

## 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: Kerri Mollard and Jill Beckett-Hill. Hans Schell arrived at 8:02 a.m. Others present: Township Administrator Ben Collins, Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, and Finance Officer Courtney Rogers. Battalion Chief Dudley arrived at 8:11 a.m. Visitors present: Mike Durik and Deputy Upton.

### ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Collins noted that he updated Resolution F1.

### PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

**Ms. Mollard made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$508,472.07. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 26052001)**

Ms. Mollard inquired about the EMS billing and whether PMMG is caught up on billing from the switch from Change Healthcare.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the May 6, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting minutes. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 26052002)**

### NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL LIAISON – MIKE DURIK

Mr. Durik reported that city council met last night and they made a proclamation recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month. There was also a proclamation declaring this week Public Works Week. Council recognized their service department.

City council annexed and changed zoning on 106 acres on Jug Street. A vote was postponed for the Hamlet because it is unclear what types of commercial businesses are being targeted. The Steiner Group will reach out to the council members to discuss what they are planning. This was tabled until the June 16<sup>th</sup>

meeting. State Route 605 is going to be closed from Snider Loop to Central College from June 1st to August 18<sup>th</sup>.

There was also a review scheduled for the Prairie House property. The developers really listened to the comments that were made at the last meeting and would like the vote to be postponed until June 16<sup>th</sup>. A few of the items that need to be addressed are the homes backing up to Dublin-Granville Road, the density, and the distance between houses. The volume of traffic is also a concern. Mr. Durik expects that the city will need to do a traffic study. Currently, the Prairie House has asked for a zoning change.

There were some residents in attendance that spoke about the traffic on Jug Street and Central College, east of State Route 62.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF – DEPUTY UPTON**

Deputy Upton reported that they received a call from a resident living on Lee Road who was complaining about their neighbor shooting their firearms. The Sheriff's office explained that the neighbor is in an unincorporated area and that they are allowed to do that. Based on a video that was shown, it appears that the neighbor was shooting a rodent. Chief Connor shared that an email came through this morning from the resident and she is requesting that the Plain Township Trustees create a zoning ordinance to regulate the discharge of firearms in residential areas. Mr. Collins will contact the resident and explain that the township has no statutory authority to do what she is asking.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Collins stated that it is Public Service week and he wanted to recognize the efforts of the maintenance department. The maintenance department is busy preparing the pool for opening day. A freezer at the pool concessions had to be replaced. The township received the first Pepsi vending agreement payment.

AJ Asphalt seal-coated the pool and township parking lot. They will seal-coat the cemetery after Memorial Day.

The construction on State Route 605 and Walnut Street is on schedule. The street should reopen the Friday after Memorial Day. The paving for the Bevelhymer roundabout is delayed. Mr. Pharris will get out there to berm the road after Memorial Day.

There is interest from a potential renter for the space at 45 Second Street.

MORPC had its monthly commission meeting last week. There was a data center panel where area experts talked about the current scenario in central Ohio. One point that was discussed is that the data centers are moving to supply their own energy because the state has not overcome

the energy supply issue yet. Locally, three of those data centers will be creating energy from gas-fired electric generation. Mr. Collins encouraged the trustees and fire department to learn about that process. Mr. Schell and Mr. Collins offered that they have received positive feedback from residents that noise levels have diminished at the Google site.

Mr. Collins attended one of the John Glenn MAPS courses for public administrator professionals. It was a great training opportunity.

Pool membership sales are going well. Sales are 5% ahead of last year. The pool opens this Saturday, but the weekend weather forecast does not look good. The township reached out to the swim team to see if they were interested in participating in a "first splash".

Mr. Schell shared that the township has been discussing the parental leave policy for a while now. He is sensitive to the economic impact but wants to keep up with the trends and offer a great place to work. Ms. Mollard appreciates the distinction between the birth mother and other parents or guardians. Mr. Collins is working with the HR consultant to do a comprehensive review of the personnel policy to be concluded later this year. But this new parental leave policy will take effect immediately.

**Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260520A1.**

**A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION RECOGNIZING MICHAEL SAWYERS**

**WHEREAS, MICHAEL SAWYERS has served as the superintendent of the New Albany Plain Local School District since 2016, and before that was hired as the director of operations of the New Albany Plain Local School District in 2013; and**

**WHEREAS, MICHAEL SAWYERS has been a tireless champion for the students of Plain Township and New Albany, passionately working towards the academic and developmental achievement of all students while supporting students in the arts, athletics, service, and many other areas of student life; and**

**WHEREAS, MICHAEL SAWYERS has dedicated himself to the success of all students while listening, learning, and leading with the needs of every student at the center of every decision; and**

**WHEREAS, MICHAEL SAWYERS has served the community with enthusiasm and energy, both within and outside the school campus, having also served on the New Albany Chamber of Commerce, the Jeanne B. McCoy Center for the Arts, and the New Albany Community Foundation Board, among others;**

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

**That Plain Township Trustees Kerri Mollard, Jill Beckett-Hill, and Hans Schell would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to Superintendent Michael Sawyers on behalf of the Township staff and residents, for his many contributions to the New Albany Plain Local School District and the entire community.**

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

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260520A2.

Be it Resolved that the Plain Township Personnel Policy is hereby amended as follows to add section 7.13 to provide for paid parental leave:

### 7.13 Paid Parental Leave

Paid Parental Leave is employer paid leave for the birth or permanent placement for adoption of the employee's child as described herein.

- (1) **Eligibility:** Full-time employees may receive paid parental leave immediately upon hire.
- (2) **Qualifying Events:** (a) **Birth of a Child** – Employee must be the birth mother or father, or someone legally responsible for child-rearing, to include biological parent, spouse, or adoptive parent; (b) **Adoption** – Permanent placement of an adoptive minor child. Employee must be the adoptive parent who, via a legal process, has taken a child into the household and has been granted permanent legal custody through a court approved adoption.
- (3) **Benefit:** Four weeks paid at 100% for the birth mother and two weeks paid at 100% for the biological parent, spouse, adoptive parent, or legal guardian of the child for the birth or adoption of a child.
- (4) Parental Leave begins on the date of birth or the date medically determined unable to work. For adoption, leave begins the day custody is taken.
- (5) When medically necessary or necessary to fulfill the legal requirements for an adoption, Paid Parental Leave may be taken prior to the birth or adoptive event, provided all eligibility requirements are met when the time off commences.
- (6) Paid Parental Leave may be used in cases of stillbirth. Stillbirth is a pregnancy loss that occurs during or following the 20<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy.
- (7) Paid Parental Leave may be used in one continuous block of time or other scheduled intervals, or unscheduled intervals as indicated on the FMLA designation.
- (8) Sick leave accrues as normal while on paid parental leave.
- (9) A paid holiday occurring during the leave period does not count against the weeks of Paid Parental Leave. A paid holiday is counted as a paid holiday.
- (10) Paid Parental Leave will run concurrently with FMLA. If the employee is ineligible for FMLA or has an insufficient FMLA balance, parental time off will still be granted.
- (11) Application must be made as soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days from the start of the event.
- (12) Paid Parental Leave hours are not eligible for cash payout, do not carry over from year to year, hours are not available for leave donation, and hours are not payable at separation.
- (13) Paid Parental Leave may be used over multiple timeframes and for multiple qualifying events in a calendar year. For example, the birth of a child in January is eligible for Parental Leave, and the birth of another child in December of the same year would be eligible for a separate allowance of Paid Parental Leave.

**(14) Paid Parental Leave can be used for no more than the allotted benefit per event. For example, the birth or adoption of a child who arrives in December is eligible for four or two weeks of Paid Parental Leave, even though the leave period may span across two calendar years. The birth or adoption of more than one child at the same time or during the same process is only eligible for one Paid Parental Leave benefit.**

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

### ZONING

Mr. Collins reported that there was an informal review with the Zoning Commission last week with a potential developer with 40 acres on State Route 605. A generic site plan was presented, and they talked about the proposed development. The developer is proposing private septic with municipal water from Delco with a single public roadway entry. Mr. Collins explained that there are some Franklin County subdivision standards that the developer will have to navigate. Mr. Collins expects that the developer will bring back an application for the June meeting. They would have to go through the Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord for review. Assuming they meet all subdivision guidelines and township standards, there would not be a variance required, just a rezoning.

The Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord will be considering and reviewing an application for a new subdivision of apartments at the Southwest corner of Harlem Road and Walnut Street tomorrow. A township resident contacted the township because their property is noted in the plan with an extension of Hamilton Road going through their property. Mr. Collins does not have an answer for this resident but will continue to inquire and provide updates as they come.

### ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Ms. Mollard asked Mr. Collins to convey the board's appreciation for them, especially this Public Service Week. She would like to do a luncheon for the Maintenance staff after May.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Connor reported that the HR consultant met with Assistant Chief Ecleberry and EMS Coordinator Essick to revise their job descriptions.

The township received 8 bids for the new fire station. He is recommending the Elford bid to the board. It was the low bid, but they have built many fire stations and are highly recommended. The architect feels very comfortable with Elford as the contractor.

The fire department is still working out the logistics for the groundbreaking ceremony on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The New Albany Company is going to allow the township to use the cell tower access roadway. There will be a shuttle to transport people to the site. Chief Connor will put together an agenda for the ceremony and send it out to the trustees for review. Pictures of the station will be printed and on easels. Chief Connor will also reach out to the City of New Albany's

marketing team to take a video. The trustees would like to make sure City Council, the school board, New Albany Company and the Planning Commission are invited.

The new part-time hires have all completed their background checks and paperwork for onboarding. They will start during the next pay cycle.

Chief Connor also discussed the additional equipment that will be needed for the new Engine 122 and Medic 122. He and Mr. Collins discussed using the Opioid Settlement funds to offset some of the cost. The fire department will want to add this equipment to the ALS360 agreement but pay for it separately and not lump it into the annual payments. Mr. Collins ran this by our counsel and Pete Griggs was comfortable with using the Opioid Settlement funds to purchase a new heart monitor that could treat overdose patients.

Mr. Collins followed back up regarding the question of year-to-date EMS billing. He noted that the EMS billing is down over last year. He feels this is because of fewer mutual aid calls to Columbus.

There is a Station 122 meeting at 10am today to review an itemized list of costs. The construction bid was \$6.7 million and additional costs are estimated to be another \$1.2 million. The team will finalize the number and send it to Baker Tilly to include in the preliminary offering statement for the bond placement. Mr. Collins noted that the township's AA+ rating was the highest that S&P could issue because of changes that they made to how they rate local governments. Pricing day is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260520F1.**

**WHEREAS, the Plain Township Board of Trustees has competitively bid a public improvement project identified as the Plain Township Fire Station 122 Project in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code; and**

**WHEREAS, after tabulating the bid results, the apparent low bidder is Elford, Inc.; and**

**WHEREAS, there appear to be no mathematical errors and Elford, Inc. is found to be a reputable company, has no findings for recovery, and is determined to be the lowest and best bidder;**

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

- 1. That the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby awards the public improvement construction contract for the Plain Township Fire Station 122 Project to Elford Construction, Inc. as the lowest and best bidder with a bid of \$6,760,000.**
- 2. That the Plain Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes an amount up to \$6,760,000 be paid to \_\_\_\_\_ Elford, Inc. for the Plain Township Fire Station 122 Project.**
- 3. The award of this project and any resulting contract to the successful bidder is contingent upon the Township's successful issuance, sale, and closing of its proposed Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2026, in an amount sufficient to meet the Township's financial obligations for the project. In the event such financing is not**

obtained, the Township reserves the right to reject all bids, decline to award a contract, and/or terminate any construction contract.

4. That this Board of Trustees finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning this legislation were taken in an open meeting of this Board, all in compliance with Ohio law including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.
5. That this Resolution is declared to be in full force and effect from the earliest date allowed by law.

Mr. Schell seconded the Motion. Roll Call Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260520F2. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the attached job description for the full-time position of Assistant Fire Chief, which will be updated to a salaried position beginning with the next pay period. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Schell made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 260520F3. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the attached job description for the full-time position of EMS Coordinator, which will be updated to a salaried position beginning with the next pay period. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.

#### FISCAL OFFICE

Ms. Rogers shared that she is working to get the accounting system set up for the SAFER grant before she submits for reimbursements. She has reached out to Mifflin Township, who also received the grant, to see how they set things up in the accounting system to ensure everything is done properly.

Assistant Chief Ecleberry mentioned that the Fire Act grant application will open soon. AC Ecleberry will reach out to the township's grant writer to get his thoughts and opinion on the township's potential for success. The fire department would like to submit for a grant to purchase and replace air packs (SCBAs).

#### NEW ALBANY JOINT PARKS DISTRICT

The JPD would like to give the trustees a tour of the new fieldhouse. Ms. Mollard will get available dates.

#### THE NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The township will give a community update at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 am.

#### NEW ALBANY SUSTAINABILITY STAKEHOLDERS

No updates

**NEW ALBANY PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD**

The school board has appointed a new superintendent to replace Mr. Sawyers. He was previously at Bexley and Upper Arlington.

**MCCOY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

No updates

**NEW ALBANY CITY COUNCIL**

No additional updates

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Mollard reported that a potential donor reached out and asked her to fill out a grant application and would like to meet. The donor will be at the groundbreaking ceremony on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Collins will also reach out to QTS as a potential partner/donor. QTS has issued grants to fire and emergency response agencies in the past.

At the last meeting, it was proposed to move the evening trustee meeting from 6:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Because of summer conflicts, it was decided to make the change with the first meeting in September 2026.

**Ms. Mollard made a motion to amend the Plain Township Board of Trustees meeting schedule as follows: Starting with the first meeting in September, the evening meetings will move from 6:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye.**

The trustees signed a card for Mayor Spalding. Ms. Mollard suggested that the trustees and the responding unit visit him.


**NEW BUSINESS**


None

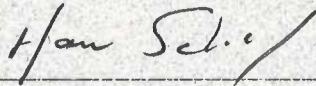
**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Mollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 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 Zappitelli, Fiscal Officer