

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 Fire Station, 9500 Johnstown Road, New Albany, OH 43054.

Ms. Mollard called the meeting to order. Ms. Mollard led the Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Members Present: Kerri Mollard and Jill Beckett-Hill. Others present: Fiscal Officer Bud Zappitelli, Township Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Eceleberry, Pool Administrator Bonnie Reife, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers. Visitors present: Mike Durik. Mr. Ferguson was absent.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Collins noted that Mr. Wilson, the school board liaison, was not in attendance.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Ms. Mollard made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$905,354.69

Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 24110601)

Ms. Beckett-Hill inquired about the MECC payment and whether this will be the last payment to them. Chief Connor confirmed that it would be the last payment. The Licking County Dispatch payments will be quarterly in arrears.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the October 16, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes as submitted. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 24110602)

MIKE DURIK – CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Durik congratulated the Trustees and the Fire Department on the passing of the fire levy. Mr. Durik reported that the Diwali celebration had close to 2,000 people in attendance. It was a success and an event that will probably be held for years to come. The New Albany Company made an introductory presentation to the Planning Commission regarding the redesign of the lots on the East golf course of the New Albany Country Club. They would like to reroute the roads and create three additional lots, going from 37 to 40. There was no vote. It will have to go through the Planning Commission, Architectural Review and then to the City Council.

City Council accepted three different ordinances. Council accepted the deed to three different properties from the New Albany Company, all on Old Dublin Granville Road between State Route 62 and State Route 605. These properties will be redesigned and blended into Rose Run 2. City Council also approved two TIFs for the Sugar Run development, one for the commercial portion and one for the residential portion. Council authorized the city manager to modify the service area for water and sewer to include the new fieldhouse. New Albany will also annex the land along the northern portion of Morse Road from State Route 62 to State Route 605. Half of the road will be New Albany and half will be Gahanna.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Collins followed up on Mr. Durik's report that he received a request from the Franklin County Engineer's office for a letter of support for the application for Ohio Public Works Commission funding for the Morse Road corridor area for improvements, leisure trails and a potential roundabout. Mr. Collins had a follow up question for Mr. Durik as to whether the Parks district will be paying for the water and sewer extension and connection. Mr. Durik did not know the answer to that question.

Mr. Collins presented a resolution to engage with Geotechnical Consultants, Inc for engineering services for the pool slide tower project. Because it is a structural steel project, there is an additional requirement for the Ohio building code. Mr. Collins anticipated using Prime Engineering, however, they do not have special inspectors in Columbus.

The Board approved the medical insurance renewal last month and Mr. Collins is working on renewals for dental and vision, as well as our relationship with iSolved, our Health Reimbursement company.

Mr. Collins thanked and congratulated Ms. Reife on a successful 2024 pool season. Ms. Reife managed the new fee structure, member-only hours, guest book sales, and updating marketing materials. Mr. Collins reported that the pool earned more than \$500,000 for the first time. There was a significant increase in membership but fewer visits per day, driven by the removal of the after 4:00 pm discount. The pool did experience a leak mid-summer. It was repaired as soon as it could be but still resulted in higher-than-normal water bills. The Fiscal Office is working with the City of Columbus to obtain a credit for some of the usage. Ms. Reife sent out a survey to all members and she will have those results at a later date. Mr. Collins expects to order additional pool furniture for next season.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241106A1. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes to pay Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. for special inspection services and other engineering services required for the Plain Township Aquatic Center slide tower renovation, up to an amount of \$10,000 to be paid out of 1000-120-58099 (General-Twp-Other Expenses) according to the attached proposal. Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the township administrator to execute an agreement on behalf of Plain Township consistent with this resolution.

Geotechnical Consultants, Inc.
720 Green Crest Drive
Westerville, Ohio 43081
614-895-1400

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

ZONING

Mr. Collins reported that Bob Washington wanted to meet and review the zoning for his property at the corner of Central College and Johnstown Road. The property has a select commercial planned district zoning that allows for a host of contractor related activities. Bob Washington mainly wanted to verify what he can use the property for, as he seeks a new tenant.

Mr. Collins also received a request to use 20 acres on Schleppi Road for a science and nature education program for a private school.

Mr. Zappitelli inquired about Don Schumacker's old property. He noticed a new structure and wanted to know if Mr. Collins was aware of it. Mr. Collins reported that construction has been going on for approximately six months and that there is an agricultural use exemption for the structure. Mr. Collins has communicated with the prosecutor's office and Ohio EPA and Mr. Collins continues to monitor the structure. It is exempt from the Fire Marshall fire code and building inspection building code as an agricultural use.

Mr. Zappitelli also noticed that construction is underway for the storage facility. Mr. Collins confirmed that the owners of the property have received their building permit. The only change to the plans is that the owners are no longer building covered parking in the rear at this time. Lastly, Mr. Zappitelli noticed that the Columbus City Fire Station located at Harlem Road and Central College Road has started construction.

MAINTENANCE

Mr. Pharris was not in attendance, however Mr. Collins noted that on his Maintenance report, Mr. Pharris is making a recommendation to adjust the fee schedule for Maplewood Cemetery. Mr. Pharris suggested raising the foundation charge to cover the increase in material costs, and to increase the opening and closing costs to match area rates.

Now that the fire levy has passed, Ms. Mollard would like to circle back to the cemetery improvements plan.

There was discussion regarding the Wreaths Across America event in December. Ms. Mollard would like this on the agenda for the next Board meeting with the fast-approaching deadline.

Mr. Collins indicated that he would start reaching out to the community for donations. Mr. Durik mentioned that the topic was discussed at the New Albany City Council meeting, and that the city is willing to share the cost.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Connor thanked everyone for all their hard work on the levy campaign. Specifically, he recognized Assistant Chief Ecleberry and Lieutenant Cantrell and all the firefighters who spent their days off canvassing the neighborhoods.

Chief Connor reported that the Mount Carmel New Albany ER is open, and the Plain Township medics have been transporting patients to that location. Dr. Zeeb has met with all the units to discuss what emergencies can and cannot be taken there.

Ms. Mollard requested that the total year-to-date runs be included in the run report.

Chief Connor asked the Board to approve contracting with a grant writer for the SAFER grant which provides funds to be used for firefighter salaries and benefits. The fire department has interviewed a few candidates for grant writing. Two candidates were very knowledgeable about this grant and have had a good success rate. Because one candidate's fee schedule includes a percentage of any award, which the Trustees are not comfortable with, Chief Connor is recommending the department use Ron Benedict. The SAFER grant is expected to open in January 2025 and will likely have a small window to the submission deadline. The department was awarded this grant around 2005. It was Assistant Chief Ecleberry's recollection that Terry Guthrie, Jim Carney and he wrote that grant. Ms. Beckett-Hill made a verbal motion to approve for the fire department to begin the contract portion of the grant writing with Ron Benedict in the amount of \$6500 to be paid when the application is completed and submitted. Ms. Mollard seconded the motion.

Mr. Collins stated that the 2nd half TIF payment was received from the City of New Albany. It was approximately \$37,000 less than what was estimated in June 2024. Ms. Mollard asked the Board if it would be appropriate to earmark that money for the new fire engine, anticipated to be delivered mid-2025, and report that back to City Council. Ms. Beckett-Hill and Mr. Zappitelli thought that it was premature to do that at the meeting on November 19th.

The timeline for ordering the next truck and medic was briefly discussed. The lead time for a new fire truck is approximately three years and a medic would be shorter.

Ms. Beckett-Hill will be meeting with the New Albany-Plain Local School Board next week. She will have more information to share at the next Plain Township Board meeting.

FISCAL OFFICE

The October Bank Reconciliation and Month-end reports were presented.

Ms. Rogers explained that the OTARMA resolution is just a revision to the resolution that was passed at the last meeting. The final invoice was lower than the original estimate and some equipment was moved between departments, so the allocation had to be revised.

Temporary appropriations will be presented in December.

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241106B1. Be it Resolved, to increase Fund 2903-000-45019 OneOhio Opioid Settlement Fund receipts by \$2,910.86. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241106B1. Be it resolved, to pay the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) \$60,367.34 for Property and Liability Insurance coverage for the period of November 8, 2024 to November 8, 2025 from the following funds:

1000-110-53081 (General-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$11,985.04
2111-220-53081 (Fire-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$39,229.21
2141-330-53081 (Roads-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$5,059.20
2171-610-53081 (Pool-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$3,793.37
2041-410-53081 (Cemetery- Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	<u>\$300.52</u>
	\$60,367.34

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mollard shared that the Joint Parks District was very happy with their groundbreaking ceremony for the new fieldhouse. JPD has issued their first payment towards construction. Basketball registrations are going well. The old Lazer Craze on Hamilton Road is now an indoor basketball and rec center facility, and some residents are registering for programs there instead of New Albany Parks and Recreation.

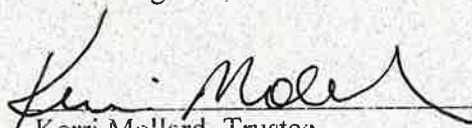
Ms. Beckett-Hill attended the McCoy Center for the Arts Board meeting. They are kicking off their season and having a soiree on February 22, 2025. Stakeholders will be meeting next month to review the agreements between the entities that support the facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 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 Zappitelli, Fiscal Officer