

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Meeting

Plain Township Board of Trustee Meeting

The Plain Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. at the Plain Township Fire Station, 9500 Johnstown Road, New Albany, OH 43054.

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order. Mr. Ferguson led the Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Members Present: Dave Ferguson, Kerri Mollard, and Jill Beckett-Hill. Others present: Fiscal Officer Bud Zappitelli, Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, Battalion Chief Dudley, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers. Visitors present: Pete Griggs, Tom Spyker, Theresa Dean, Jeanine Hummer.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Beckett- Hill and Ms. Mollard reported that they both have new business to discuss. Mr. Ferguson also added Fire Budget Discussion during new business. Mr. Ferguson requested an executive session at #11 on the agenda. Chief Connor added Resolution F4 to the agenda.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$261,246.92. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 23050201)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes as submitted. Ms. Mollard seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 23050202)

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Collins reported that pool membership sales are slightly lower than year-to-date sales from 2022. The State operating budget was passed in the House last week. It contains an increase in the Local Government Fund and an increase in the competitive bidding threshold from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for townships. It also included a provision for electronic meetings.

The Township has a zoning application for 6202 Walnut Street that will be heard by the Franklin County Planning Commission next Wednesday. Plain Township Zoning Commission will continue its public hearing of the case the following day, May 11, 2023. The Zoning Commission is required by statute to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees within 30

days of completing the public hearing. Mr. Collins expects that the Board will have the recommendation by the May 17, 2023 meeting. The Board will be required to schedule the public hearing within 30 days of receiving the recommendation and a public notice needs to be published at least 10 days in advance. Mr. Collins anticipates having the public hearing at the June 7, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting.

Plain Township is also participating in the Franklin County Hazard Mitigation risk assessment. The County has engaged Tetra Tech to conduct the update. It is performed every 5 years. The hazard rankings for Plain Township are all low except for flood risk, severe winter weather, and tornado which are medium risk. There will be a public presentation at the end of the month.

Ms. Mollard asked for an update on the Clouse Road improvements. Mr. Collins explained that the Township did not score well enough at the County level for the Ohio Public Works Commission grant. The Township, therefore, applied to the Small Government program. The Commission is hearing the Small Government applications next Wednesday and Mr. Collins expects that the Township will be approved. It is uncertain when the work would begin. It could take up to a year for AEP to move the power supply. Construction must start by June 2024.

There is a kickoff meeting scheduled on May 16, 2023 with the County Engineer for the State Route 605 and Walnut Street roundabout. Discussions will begin regarding local match and expectations for New Albany and Plain Township.

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230502A1.

Whereas, the Plain Township Board of Trustees has approved a pool management contract, including opening and closing, with SwimSafe Pool Management, Inc. for the 2023 pool season, according to an addendum in the amount of \$231,288 out of fund 2171-610-53060 (Pool – Contracts).

Be it resolved, to set aside and pay the June pool management payment in the amount of \$46,257.60 from fund 2171-610-53060 (Pool – Contracts) according to the attached schedule.

Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Ferguson asked how this cost compares to last year. Mr. Collins explained that there was a \$38,000 increase in the cost of the contract. The contract with SwimSafe had a cost escalation clause that was activated due to an increase in labor rates and chemicals exceeding 10%.

ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Mr. Ferguson inquired about whether the staff breakroom was finished. Mr. Collins reported that it is finished and the maintenance and administrative staff had a cookout in the new breakroom last week.

Mr. Collins also reported that two seasonal employees have been hired.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

There have been 163 runs since the last meeting.

Chief Connor reported that everything is going well with the Fire Department. Four firefighters just returned from the FDIC conference in Indianapolis. Chief Ecleberry has requested all attendees write a summary of their experience and what they got out of the conference. One notable takeaway from the conference was how to deal with electric-vehicle fires. These fires can take a very long time to extinguish. The department is looking into purchasing a fire blanket that will contain the fire.

Battalion Chief Dudley reported that Horton does not have a projected date for receiving the chassis for the new medic.

Chief Connor reported that he will be conducting firefighter interviews next week in anticipation of an expected full-time opening.

Chief Connor also reported that he found errors in the Strategic Plan draft. He asked the Board to review the draft and he would like to schedule time to go over the plan in detail. Chief Connor is happy with the data but does not agree with all the recommendations. For example, he does not believe our community needs a Mobile Integrated Healthcare unit. Ms. Mollard offered to meet with the Chiefs to do a deep dive into the plan before meeting with the entire Board. Mr. Ferguson would like to go back and look at the questions and the scope of what the Township asked for and see if Fitch and Associates delivered on those requests.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230502F1. Be it resolved to pay Parr Public Safety Equipment for upfitting of two new 2023 Chevy Tahoes to include all itemized equipment, hardware, lights, sirens, mounting, wiring, and installation for a total of \$40,832.76 out of fund 4910-220-55000 (Capital Equipment-Fire - Fire Equipment).

**Parr Public Safety Equipment
6106 Bausch Road
Galloway, Ohio 43119**

Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230502F2. Be it resolved to pay Visionary Signs the amount of \$4,355.85 for lettering and graphics on the current and new fire department staff vehicles including the fire chief, assistant fire chief, EMS coordinator, and battalion chief vehicles out of fund 4910-220-55000 (Capital Equipment-Fire - Fire Equipment).

**Visionary Signs
6155 Huntley Road, Suite N
Columbus, Ohio 43229**

Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Ferguson questioned how the station vehicles are being assigned. Chief Eccleberry explained that the department rotates vehicles based on mileage. The Chief and Assistant Chief will be getting the new Chevy Tahoe's which will require re-numbering and lettering on the existing vehicles that will be passed down to the other officers. Mr. Ferguson asked if this cost of renumbering vehicles so that the upper leadership received the newest vehicles was prudent.

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230502F3. Be it resolved, to offer conditional employment to Samantha Dague and Matthew Mercier as part-time Firefighters EMT-Basic pending the results of background checks; and to offer conditional employment to Philip Reger as a part-time Firefighter EMT-Paramedic pending the results of a background check. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

With the addition of the new part-time firefighters, the Township will have a total of 15 part-time firefighters. Chief Eccleberry also stated that he would like to hire a few more part-time firefighters this summer. Mr. Ferguson asked what the overtime protocol is for the fire department. Specifically, he wanted to know if open shifts go to the part-time firefighters first before the full-time firefighters, since this most likely results in over-time. Chief Connor explained that he is trying to get the over-time expense down from 2022 and using part-time firefighters is one way that he hopes to accomplish this. Chief Connor also noted that the department has had several full-time staff out for extended periods of time for various reasons. This has been hard to manage without resulting in over-time.

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230502F4. Be it resolved to increase the purchase order for travel expenses for the FDIC Conference from \$6,781.00 to \$7,281.00 out of fund 2111-220-58018 (Fire-Other Expenses-Training). Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Ferguson requested an update from Chief Connor on a new Code of Conduct policy for travel. Chief Connor explained that the Township has not completed a new Code of Conduct policy but that each attendee of the FDIC Conference received an email from Chief Connor explaining his expectations prior to the conference. Chief Connor and Mr. Collins said that MORPC has an internship program that can help establish and write these new policies for the Township.

Mr. Collins provided an updated Fire Budget to highlight a few areas. The estimate for 2023 overtime is \$150,000. Also, the 1st half property tax distribution was higher than expected. Mr. Collins also updated the fire personnel numbers. The Fire department is also using a greater portion of the HRA than in previous years. It was discussed that the Board would review the budget on their own and then come together at the next meeting to discuss. Mr. Ferguson would like explanations on why some accounts have significant variances from 2021 to 2022; and why those variances are continuing into 2023.

FISCAL OFFICE

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230301B1. Be it Resolved, to increase Fund 1000-000-48093 General-Rent receipts by \$21,504.00; And Be it Resolved, to increase Fund 2903-000-45019 OneOhio Opioid Settlement Fund receipts by \$4,305.41. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Beckett-Hill reported that the McCoy Stakeholders meeting will be held this Thursday morning. Ms. Mollard reported that she will not be able to attend the Joint Parks District meeting next Monday, but she will get an update from Dave Wharton.

Ms. Mollard also discussed the possibility of arranging a PTFD/NAPD basketball tournament for community engagement and to highlight safe driving for teens this summer. It was discussed that the PTFD will be introducing CPR lessons in the schools.

New Albany is hosting a New Albany 101 event on July 12, 2023. This will be held at the Heit Center and community leaders will be available to respond to resident questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:19 p.m. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1) for discipline, demotion, and dismissal. Ms. Mollard seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye

Mr. Zappitelli, Chief Connor, Chief Ecleberry, Mr. Collins, Pete Griggs, Tom Spyker, Theresa Dean, and Jeanine Hummer attended the Executive Session.

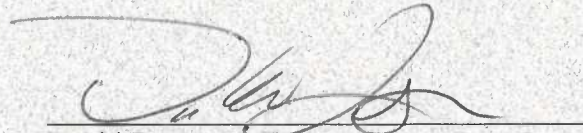
Mr. Zappitelli, Chief Connor, Chief Ecleberry, Mr. Collins, Pete Griggs, Tom Spyker, Theresa Dean, and Jeanine Hummer exited the Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.

Ms. Mollard made a motion to close out of executive session at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye

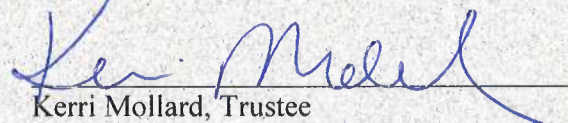
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye


BOARD OF TRUSTEES:



David Ferguson, Trustee



Kerri Mollard, Trustee



Jill Beckett-Hill, Trustee



Bud Zappirelli, Fiscal Officer