

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Meeting

Plain Township Board of Trustee Meeting

The Plain Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 8:00 a.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: Dave Ferguson, Kerri Mollard and Jill Beckett-Hill. Others present: Fiscal Officer Bud Zappitelli, Township Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, Maintenance Supervisor Bobby Pharris, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Ms. Mollard made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$413,465.32.
Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 24101601)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the October 2, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes as submitted. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 24101602)

PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE LEVY ISSUE #31 DISCUSSION

Ms. Mollard reported that she received an email from a long-time Plain Township resident, and he had a lot of misinformation. Ms. Mollard invited him to the board meeting and to the coffee that the fire department is hosting on Friday. Ms. Mollard also has someone who is willing to host a meet and greet. Ms. Beckett-Hill reported that she and Mr. Collins met with a resident to answer some of his questions. Ms. Beckett-Hill also attended the school board meeting, and they went through the Master Plan. The school board shared renderings of the bus garage, the proposed location, and the partnership with the fire department. There was a school levy meeting held in the Nottingham Trace neighborhood that Mr. Zappitelli attended. He reported that Mr. Sawyers shared publicly that the schools plan to partner with the township on a joint bus depot and fire substation. Mr. Zappitelli also shared that there was a lot of concern about having the bus depot so close to the neighborhood because of the increase in traffic, emissions, and noise from starting the diesel engines at 5:30 am during the winter months. Ms. Mollard asked if the location could be shared publicly. Mr. Collins offered that the township has been deferring

to the school board on what information should be shared. However, since this information has been shared in open meetings, he feels that it is reasonable to offer that the township is working on a joint project with the schools that would save both entities a considerable amount of money on the project. Mr. Ferguson said that he thinks the township needs to be very transparent and say what our current plan is, depending on the funding. Ms. Beckett-Hill said she would reach out to Superintendent Sawyers to get the same graphic that can be shared on the Township website.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Collins shared that the township's Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) property and liability insurance renewal was originally quoted at a 28% increase over last year. Two main factors are driving the increase: the increase in property values and recent natural disasters impacting the cost of reinsurance. Mr. Collins looked at ways to reduce this increase. The township has raised the vehicle liability deductible from \$250 to \$1,000. This resulted in a \$3,500 savings. The final quote is approximately a 20% increase.

For health insurance, the township's loss ratio is running around 99% through September, which is much higher than last year. The township's broker negotiated our renewal with United Health at a 5% increase. Mr. Collins recommends locking that in.

Mr. Collins also reported that the township finally has a dedicated customer service representative with iSolved, the HRA management company. Twenty employees have completed their wellness credits for the year.

Mr. Collins also reported that he received the signed contract extension back from SwimSafe and the township is still waiting on the TIF payments from the City of New Albany.

Mr. Collins reported that Mary Fee is attending the Capital Area Safety Council meeting this morning on behalf of the township and thanked her for doing so. By attending, the township gets a 2% discount on the Workers Comp premium.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241016A1. Be it resolved, to renew coverage and to pay the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) \$60,600.34 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)	\$11,983.66
2111-220-53081 (Fire-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$39,749.67
2141-330-53081 (Roads-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$4,808.68
2171-610-53081 (Pool-Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	\$3,757.83
2041-410-53081 (Cemetery- Insurance-Building/ Equipment)	<u>\$300.50</u>
	\$60,600.34

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

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241016A2. Be it resolved, to approve the renewal of the Plain Township health insurance coverage with UnitedHealthcare under the existing plan for a term beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 at a 5% rate increase. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

ZONING

Mr. Collins reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting was last week. Training was conducted with legal counsel. The BZA approved the conditional use permit application for the duplex on Johnstown Road. The owner will move forward with their zoning permit application. The zoning permit application was received for the storage facility on Walnut Street. The owner is moving forward with the program as designed, except for the covered parking at the north edge. This will be surface parking with no structures. The permit has been submitted to the state for building permits. The state may require a sprinkler system which was not anticipated. The design engineer verified that the retention pond will have enough water to provide a dry hydrant for the fire engines as well as sprinklers.

ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Mr. Pharris reported that the maintenance staff has been working on siding repairs at the pool. The black lines have been painted in the pool. SwimSafe will be blowing out the lines at the pool next week to winterize.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Connor reported that the transfer to Licking County Regional Communications continues to go smoothly. The transfer date is still scheduled for December 16th at 9:00 am. Chief Connor and Assistant Chief Ecleberry are notifying all the existing dispatch centers in the region. Chief Connor indicated that the New Albany police department is making connections with Licking County and Delaware County.

Chief Connor also told the board that the department is looking into First Responder grants. He hopes this will reduce the burden on the taxpayers if they can receive Federal grant money for the additional personnel and capital equipment that a new substation would require. Chief Connor has connected with grant writer, Mickey Smith. Chief Connor also reported that typically the grant writer is paid 8-12% of whatever funds are awarded. Ms. Mollard feels that it is unethical to charge a percentage of the award, and that it should be a flat fee. Chief Connor will see if that is an option. He is also going to talk to Mr. Smith about applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for air-packs or self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), since the department's SCBAs are nearing the 10-year replacement mark.

The grand opening of the Mount Carmel Emergency Department of Smith's Mill is scheduled for this Thursday. Chief Connor thinks that having this facility in the community will be a great addition. The fire department will be able to take non-trauma transports to this facility rather

than a hospital further away. This will keep the Medics closer to the station and in the community.

Assistant Chief Ecleberry reported that the fire department responded to a fire alarm at the school annex building. The initial investigation shows that an LED lightbulb melted, fell onto the floor and the vinyl flooring started to catch on fire. The annex building does not have a sprinkler system, so it was very fortunate that the fire alarm alerted the fire department and that there was not more damage.

FISCAL OFFICE

The September 2024 Bank Reconciliation and Month End reports were presented, as well as the September 2024 credit card statements.

Ms. Beckett-Hill asked if there was anything to point out in the September reports. Mr. Collins offered that revenue is still trending below 2023 for the fire district.

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241016B1. Be it Resolved, to increase Fund 2171-000-42012 Pool-Daily Gate receipts by \$55,000. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 241016B1. Be it Resolved, to increase Fund 2903-000-45019 OneOhio Opioid Settlement Fund receipts by \$1,599.51. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mollard attended the Joint Parks District meeting last week. It was reported that they will have access to sewer and water for the fieldhouse. The groundbreaking is scheduled for October 28th. Ms. Beckett-Hill reported that the McCoy center annual meeting is tomorrow at 8am. Mr. Collins reported that the New Albany City Council had a joint meeting with the Jersey Township Board of Trustees and there was a joint item on the agenda for a CEDA. Jersey Township is being proactive to ensure that they can continue to develop the unincorporated area outside of New Albany. Jersey Township has a JEDD agreement with the City of Heath to collect income tax for any development within the unincorporated township. The CEDA with New Albany will allow them to partner with New Albany to build out the infrastructure within Jersey Township. Jersey Township will have income tax money to pay for that and they will be served by Southwest Licking Water and Sewer District.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.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