

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Franklin County, Ohio
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2024 | Fire Station, 6767 Havens Corners Road, Blacklick, Ohio
Participation also made available via teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Rowan called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was taken.

ROLL CALL

Present – Susan Lewis Kaylor, Mike Rowan
Absent – Rich Courter (*participated virtually*)

Also Present

Township Administrator Dion Grener
Assistant Township Administrator Kelly Kiener
Fire Chief Brad Shull
Service Superintendent Joe Gerhart
Zoning Administrator Charles McCroskey
Albert Iosue, Director – Jefferson Water and Sewer District

MINUTES

Motion to waive the reading of, and approve as written, minutes from the January 24, 2024 regular Board of Trustees meeting

Trustee Lewis Kaylor moved, seconded by Trustee Rowan.

Passed.

Ayes: Rowan, Lewis Kaylor

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Grener requested that the Board move the action items ahead of department reports and add a resolution to action items to accept the retirement of Christopher Ingram. Rowan agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn into executive session under the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(8) to consider confidential information related to marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an application for economic development assistance, or for negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance in which the following condition applies: The information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under any provision of Chapter 715., 725., 1724., or 1728. or sections 701.07, 3735.67, to 3735.70, 5709.40 to 5709.43, 5709.61 to 5709.69, 5709.73 to 5709.75 or 5709.77 to 5709.81 of the Revised Code, or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project

Trustee Rowan moved, seconded by Trustee Lewis Kaylor at 9:05 a.m.

Passed.

Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

Motion to adjourn into executive session under the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official

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Trustee Rowan moved, seconded by Trustee Lewis Kaylor at 9:05 a.m.

Passed.

Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

The Board returned at 11:21 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion to approve and authorize the township administrator to execute a contract between Franklin County Public Health and Vector Disease Control International for the 2024-2026 mosquito management program, at a cost not to exceed \$22,000 annually

Trustee Lewis Kaylor moved, seconded by Trustee Rowan.

Rowan said that Franklin County Public Health came to a meeting and did a nice presentation with quite a few experts. He said there were some residents that were concerned about the safety of the program and its impact on wildlife and the environment. He said following the presentation, he was convinced that the program is well designed and takes into consideration a lot of the concerns we might have about water quality issues and the impact on bees and other pollinators. While it's not a perfect program, it did build my confidence that they're taking all the measures possible to limit the impact to just mosquitos. Rowan further noted that FCPH shared that the cost would increase significantly, and it looks like it doubled. He said they discussed the reasons for this. He said at the time the Board came to the conclusion that it's an important program to provide for residents.

Passed.

Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

Resolution approving and authorizing an application for financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program

Trustee Lewis Kaylor moved, seconded by Trustee Rowan.

Grener said this authorizes an application to FEMA through Ohio EMA for funding to upgrade the existing tornado warning siren at the service complex and to install two additional sirens. It requires a 25% local match. He noted that we are pursuing this grant in case we are not awarded funding through the state capital budget.

Lewis Kaylor said that's good contingency planning and asked when the application would be due.

Kiener said the application has already been submitted to Ohio EMA and that agency followed up to request a local match commitment, which is what we're seeking today. She noted there is no penalty to accept less funding if awarded.

Passed.

Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

Resolution accepting the resignation of Dustin Hall from the position of Service Department Foreman

Trustee Lewis Kaylor moved, seconded by Trustee Rowan.

Passed.

Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

Resolution accepting the retirement of Fire Lieutenant Christopher K. Ingram

Trustee Rowan moved, seconded by Trustee Lewis Kaylor.

Passed.

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Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

Motion to approve 245.75 hours of injury leave for firefighter-paramedic Robert Webb

Trustee Rowan moved, seconded by Trustee Lewis Kaylor.

Passed.

Ayes: Lewis Kaylor, Rowan

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Officer

Grener noted that Ken Jones submitted his January financial report to the Board.

Administrator

Grener requested direction on whether to cancel or reschedule the March 11 regular meeting, which won't be held due to lack of quorum. Staff did not report any business that would be critical before the following meeting on March 27. The Board agreed the meeting would be canceled.

Grener further confirmed that the Board is still supportive of hosting the State of the Township on April 17. The Board agreed.

Assistant Administrator

Kiener referred to her written report and noted the following:

- Seeking consensus on inviting members to join the Active Transportation Advisory Group. The first stakeholder workshop is scheduled for March 18 and staff would like to send invites out approximately 1 month in advance. She noted that 25 applications were received, and the Board could invite all 25 applicants or some number less than that. She said it would not require formal action. The Board agreed to include all who expressed interest.
- Formal appointments to the open positions on the Parks Board and Board of Zoning Appeals will be needed today or at the February 28 meeting. The Board agreed to add a resolution to the February 28 agenda.

Fire Department

Chief Shull referred to his written report and noted the following:

- Request for Proposals has been drafted seeking bids for demolition of the home at 7300 Clark State Road. He is hoping to have a recommendation for the Board in the next 30-45 days.
- Change Healthcare, the Township's EMS billing vendor, has given notice to the Township and most of the MECC partners that it will not be continuing contracts. He said he believes the company is eliminating parts of their market that don't make a lot of money. He noted that Mifflin Township has been searching for other vendors and we are meeting with a number of those vendors later this month. He said we are currently paying 5% of our total gross receipts for the service. The goal is to engage a vendor collectively through MECC.
- Referring to statistics from 2023, he said it was a flat year. He said the trend shows that every 3-4 years we see either a 1% increase or a 1% decrease in runs. Shull noted that one of the biggest contributors is changes in how our neighbors deploy their resources to things like fire alarms. He said being removed from deployment models gives us more capacity but does affect the data on mutual aid calls. He noted that in Township calls were stagnant after seeing a major increase during the pandemic of roughly 20%. He said that EMS calls in 2023 were 1,330 and fire calls were just over 900.

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- The Community Risk Reduction Bureau was very busy last year. One item we're tracking going forward is how many fire code violations are corrected after communicating the issue with the business. Marshal Mast believes corrective action is taken by business owners in 80% of cases.

Courter asked if the CRR Bureau is still supervised by Marshal Mast with two part-time employees. Shull said yes, there are two part-time inspectors. He said we additionally have three full-time personnel utilized for the community paramedic program when on duty and there are four personnel trained to provide car seat inspections on duty.

Rowan said when we initiated the community paramedic program, Shull said that at some point the hospital system may start reimbursing the Township some of the cost because it reduced readmittance. He asked if there's been any movement in that direction. Shull said some costs were reimbursed in 2023, but not a lot. One instance was related to Mount Carmel and discharged congestive heart failure patients. The hospital paid \$175 for the first evaluation and \$150 for follow-up visits. He said there was also a fall prevention study through Mount Carmel where they paid \$125-\$150 for patient visits.

Shull said he doesn't ever see it becoming an enterprise program. If, down the road, mobile integrated healthcare identifies items that can be funded through health insurance, that would be something we could utilize. At this point, we haven't brought on any new personnel to provide this program. He said he tracks the hours assigned and any limited overtime incurred. He said an additional \$25,000 was budgeted for overtime in 2024, but he doesn't anticipate using that.

Lewis Kaylor said the data should be compelling for the insurance companies who would benefit from the wellness the program is providing. Shull said Medicare/Medicaid and private insurance do not recognize this service yet. That said, I know it's always being asked and looked at because it's a cost-saving preventative measure. Shull said on the other side, once a patient is discharged if they are readmitted within 30 days, those costs are 100% on the hospital facility. He said it benefits those facilities to help fund programs like this. Shull said we are trying to quantify the program benefits. When we visit a patient through the community paramedic program, we are trying to prevent a future emergency interaction.

Courter asked what vehicle is used for the program and if that firefighter/paramedic can respond from the community paramedic visit in the case of an emergency call. Shull said we utilize a staff vehicle and the individual is sent when staffing permits them to be excused from the medic/engine. He said occasionally, we will put a second medic in service and send two individuals out in that vehicle for community paramedic visits. If there is a major event, they can go directly to the scene if they're able to break contact with the patient. He noted it's entirely in-Township visits.

Service Department

Gerhart referred to his written report and noted the following:

- Two surplus pickup trucks were sold on GovDeals for \$13,700 total.
- Franklin County Engineer's Office assisted with re-opening stormwater tile on Darling Road and on Windrush Lane/Court.

Zoning and Building

McCroskey referred to his written report and noted the following:

- A resolution is being prepared for the next meeting to authorize the easement for Energy Cooperative Group through open space near Licking Heights West Elementary. He said he did reach out to a property appraiser who said that \$500 is probably appropriate.

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- There are two active rezoning cases. One is a modification request for 916 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road for new development plan approval. The approximately one-acre property was rezoned in 2008 and the property has been sold a few times since then. The applicant now is a security service looking to relocate from Pataskala for a property security training site as well as a corporate office. The second case is the Rain One property on Taylor Road, which is consolidating two parcels with dual zoning into one parcel with planned commercial zoning to allow their use to continue and expand. The company is looking to construct a new building as well.

Jefferson Water & Sewer District

Albert Iosue reported on the following:

- The owner of the property on Greylag Street that experienced the tragic fire in December reached out to the District to request a waiver of the monthly water and sewer charges. He said under normal procedures, regardless of whether a customer is using water or not, there is a minimum service charge if they are connected to the line. The alternative is to abandon the connection and reconnect in the future. He said the Board approved her request and will waive the fees for the next six months.
- Received approval from the Ohio EPA for the water treatment plant phase one improvement project. Bids are due in March for the \$3.5 million project.
- Recently awarded a \$135,000 contract to drill a new 600gpm well at Taylor Road. Well #1 collapsed a while back.
- Hired an engineering firm to look at what we can do with the Columbus sewer shaft #2 to put a drop manhole in there and get sewage from that tributary area into the shaft so we can eliminate or relieve some lift stations. This is in anticipation of potential renewed development interest on the tree farm property.
- Request for Qualifications will be advertised for a sewer master plan. We are looking for an engineering consulting firm to look at our entire sewer shed area. We are trying to find ways to use more gravity and less force mains. That's estimated to be a 12-month project.

Courter applauded the District's efforts to be prepared in the area of the tree farm. He said I know we had a couple of different projects that fell through partly for water or sewer issues. He said the most recent project seemed compatible with the Township and it's a matter of when not if the next developer comes by for that area.

FINAL ACTION ITEMS

None.

FINAL COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

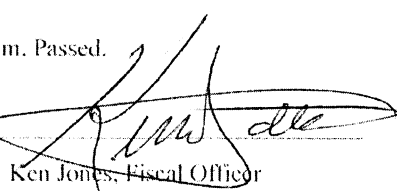
ADJOURN

Rowan moved, seconded by Lewis Kaylor to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. Passed.



Mike Rowan, Chair

Attest:


Ken Jones, Fiscal Officer