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: Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, Battalion Chief Dudley, Maintenance Supervisor Bob Pharris, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers. Visitors present: Mike Durik, Scott Dodson, and Dave Wharton.

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 $312,213.93. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 25082001)

Mr. Ferguson inquired about the payment to SwimSafe regarding the lifeguard expense for special events. He wanted to know if the township had a revenue offset for it. Mr. Collins explained that the special events are not an income generating source, they are break-even events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the August 6, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes with corrections. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye (Resolution 25082002)

NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL LIAISON – MIKE DURIK

Mr. Durik presented the Board with documents for the Nationwide Children's Hospital facility that is going to be built behind the fire station. No action was taken but the Planning Commission and the Architectural Review Board have both reviewed and approved the project.

City Council approved some minor ordinance changes and accepted boundary adjustments for the Morse Road area that the City of New Albany acquired from the City of Columbus. The city is working with the county to resurface most of the road. It will be widened in the future.

Council also made minor plat modifications in Hawksmoor on a few lots, mainly tree preservation and drainage adjustments.

The big news of the night was Council authorized the city manager to enter into a purchase agreement to buy the Discover Card property for $15 Million. The city will lease a portion of the land to the New Albany Plain Local School District for the relocation of baseball fields. The remaining portion will be retained for parks or other recreational purposes. This helps to keep the one campus system for school buildings and the new baseball fields will be within 2 miles of the campus. There are no plans to move the Miracle League field at this time. Council also authorized the city manager to enter into a contract for the implementation of a drone show on the next 4th of July. This will enhance the fireworks show. New Albany will be executing contracts to repair the intersection at Beech Road and Morse Road.

Ms. Mollard asked about the sound barriers along State Route 161. She wanted to know how far down 161 they will go. Mr. Durik did not know the answer, since it is a state project. Ms. Beckett-Hill said she thought it was going to start around the Ulry Road exit and go east to State Route 62.

Ms. Beckett-Hill asked if the City was implementing any legislation regarding the use of electric bikes and scooters. Mr. Durik stated that the city's legal counsel has been working with the police chief on legislation. The city is looking at doing an educational program in the schools, helmets will be required, and the police department will be taking a stronger stance on enforcement. Registering bikes and scooters may also be required.

NEW ALBANY PARKS DISTRICT

Mr. Dodson reported that Mr. Wharton and his team have done a great job with the new branding for the Parks District. There is a new website and registration platform. Participation numbers are strong but flat. Fall registration is underway. The Parks District will host three family movie nights this summer and a pickleball tournament. The Trunk-or-Treat event is very popular and continues to grow every year. Construction has started on the new fieldhouse and is expected to go vertical next month. It is expected to be completed by December 2026. Construction on the roundabout is scheduled to start in September. An auxiliary road has been added so that residents and sports participants still have access. Mr. Ferguson commented on how well the pickleball courts are being used. He asked if there are plans to add any restrooms or shelter. Mr. Wharton stated that they have been communicating with the City of New Albany to possibly add shelter, bathrooms, and vending machines in the future. The Parks District handles the scheduling of the courts, but the city pays for the maintenance of the courts. Mr. Ferguson also asked if golf carts and other motorized vehicles were allowed in the Metro Parks area. Mr. Wharton explained that no electric vehicles are allowed on the paths or on the fields. Any electric vehicle must be road ready and be on the roads and in parking spaces. The Parks District is within the New Albany Police Department jurisdiction. Mr. Wharton also reported that they have a time-lapse camera set up to show the construction progress. A link will be released in future communications.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Collins reported that the pool is now operating on school hours and will be closed on weekdays and open on weekends through Labor Day. Daily attendance is below last year's numbers because of inclement weather and more of our daily visitors utilized the resident rate, which is a reduced rate. The township will hit the targeted budget number, but it will be lower than 2024.

There is a new cybersecurity law that will apply to all local governments. All townships must comply by July 1, 2026, and the state auditor is developing the protocol. The Ohio Township Association is working on a model policy that all townships will be able to adopt. Mr. Collins has reached out to PSec Solutions so that they can start looking at what the township will need to do. Two township computers need to be replaced because Windows 10 will no longer be supported. The township is still working with KnowB4 for email/IT security training. The trustees all had examples of how sophisticated hackers are getting.

Mr. Collins presented a memo regarding the two parties interested in renting 39 2nd St. A CPA firm could sign a lease starting September 1st but is asking for reduced rent. The other party is willing to pay a full year's rent up front but cannot move in until December 1st. Mr. Collins believes the township has at least three years before there is development pressure from the city. Maintenance staff are very close to having 39 2nd Street ready to lease.

Ms. Mollard made a motion to authorize the Township administrator to proceed with negotiations on the 39 2nd St. Lease at the direction of the Board. Ms. Becket-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 25082003)

Mr. Collins also reported that the Maintenance staff is busy resetting the space at 45 2nd Street. They are currently working on replacing the floors. The plywood is mostly back down. Mr. Pharris is currently pricing out flooring. The board previously approved $10,000 to replace the floors. Mr. Pharris is also getting quotes to paint the space.

Also on the agenda was a discussion regarding the Gold Star Family monument donation. Mr. Collins spoke with the city manager, and the city is working on the Veterans Memorial Park plans. The city hopes to have those plans finalized and presented to City Council soon. Currently, the township does not know how the sculpture will fit into that space. Mr. Collins feels that the township needs to make sure the sculpture will be available to the public and fit into the space. The city is trying to see how they can support this project but obviously the city is contributing significant funds to the memorial park itself. Mr. Durik presented the Gold Star Family sculpture project to city council previously and he offered that there was no resistance to supporting this project, but no decision was made. Mr. Collins offered that the Plain Township Historical Society has received additional donations. Mr. Ferguson is hesitant to commit to funding the sculpture without knowing if the city has approved the sculpture and is identifying space within the Veterans Memorial Park for its placement. Mr. Durik offered that in the original design, there was a specific area and location for a Gold Star Memorial. Ms. Mollard stated that the sculpture is currently being fabricated. Ms. Mollard asked the trustees if they were comfortable voting on a contribution today. Ms. Beckett-Hill requested more information on where the sculpture is going to be placed and what the city is willing to do in a match. Ms. Mollard said that previous contributions discussed were $25,000 and $50,000. She feels that with the sizable gap in funding and how close it is getting to when the sculpture is supposed to be installed, she would like the trustees to consider voting for the higher amount of $50,000 at the next meeting. Ms. Beckett-Hill pointed out that in our past contributions, the township was a stakeholder in the projects. Ms. Beckett-Hill pointed out that the township is also building a fire station. Ms. Mollard offered that the township's previous commitments were multi-year commitments, and this would be a one-time gift, and it gives the township an opportunity to plan more proactively in the future, how does the township want to spend discretionary dollars in terms of philanthropy. Ms. Beckett-Hill said that the township also has the cemetery updates to plan for. Ms. Beckett-Hill would like to have a township strategy session to plan for future commitments. Ms. Mollard suggested the trustees schedule this for October. Mr. Ferguson asked what the role of a government entity is in philanthropy type initiatives, and what the board's role should be in using taxpayer dollars. Ms. Beckett-Hill indicated that she would not be ready to vote at the next meeting. She stated that she wants to be very intentional and thoughtful in how the board utilizes the funds. Ms. Mollard stated that there is a significant shortfall in raised dollars for the Gold Star Memorial and that there is timing pressure because the sculpture is already being fabricated and that the artist is working on good-faith that he will be paid. Ms. Beckett-Hill does not feel that it is the township's responsibility to expedite a contribution for that reason. It was decided to put this back on the agenda in mid-September after the township hears back from the city.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250820A1.

WHEREAS, Plain Township, Franklin County, Ohio (herein "Plain Township") is a township formed and organized pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Ohio and its communities have been harmed by misfeasance, nonfeasance and malfeasance committed by certain entities within the Opioid Pharmaceutical Supply Chain; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through its Attorney General, and certain Local Governments, through their elected representatives and counsel, are separately engaged in litigation seeking to hold Opioid Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants accountable for the damage caused by their misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through its Governor and Attorney General, and its Local Governments share a common desire to abate and alleviate the impacts of that misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance throughout the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlements are being implemented in connection with a number of manufacturers, including Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus to settle direct claims by States and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Settlements contemplate that the manufacturers will collectively pay up to $720 million; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has opted into these settlements, and, in order for Plain Township to be an eligible subdivision and obtain any funds associated with these settlements, it must also opt-in to this settlement;

WHEREAS, the settlement amount for each political subdivision will be determined based on the number of states and subdivisions that opt-in; and

WHEREAS, Plain Township wishes to opt into the proposed settlements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

Section 1. **That the Township Administrator is authorized to take any and all steps necessary to opt-in and participate in the settlements with Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus. The Township Administrator is authorized to execute any and all forms or documents in the furtherance of this authorization.**

Section 2. **That it is found and determined that all formal actions of the Board relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.**

Section 3. **This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, welfare, and safety of Plain Township. The reason for the emergency is to ensure prompt pursuit of funds to assist in abating the opioid epidemic throughout Ohio.**

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

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250820A2. Be it resolved, to pay $2,016 to PSee Solutions for 2 Business Desktop Computers and monitors out of the following accounts:

2141-330-54030 (Road District – Tools and Equipment)		**$ 869**
2171-610-54030 (Pool – Tools and Equipment)		**$ 869**
	Total	**$1,738**

Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye

Before moving forward with Resolution 250820A3, Mr. Ferguson asked Mr. Collins if this work has been successful. Mr. Collins feels that it has been very helpful, and the fire department has seen an improvement in the content being shared with the community. The consultant is also currently working on the annual fire report.

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250820A3. Be it resolved to pay Elizabeth Boyden the amount of $1,280 monthly for the period July through December 2025 for communication consulting services, with the cost to be divided equally between the general fund and the fire fund. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye

ZONING

Mr. Collins reported that things have been quiet in zoning. There are a couple of properties that have recently changed owners, and the grass is not being maintained. The owners mowed the grass earlier in the year after several notices.

A resident inquired about parking restrictions. Currently, Plain Township does not have any roads where parking is restricted. There is a property owner in the township that has parked several cars on the road for an extended period of time. If the cars are currently licensed and operable, there is nothing that the Sherriff's office can do. One option would be for the township to adopt parking regulations on that particular street.

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250820Z1.

WHEREAS, the overgrown weeds and vegetation located at Plain Township Parcel Number 220-001286 and located at 10913 Johnstown Road, New Albany, Ohio 43054 constitute a nuisance that is present and ongoing;

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby orders the owners Nicole Athey, Robert Cecchini, and Alexander Athey to abate, control, or remove said overgrown weeds and vegetation that are a present and ongoing nuisance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if said overgrown weeds and vegetation are not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provision for its abatement, control or removal is not made within seven (7) days, the Plain Township Board of Trustees shall provide for the abatement, control or removal of said nuisance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any expenses incurred by the Plain Township Board of Trustees in providing for the abatement, control, or removal of said nuisance shall be paid out of the township general fund from moneys not otherwise appropriated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees shall make a written report to the county auditor identifying the premises and all expenses incurred in providing for the abatement, control, or removal of said nuisance. Any expenses incurred shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

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

Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250820Z2.

WHEREAS, the overgrown weeds and vegetation located at Plain Township Parcel Number 220-001372 and located at 10929 Johnstown Road, New Albany, Ohio 43054 constitute a nuisance that is present and ongoing;

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby orders the owner Muhammed Sadiq Isu to abate, control, or remove said overgrown weeds and vegetation that are a present and ongoing nuisance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if said overgrown weeds and vegetation are not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provision for its abatement, control or removal is not made within seven (7) days, the Plain Township Board of Trustees shall provide for the abatement, control or removal of said nuisance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any expenses incurred by the Plain Township Board of Trustees in providing for the abatement, control, or removal of said nuisance shall be paid out of the township general fund from moneys not otherwise appropriated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees shall make a written report to the county auditor identifying the premises and all expenses incurred in providing for the abatement, control, or removal of said nuisance. Any expenses incurred shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

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

ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Mr. Pharris reported that staff are busy finishing up the repairs at 39 2nd Street and replacing the floors at 45 2nd Street. He indicated that there was some termite damage and water damage. Mr. Pharris would like to install waterproof flooring to avoid any moisture issues going forward. His preference would be a wide-plank LVP. After getting some pricing, he thinks the total flooring project could exceed the $10,000 budget that was previously authorized. The trustees offered a few suggestions for places to get quotes from. Mr. Pharris has received quotes for painting 45 2nd Street. Mr. Pharris also stated that the rental space at 39 2nd Street has minimal electrical outlets in the large front office space.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Connor reported that the SAFER grant awards should be released in September.

In discussing the resolution for the new dayroom furniture, Mr. Ferguson asked if the fire logo was going to be put on the backs of the recliners. Assistant Chief Ecleberry said that for the sake of cost and durability, it was decided not to add the logo. There is a three-year warranty on the furniture.

Assistant Chief Ecleberry reported that the final inspection on the new engine/rescue is next week on August 26th. The truck will then go to lettering the following week and then to equipment mounting at Heritage Fire Equipment. Assistant Chief Ecleberry is hoping for a late September delivery. The fire department will then schedule training and a dedication ceremony.

Gary Hamilton from Howell Rescue System is a retired Columbus firefighter. He will be conducting a rope-training class with staff.

Paramount, the company painting the bay, was at the station for a walk-through last week. Paramount thinks they can have the project completed in 1-2 weeks.

Chief Ecleberry also reported that while the controller for one of the overhead doors was being replaced, the company did not have the door secured and it came down and broke several panels. The repair company is replacing the broken panels.

Chief Connor finished by stating that the fire department will be moving the open house from October 5th to October 12th because of the scheduling conflict with Marburn Academy. He will communicate the 2026 date with Marburn earlier to avoid this next year.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 250820F1. Be it resolved to pay Working Fire Furniture & Mattress Company Inc. up to $11,632.63 for the purchase of twelve (12) new chairs for the day room out of fund 2111-220-58099 (Fire-Other Supplies).

Working Fire Furniture & Mattress Company, Inc.
PO Box 1310
Mebane, NC 27302 US

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

FISCAL OFFICE

Ms. Rogers updated the board on a meeting she and Mr. Zappitelli had with Huntington National Bank. Huntington has another account option that will offer a higher interest rate and is allowed by local governments. Mr. Collins reported that the township must review its banking relationships next year. By statute, the township must select a depository institution of record every five years. Ms. Mollard asked how long the township had been with Huntington and Ms. Rogers reported that it had been 10 years.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Beckett-Hill will attend the McCoy Board stakeholder meeting with Mr. Collins tomorrow morning. Ms. Beckett-Hill also reported that electric vehicles were a big topic of discussion at the last school board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Mollard reminded everyone that the 2nd meeting in September has been moved to the evening. For the New Albany Community Breakfast, she will not be sitting at the Plain Township table, as she will be there with Mollard Consulting. Ms. Beckett-Hill will also not be in attendance.

Ms. Mollard also extended invitations to the movie A Train Near Magdeburg on September 11, 2025. She also received an email from Beryl Piccolantonio inviting the trustees to her New Albany Town Hall on Monday, September 15th at 6pm at the library.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Mollard made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 9:13 a.m. pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1) for employment and compensation. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye

Ms. Mollard made a motion to close out of executive session at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 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