

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Franklin Township Trustees

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held August 13, 2014

The Franklin Township Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, August 14, 2014 at 6 p.m. Trustee Ruppert, Trustee Callahan, and Fiscal Officer Fromeyer were present. Additionally, Office Manager Traci Stivers, Road Superintendent Rob Rose and Cemetery Superintendent Steve Bishop were present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2014 minutes.

Mr. Ruppert seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Callahan – Yes  
Mr. Ruppert – Yes Motion carried.

#### VISITORS:

Lt. Miller from the Warren County Sheriff's Office attended. He stated that since Mrs. Stivers had been contacting Major Tinch directly, it had proven helpful. The deputies have issued citations for alcohol in the park in Hunter.

Frank Harmon, Ohio Insurance Services, attended to tell the trustees about a new program that he'd like to enroll us in. The program would have a January 1, 2016 renewal date, and while we would see a 2.5% decrease in cost, we would be locked into a three year commitment. Mr. Harmon advised the township that it would be in the township's best interest from an insurance standpoint to make the township a tobacco free workplace. He stated that we will soon see increases directly related to tobacco users on our plan.

Emery Kidwell, 7149 Twinview Dr., attended. He stated that he had heard a rumor that the trustees were going to put an 11% tax increase on the ballot. Mr. Kidwell believed the tax increase was to be used for a full time fire department. He also stated that there is nothing wrong with our current department and if it isn't broken, then there is no reason to fix it. Mr. Ruppert said that at this time the trustees are not discussing any type of tax increase. Mr. Kidwell also mentioned the problem with semis that attempt to go under the underpass on Franklin – Trenton Rd. Mrs. Stivers said that four new signs and spinners have been placed along the path that the trucks are taking to try to warn them, that the problem is that the drivers simply do not pay attention to the signs. She is pursuing other options. Lastly, Mr. Kidwell wanted to know what was being done about trashy properties in the township. He stated that he's lived here many years, his parents built the home he lives in, and the township looks worse now than it ever has. Mr. Ruppert told him that there are several "problem properties" and that we are working with Warren County Zoning to get these cleaned up.

Mr. Sample arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Mr. Sample made a motion to approve Resolution No. 02-08132014 approving a speed study on Sharts Rd.

Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

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

The board discussed a piece of property located at 816 Union Rd. Mrs. Stivers told the board that the property has a condemned dwelling on it. That the homeowners are willing to give the property to the township because they cannot afford the back taxes on it. If the township were to take ownership, the Auditor's office would forgive the debt. Mrs. Stivers said that Vicki Perry from Warren County grants is confident that we'll get grant monies to demolish the structure, but it's not guaranteed. The board debated the pros and cons of taking ownership of the property. The trustees would like to see this eyesore gone, but they don't want to become a scapegoat for homeowners that are not responsible. Mr. Sample said that if the county or the City of Franklin would commit to paying demolition costs in the event that grant money is not awarded, then he would be in favor of taking ownership. Mrs. Stivers will talk to the county and the City of Franklin.

Mr. Sample made a motion to approve Resolution No. 01-08132014 declaring 5815 Lynn Drive a nuisance.

Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Sample – Yes

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Mrs. Callahan – Yes  
Mr. Ruppert – Yes      Motion carried.

#### Road Superintendent's Report:

Salt bids were discussed. Mr. Rose told the board that he and Mrs. Stivers attended a meeting of certain SWOP4G members to discuss salt. As a group, SWOP4G needed 250,000 tons of salt. Three companies submitted bids to obtain the business. Of those three, only 63,000 tons of salt were offered. Each company had extraordinarily high prices ranging from \$90-\$115 per ton, up from the \$51 price we paid last year. Some companies were demanding up-front payment for all tonnage, some were stipulating that all tonnage had to be received by November 1, 2014 creating a storage problem for many entities. The township received a bid from Central for \$90.52 per ton. Mr. Rose also said that he contacted several neighboring communities and that some had received bids that had prices in the \$60 range. Mr. Ruppert said he is not comfortable accepting a bid for \$90.52 per ton when he knows that other entities have gotten it cheaper. Mr. Ruppert advised Mr. Rose to reach out to all of our neighbors, find out what their situation is, and possibly we can all band together to get a better rate.

Mr. Sample made a motion to have Mrs. Stivers write a letter to the salt company asking them why our price was so much higher than other entities.

Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:      Mr. Sample – Yes  
                     Mrs. Callahan – Yes  
                     Mr. Ruppert – Yes      Motion carried.

Mr. Rose told the board that Mrs. Stivers was looking into having our CDBG grant money re-purposed to pay for the drilled pier walls on Martz Paulin Rd. Mrs. Stivers said that she had spoken to Susanne Mason, the grants coordinator, and that it still had to go before the Commissioners. The grant money was originally intended to pave Dearthoff Rd. Mrs. Stivers told the board that she had spoken to Kim Killian from Ohio Public Works Commission and Ms. Killian did not think that emergency funding was appropriate for this project due to the fact that the asphalt has not yet started crumbling. Mrs. Stivers said she didn't understand why they would want to wait for more damage to occur and that she expressed this to Ms. Killian. Mrs. Stivers said it's going to be a cheaper and safer project if it's repaired before the road beings collapsing. Mr. Ruppert asked Mrs. Stivers to let the board know when the Commissioners were going to discuss it, so that Mrs. Stivers and a trustee could attend to plead our case.

Mr. Sample said that he had noticed the "Welcome to Franklin Township" sign near the entrance to his subdivision was looking very faded and worn. He suggested that Mr. Rose take those down. He said he'd also like to see a really nice sign placed on 122 at the edge of Middletown to welcome people to the township. Mrs. Stivers will work with Mr. Rose to find a nice sign that is more substantial in size than what we currently have to put in this location.

The topic of semis on Franklin – Trenton Rd was again brought up. Many suggestions were made. Mr. Sample suggested sending a letter to area businesses that these trucks are delivering to telling them that we would no longer allow trucks to travel this road. He thought this idea might prompt business owners to help with the cost of expensive signage. Mr. Sample asked Mr. Ruppert if he knew if business owners could be held liable for the damage the trucks are causing to the roadway and underpass. Mr. Ruppert said he did not believe that you could hold a business liable. Putting a flashing sign up was discussed. These signs are very expensive. Mr. Rose said that he feared that flashing signs would be vandalized. Mrs. Callahan said that even if we put flashing signs up, the trucks still wouldn't have a place to turn around. Cemetery Superintendent Bishop mentioned that when large trucks are traveling down Martz – Paulin that they now have to go down Sue Ave. and up Dian Ave. due to the road closure and that these large trucks are causing property damage to those homes by ripping wires and cables from the homes. Mr. Ruppert said that we really need to stop the trucks before they turn onto Franklin – Trenton Rd. Mrs. Stivers said that putting a sign on Rt. 4 was risky because there are so many signs, businesses, lights, etc. there anyhow that she fears that drivers wouldn't notice another flashing sign and then it would be a waste of money. Mr. Rose said maybe the developer of Tara Estates would allow us to use the back entrance as a turn - around for trucks. That development is not going to be developed any further anyhow. Everyone agreed that while this is a huge problem, there is no easy answer. Mr. Rose will look into using the Tara Estates back entrance as a turn around. Mrs. Stivers will send a letter to the businesses in the area letting them know that trucks will not be permitted through that stretch of roadway.

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#### Cemetery Superintendent's Report:

Cemetery Superintendent Steve Bishop reported that Jim Mears had contacted him several weeks back, asking if the VFW could help the cemetery in some way. Mr. Bishop told him that the flag pole was rusted through and needed to be replaced. On August 12 a boy scout came to Mr. Bishop's home and said that he was working with the VFW and that they would like to put three flag poles in, and the boy would earn a badge for his work. Mr. Bishop asked the trustees if they had any objections, they had none.

#### Fire Chief's Report:

Mr. Bishop reported on the fire departments. He stated that they are currently doing pump testing and other yearly equipment maintenance.

#### Fiscal Officer's Report:

Mr. Sample made a motion to approve the Payment Listing as presented by the fiscal officer with the exception of the check to Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Sample – Yes  
Mrs. Callahan – Yes  
Mr. Ruppert – Yes Motion carried.

Mr. Sample asked Fiscal Officer Fromeyer what the check to Blair Heating & Air was for. Mr. Fromeyer stated that the air cooling unit at the fire station and the one at the Cemetery house both needed work. Mr. Sample told Mr. Bishop he'd really like him to use township businesses for this type of thing in the future.

Mr. Sample made a motion to approve the Fund Status, Fund Summary, Appropriation Status, Appropriation Summary, Revenue Status, Revenue Summary and Wage Earning Reports.

Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Sample – Yes  
Mrs. Callahan – Yes  
Mr. Ruppert – Yes Motion carried.

#### Office Manager's Report:

Mrs. Stivers reminded the board that Carlisle's Railroad Days Festival was coming up.

Mrs. Stivers asked Mr. Ruppert if he had made any progress on the Cemetery Software problem. R. Ruppert said no, that he hadn't and he did not feel optimistic about it. Mrs. Stivers asked if she should look into purchasing new software. Mr. Ruppert said yes. Mrs. Stivers told the board that she expected the cost to be around \$6,000.00 based on estimates she obtained a few years back.

Mrs. Stivers gave the board a break-down of costs for the Senior Transportation Van. She stated that she had recently completed a State Report and that the van services 73 individual residents. In the last six months the van made 984 trips, 318 of those were for disabled citizens, and 666 were for senior citizens. The costs were calculated and the cost is \$30.40 per trip. Mrs. Stivers said that she felt this was expensive, so she contacted Susanne Mason, who is in charge of Warren County Transit services. Ms. Mason said she felt that cost was reasonable. Mrs. Stivers and Ms. Mason discussed ways that the county and the township could partner together to cut the cost. Mrs. Stivers will present some options at a future meeting.

Mrs. Stivers stated that Cemetery Employee Greg Brooks was off of light duty, so that should help lighten the work load at the cemetery.

Mrs. Stivers reminded the Trustees that AAA Wastewater's Anniversary celebration was coming up and that they had all been invited.

Mrs. Stivers said that she had looked into OKI vs MVRPC and that she had learned that the township's MPO is with OKI, therefore it would be counter - productive to join MVRPC at this time. Mrs. Stivers did discuss this with Brian Martin from Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and he is going to look into it and let us know how we can get our MPO switched to MVRPC. Since our neighboring entities are with MVRPC it makes more sense to also be with MVRPC.

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Mrs. Stivers reminded the board that at the last meeting they had voted to give each supervisor a \$75.00 stipend for the use of our personal cell phones. Mrs. Stivers discovered that it would actually be cheaper for the township to continue to own the phone used by Road Superintendent Rob Rose until his contract expires, at which time she advises we cancel the contract and begin giving Mr. Rose a stipend. The trustees agreed that was fine.

Mrs. Stivers said she had received notice from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Motor Vehicles division and that the township will receive an additional \$5,965.86 from the audit she performed on the City of Franklin. When township residents renew and purchase license plates they are erroneously being assigned to the City of Franklin instead of Franklin Township, then the tax from that sale goes to the wrong entity.

Mrs. Stivers told the board that she had spoken with two gentlemen from Franklin Township in Clermont County at the meeting she attended regarding road salt. During the conversation one of the gentleman mentioned that his township owed us money that had been erroneously given to his township. Apparently, an estate tax had been given to Franklin Township, Clermont County instead of Franklin Township, Warren County. The State Auditor had found the mistake and had already billed Franklin Township, Clermont County. Mrs. Stivers told Mr. Fromeyer to be watching for that money to come. The amount was around \$14,000.00.

Mrs. Stivers said that she had been in contact with the Prosecutor's Office and The Grant Administration department and had begun working on a grant to be given to a charity benefiting senior services.

Lastly, Mrs. Stivers stated that she had been in contact with Mike Yetter, Warren County Zoning Inspector, and he felt he could get the property at 7068 Main St. in Franklin condemned if the Township would commit to tearing it down. Mr. Sample asked Mrs. Stivers to invite Mr. Yetter to our next Trustee meeting to discuss it. Mr. Ruppert stated that the township has tried for years to get something done with this property.

Mr. Sample made a motion at 7:30p.m. to enter into executive session to discuss the hiring, firing, promotion, demotion or disciplinary action of an employee.

Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Sample made a motion to return to regular session & adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

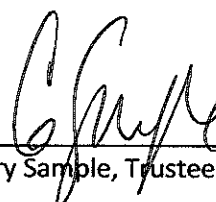
Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion.

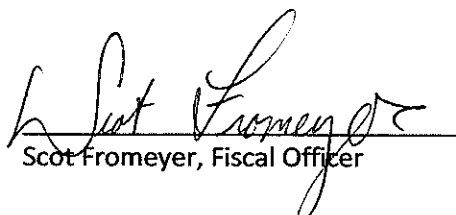
ROLL CALL: Mr. Sample - Yes  
Mrs. Callahan - Yes  
Mr. Ruppert - Yes Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

  
Ronald Ruppert, President

  
Beth Callahan, Vice President

  
Gregory Sample, Trustee

  
Scot Fromeyer, Fiscal Officer