

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, Jill Beckett-Hill, and Hans Schell. Others present: Fiscal Officer Bud Zappitelli, Township Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Eceleberry, Battalion Chief Dudley, Maintenance Supervisor Bob Pharris, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers. Visitors present: Deputy Upton.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Collins advised there is a minor edit to Resolution A4, and Chief Connor added Resolution F8 detailing job offers to firefighters.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Ms. Mollard made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$372,450.79.

Mr. Schell seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 26020401)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the January 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting minutes. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 26020402)

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF LIAISON

Deputy Upton reported that there were not a lot of auto accidents with the recent snowstorm, but there were a fair number of disabled vehicles.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Collins attended the pre-construction meeting for the State Route 605 and Walnut Street roundabout project. The closure will begin on March 2nd. The date cannot be altered due to the construction schedule that is already in place. The delivery of a culvert, which requires forty-three truckloads of concrete, has been scheduled for March 17th. The maximum length for the closure will be 75 days because other projects in Licking County will depend on this project's completion.

Mr. Collins met with the city manager and the school board superintendent to discuss the status of the McCoy Board appointments. They will ask the current members about their interest in renewing their positions and check their residential status. The Stakeholders would like to get to know the current board members before appointing new people.

Mr. Collins has a meeting next week with SWACO to discuss a new collection contract. The first invitation to bid is out for review. Mr. Collins strives for the residential rates to be comparable to the rates of New Albany.

Mr. Collins will meet with Bond Council and Baker Tilly on Monday to look at the project schedule and the bond schedule.

Mr. Collins summarized the resolutions noting the pool vending commissions increased to 25% from 20%. The updated vacation policy adds vacation for employees with 25 years of service, and no employees were negatively impacted by the changes. Mr. Collins met with the HR consultant and feels she should be helpful with employee matters. Ms. Mollard asked if she should abstain from the vote since the consultant is a colleague of hers. Mr. Collins recommended she abstain.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204A1. Be it resolved to pay Flourishes Consulting the amount of \$1,650 monthly for the period January through June 2026 for human resources consulting services, to be paid from the General Fund. Mr. Schell seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye. Ms. Mollard abstained.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204A2. Be it resolved, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes an agreement with 365 Midwest Concessions LLC to operate the concession stand at the Plain Township Aquatic Center for one year – the 2026 pool season – and authorizes the Township Administrator to negotiate the terms of a contract to operate the concession stand. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204A3. Be It Resolved, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby approves an agreement with G&J Pepsi-Cola Bottlers, Inc. to be the exclusive provider of full-service beverage vending at the Plain Township Aquatic Center and sole supplier of packaged beverage products for concession sales for a five-year term beginning January 2026 through December 2030. Be it further resolved to authorize the township administrator to execute any agreements on behalf of Plain Township. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204A4. Be it Resolved that the Plain Township Personnel Policy is hereby amended as follows:

7.3 Vacation Leave

Vacation is earned by all full-time employees. Full-time employees earn vacation at the rate of 3.08 hours for each 80 hours scheduled beginning in the first year of employment. At the beginning of the fourth year of employment, full-time employees will earn 4.62 hours for each 80 hours scheduled, at the beginning of the seventh year of employment, 6.16 hours for each 80 hours scheduled, at the beginning of the 10th year of service, 6.93 hours for each 80 hours scheduled, at the beginning of the 15th year of service, 6.937.70 hours for each 80 hours scheduled, and at the start of the 20th 1st year of service, 8.47 hours for each 80 hours scheduled, and at the start of the 25th year of service, 9.24 hours for each 80 hours scheduled.

Vacation leave is accrued as follows:

REVISED								
Years of Service	40 Hour	Days of Vacation	Weeks of Vacation	40 Hour Accrual Per Pay Cycle	48 Hour	Days of Vacation	Weeks of Vacation	48 Hour Accrual Per Pay Cycle
Hire to end of 3 Years	80.08	10.01	2.0	3.08	96.20	4.0	2.0	3.70
Start of Year 4	120.12	15.02	3.0	4.62	144.04	6.0	3.0	5.54
Start of Year 7	160.16	20.02	4.0	6.16	192.14	8.0	4.0	7.39
Start of Year 10	180.18	22.52	4.5	6.93	216.06	9.0	4.5	8.31
Start of Year 15	200.20	25.03	5.0	7.70	240.24	10.0	5.0	9.24
Start of Year 20	220.22	27.53	5.5	8.47	264.16	11.0	5.5	10.16
Start of Year 25	240.24	30.03	6.0	9.24	288.08	12.0	6.0	11.08

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

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204A5. Be it Resolved, that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Township Administrator to request the assistance of the Franklin County Engineer, on behalf of Plain Township, as needed to provide design, engineering, and administration services for Plain Township roads, infrastructure, and assets. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

ZONING

Mr. Collins reported there have been a few variance requests for the next Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. Mr. Collins posted a recruitment for the Zoning Commission on social media but did not receive any letters of interest. Mr. Collins mentioned possibly sending postcards to the unincorporated residents. Both Ms. Mollard and Ms. Beckett-Hill shared potential candidates with Mr. Collins.

Mr. Collins reported that there is interest in developing property on State Route 605. Two options are 25 units on 40 acres or 75 units on 40 acres. The 25-unit option would be able to develop on-site septic. Rezoning will be required in either case because the current minimum lot size is 2.5 acres. At the State Route 605 pre-construction meeting Mr. Collins learned that the city of Columbus is on track to extend water and sewer down Walnut Street from Harlem to State Route 605. After the city of Columbus finalizes the annexation of 1000 acres in Blendon Township for Hoover Reserve, Columbus might want to annex portions of Rocky Fork Metro Park to make park land contiguous with adjacent parcels that are open.

Mr. Collins reached out to the Franklin County prosecutor regarding a nuisance abatement issue.

ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Mr. Pharris reported that the maintenance staff overlapped with 4-hour shifts during the snow storm. They tried to conserve salt during the snow removal and thanked the Fire Department for taking care of their own parking lot. Mr. Pharris has agreed to allow the city of New Albany to move snow from Market Street to the pool parking lot. The Trustees thanked the maintenance staff for their hard work during the snowstorm.

Mr. Pharris further reported that there was a water leak at the 39 2nd Street rental. The water has been hooked back up, but the lines have been drained while the restoration company cleans and dries the property. Mr. Pharris plans to re-route the water lines out of the ceiling. Ms. Mollard inquired about the cost for the water restoration. Mr. Pharris does not know the cost, but mentioned insurance should cover it.

Mr. Pharris advised the trade-in estimate for the old truck is \$28,000. There have been 4 funerals since Saturday, and he has been getting quotes for seal coating, crack sealing and striping of the office and pool parking lots as well as the driveways at the cemetery.

Prior to the vote on Resolution No. 260204M1, Mr. Schell inquired about the scope of work quoted by the Franklin County Engineer's office for road repairs. Mr. Collins advised that Hoover Reserve Road is a low volume road and the repairs are not essential but will be helpful in preserving the pavement. The road currently has many cracks, and it was recommended to put down a stress absorbing membrane after the top layer of pavement is milled off. The product is a water-proof rubberized mat that will help prevent the cracks from reflecting back into the new pavement. Although not essential, it will prolong the life of the new pavement.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204M1. Be it Resolved: To pay the Franklin County Engineers Office, an amount not to exceed \$85,000 for maintenance and crack sealing of Plain Township roads to be paid out of fund 2021-330- 53060 (Gasoline Tax – Contracts). Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204M2. Be it Resolved that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the purchase of a Ford F600 cab and chassis from Eyers Ford for at a price of \$58,635 with \$28,000 to be credited from trading in the 2016 Ford F550 and \$30,635 to be paid out of account 2021-330-54040 (Gasoline Tax – Tools & Equipment). Mr. Schell seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204M3. Be it Resolved that the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes to pay ACE Truck Body, Inc. to purchase and install a dump bed and equipment, to outfit the Ford F600 cab and chassis, for an amount not to exceed \$53,550 with \$29,000 to be paid out of 2141-330-54030 (Roads – Tools & Equipment) and \$33,550 to be paid out of account 2021-330-54040 (Gasoline Tax – Tools & Equipment).

**Ace Truck Body, Inc.
1600 Thrailkill Road
Grove City, Ohio 43123**

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Connor reported that The New Albany Company approved the deed for Station 122. He was pleased that the architect and NACO reached an agreement on the changes. There will be a meeting with the Architectural Review Board on Monday which he expects to go well. Chief Connor thanked Trustee Beckett-Hill for her help in communicating with NACO. The New Albany City Council will have a first reading for re-zoning on February 17th. Mr. Collins advised the tax proration agreement has been counter-signed and returned to NACO. Mr. Collins is working with NACO to complete the transfer.

Chief Connor discussed the resolutions prior to voting. He advised that the fee schedule for dispatching might increase significantly. We are presently locked into a 4-year agreement and may want to explore extending our current contract prior to a rate increase. Chief Connor also reported that there were 32 candidates for 6 firefighter positions. Five conditional offers were made and accepted.

Assistant Chief Ecleberry also discussed the resolutions. He advised the uniform budget includes uniforms for new hires and keeping with the replacement schedule for the turn-out gear. The rescue equipment for confined space may have a low-frequency use, but there is a real risk with all of the construction in our area. We are currently trained for these rescues but would have to call another fire department for help if we did not have this equipment. Regarding the Ohio Fire Executive Program that Captain Zierk would like to attend, both Chief Connor and Assistant Chief Ecleberry are graduates of the program. It is a two-and-a-half-year program that focuses on management and leadership. Networking is also a plus.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F1. Be it resolved to pay Licking County Emergency Management \$114,714 for dispatching services for 2026, out of fund 2111-220-53019 (Fire District – Dispatching).

**Licking County Emergency Management
783 Irving Wick Drive West
Heath, OH 43054**

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

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F2. Be it resolved to amend the Plain Township Fire Department Special Duty Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 2026, according to the attached fee schedule. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F3. Be it resolved to pay Visionary Signs up to \$5,000 for the purchase of lettering and graphics for station vehicles out of fund 2111-220-58099 (Fire-Other Expenses). Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F4. Be it resolved to pay The Fire House up to \$60,000 for the purchase of firefighter uniforms out of fund 2111-220-54022 (Fire-Supplies - Uniforms). Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F5. Be it resolved to pay Atlantic Emergency Solutions up to \$16,000 for the purchase of a Scott Breathing Air System Cart and Hoses out of fund 4910-220-55000 (Capital Equipment- Fire - Fire Equipment). Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F6. Be it resolved to pay Phoenix Safety Outfitters up to \$87,500 for turnout gear purchases, turnout gear rental, and turnout gear maintenance out of fund 4910-220-55000 (Capital Equipment-Fire - Fire Equipment). Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F7. Be it resolved, to pay the Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation \$10,500 for Captain Beau Zierk to attend the Ohio Fire Executive program, out of fund 2111-220-58018 (Fire - Other Expenses-Training).

Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation
450 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 150
Worthington, OH 43085

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

Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260204F8. Be it resolved to offer conditional employment to Thomas Cooper, James Herring, and Cory Leindecker as lateral full-time Firefighter Paramedics at step 2 pending results from a background check and drug screen.

Be it also resolved to offer conditional employment to Mattison Saling and Garrett Meyers as full-time Firefighter Paramedics at step 1 pending results from a background check and drug screen.

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

FISCAL OFFICE

The credit card statements were provided, and the date of March 4th was solidified for Red Tree to present at a board meeting.

Ms. Rogers and AC Ecleberry met to go over 2026 expenses for the Permanent Appropriations.

NEW ALBANY JOINT PARKS DISTRICT

Ms. Mollard was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

THE NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Ms. Mollard attended the meeting that was held via Zoom because of the snowstorm. There were no big updates, but the success of The Remarkable Evening was discussed.

NEW ALBANY SUSTAINABILITY STAKEHOLDERS

Ms. Mollard advised that a new meeting has not been scheduled yet.

NEW ALBANY PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

Ms. Beckett-Hill advised the meeting was canceled due to the snowstorm.

MCCOY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Ms. Beckett-Hill advised Mr. Collins brought her up to date on the board membership.

NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Schell did not attend the meeting since he was out of town, but he spoke with Councilmember Durik who said there was nothing major to report. Mr. Stefanov was given authority to negotiate improvements for the bathrooms by the pickleball courts.

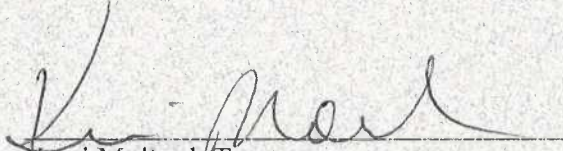
NEW BUSINESS

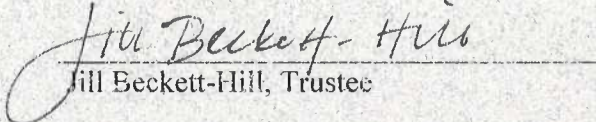
The Trustees discussed moving the June 17th meeting since Ms. Mollard will be out of the country. Ms. Beckett-Hill may also be out of the country on June 17th. She will re-check her schedule. Ms. Mollard will be out of town on October 7th as well.

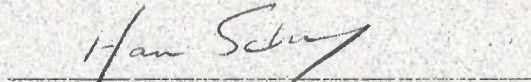
ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 a.m. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:


Kerri Mollard, Trustee


Jill Beckett-Hill, Trustee


Hans Schell, Trustee


Bud Zappelli, Fiscal Officer