeyer explained where the money could come from if needed. Mr. Morris said he'd feel better waiting on the budget

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the pool agreement with the amendments discussed regarding who signs and approves the agreement and who has the option to end the agreement. Mr. Ruppert seconded the motion. Mrs. Callahan asked if Carlisle asks for money are we going to tell them no? Mr. Morris said this was planned a year in advance, that if Carlisle asks for something we plan to help them in the future. Mr. Ruppert agreed.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

Mrs. Stivers asked the board if they are definitely on board with the ODOT 5310 grant program that would allow us to accept a grant for a handicapped accessible vehicle, as ODOT is asking Mrs. Stivers for a letter of commitment. Mrs. Stivers reminded the board that there is a \$10,000 local share that we would have to pay.

Mr. Ruppert made a motion to commit to this grant.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mr. Morris - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

BARK-Tober Fest was discussed. Mrs. Stivers asked the board if they'd like her to move forward and seek sponsors. They stated that they would like to continue the event. Mrs. Callahan suggested we create a special events committee.

The Hunter Red Lion landscape project was discussed. Mrs. Stivers said that one business owner was willing to match whatever we contribute by 1/3. Mr. Morris said he has reached out to some service organizations to try to get donations. Mrs. Stivers said if we truly want this area to be developed then we need to be willing to make some investments to make that area pleasant looking. Mr. Morris said he'd reach out to the other business owners along 122.

Mr. Morris made a motion to spend up to \$2,000.00 on landscaping in the right of way along State Route 122. Mr. Ruppert seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Stivers stated that it's time to renew our property insurance. Mrs. Stivers said that rates have gone up slightly each year. Mrs. Stivers said that we do get a credit for drug and alcohol testing and for doing annual driving checks on our employees. Mr. Ruppert made a motion to renew our OTARMA coverage. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mr. Morris - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

A GoFund Me account was discussed. Mr. Morris made a motion to allow the Administrator to create a GoFund Me account to accept donations for cemetery and park purposes. Mr. Ruppert seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris- Yes
Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

Mr. Ruppert made a motion to approve Resolution No. 01-04122017 prohibiting thru semi trucks/tractor trailers on Mentz, Harriett, Olive, Ethel and Russel. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes

Mr. Morris - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

Mrs. Callahan said that she had noticed that the flashing sign at Trenton - Franklin and Lanier is not flashing. Mrs. Stivers said she will get it taken care of.

Mrs. Stivers said that Sparks in The Park festival committee have asked if we will sponsor the festival. Mr. Ruppert made a motion to sponsor the event in the amount of \$400.00. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes
 Mr. Morris - Yes
 Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

Mr. Ruppert made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 02-04122017 adopting permanent appropriations. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes
 Mr. Morris - Yes
 Mrs. Callahan - Yes

Mrs. Stivers indicated that Shirley Day, the part time Administrative Assistant has left us. Mr. Ruppert made a motion to accept the resignation of Shirley Day. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes
 Mr. Morris - Yes
 Mrs. Callahan - Yes

Mrs. Stivers said she may ask for a special meeting to get someone new hired and trained prior to her scheduled vacation in May.

ROAD REPORT:

Paving for Martz - Paulin was discussed. The cost is estimated at \$140,000. Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the paving of Martz - Paulin Rd. Mr. Ruppert seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris - Yes
 Mr. Ruppert - Yes
 Mrs. Callahan - Yes

Mrs. Stivers reminded the Board that the Road Superintendent has been requesting a hot box for several years now. It would be very useful this time of year when filling potholes.

Mrs. Stivers also reminded the Board that the road maintenance garage needs painted and looks very bad. She said that they should be mindful of that when deciding how they will spend money.

Mr. Rose emailed Mrs. Stivers a road report stating that he and his crew have been busy cleaning out ditches and mowing. Mrs. Stivers said the office has a very long list of ditches that the residents have requested be cleaned.

CEMETERY REPORT:

Mr. Bishop said that they are having a hard time keeping up with the grass and weeds and he is eager to get summer employees hired. Mr. Ruppert asked if we had any applications yet. Mrs. Stivers said we had three, one with zero work, one had some lawn care experience and one with no experience but he is an eagle scout, which looks good.

Mrs. Callahan asked about the purchase of a cemetery truck, Mr. Bishop said he hadn't gotten anywhere on that.

Mrs. Stivers said that there is a quote in the Trustee's packets for the engineering and opening of Section 44. Mrs. Stivers said that we are very slim on available graves. Mr. Ruppert made a motion to approve the quote by WYCO Engineering for the opening of Section 44 at a cost not to exceed \$8,175.00. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes
 Mr. Morris - Yes
 Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

Mrs. Stivers reminded the Board that the cemetery committee has a Butterfly Release fundraiser coming up.

Mr. Bishop also stated that Mrs. Stivers had purchased thirteen trees from the Warren County Water & Soil Seedling sale and they had been planted along the roadway in the new section.

Mrs. Stivers asked the Trustees to look at the monitors, she indicated on a map where the scattering garden would be designed. Someone from the county is assisting Mr. Bishop and Mrs. Stivers in getting this designed.

Mrs. Stivers reminded the board that there is a Headstone Cleaning clinic coming up and she would appreciate their attendance.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Bishop indicated that he needs twelve sets of gear. After ten years gear expires and becomes a liability. Mrs. Stivers said that this money had been appropriated and there was no reason not to move forward. Mr. Ruppert made a motion to purchase twelve sets of gear at a cost of \$2,628 per set. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes

Mr. Morris- Yes

Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

Chief Bishop says that the fire department is in need of a pole barn. Mr. Morris said we can discuss it further later in the year.

Chief bishop said that ladder testing had been completed. Mr. Ruppert asked any fire hose needed to be replaced. Chief Bishop said we are in good shape for a while.

Mrs. Stivers asked in regards to the proposed fire levy, what exactly does the board need to feel comfortable moving forward? Mr. Ruppert said that he needs specific information so that it can be distributed to the Board. He understands what it is for, but not everyone was able to attend the meetings and understands what it was for. Mrs. Stivers asked if Mr. Morris and Mr. Ruppert were comfortable enough to simply let Chief Bishop and Mrs. Stivers meet with Mrs. Callahan to explain all the proposed expenses. Mr. Morris and Mr. Ruppert were fine with that.

Mrs. Callahan asked if the fire department vs fire district issue had been clarified. Mrs. Stivers gave the Trustees a copy of an email that Warren County Assistant Prosecutor Keith Anderson had sent her, indicating that he believes that someone simply misspoke years ago when writing the ballot language.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mrs. Stivers stated that the summer programs are scheduled.

Mrs. Stivers said that she'd like to take six days of vacation time May 5-13. The Trustees had no objections.

Mrs. Stivers stated that ODOT had come to the Township and held a class.

We also had a BWC claim when a firefighter was recently injured.

Mrs. Callahan asked about time clocks, which were previously discussed. Mrs. Stivers said that she and Fiscal Officer Fromeyer had discussed it and Fiscal Officer Fromeyer had indicated that time clocks would not be beneficial to him at all. Mrs. Stivers said that we have 29,000 residents and we've had 1 complaint. She can't recommend time clocks based on that. She sees no reason to spend an initial \$8,000 having clocks installed at all our locations and then an additional \$1,000 per year for the use of the software. Mr. Morris said that we need to look into something different because we may have a problem when we are audited. Mrs. Stivers reminded him that we've used the current time cards for more than ten years and we've been audited several times, with no concerns. Mr. Morris said we need to better document breaks. Mrs. Stivers said that Fiscal Officer Fromeyer is who the Board needs to discuss audits with. Mr. Fromeyer said that he will bring a copy of the JEMS time sheet, as it has been approved by the auditor.

Mr. Ruppert made a motion to approve the payment to the Deardoff Senior Center in the amount of \$7,500. Mr Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Ruppert - Yes

Mr. Morris - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - No Motion carried.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the payment listing dated April 12, 2017 excluding the payment to the Deardoff Center. Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes
Mr. Ruppert - Abstain Motion carried.

Mr. Ruppert made a motion to approve the remaining fiscal reports. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.

COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ruppert asked about the community lunch that Anthony Wayne hosts. Mrs. Stivers said those invitations will be sent to the Trustees homes.

Mr. Ruppert also mention Mr. Boy and said that he does take his comments and concerns seriously. He said that we've already discussed Mr. Boy's concerns in Executive Session. That Mrs. Stivers has already taken the action that the Board asked her to take. Mrs. Stivers asked if the Board would like to hear what became of her investigation. All three trustees agreed that it could wait and we'd talk about it later.

Mr. Ruppert also said he wants to be sure that people understand that we represent everybody, regardless of whether they live in the Village or City. That if either entity asked for our help we would consider it.

Mr. Morris said that whether you are for or against the Carlisle school bond levy, be aware that this is a big issue for our community.

Mrs. Callahan said that while we do represent everyone in the township, she wants to be sure that those on the board understands that just because we share a name with the City of Franklin, doesn't mean we need to continue supporting them. We need to represent the unincorporated part of Franklin Township. The City has seven council people to represent them, we have to represent the unincorporated areas.

Mr. Fromeyer said that all of the elected officials were sent an email from the State Auditor and they must reply so that the audit can begin. Only one Trustee had responded.

Mr. Morris made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Mr. Ruppert seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Ruppert - Yes
Mrs. Callahan - Yes Motion carried.


Beth Callahan, President


Brian Morris, Vice President


Ronald Ruppert, Trustee


Scot Fromeyer, Fiscal Officer