Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, here; Mr. Welch, here; Mr. Flaherty, here; Mr. Estep, here.

The regular meeting of the Blendon Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30pm. Mrs. Heichel moved to approve and waive the reading of the minutes as presented for the January 27, 2016, meeting. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes. Blendon/Westerville Fire Chief also attended. The Purchase Orders and Cemetery Deeds were signed by the Board.

Administrator’s Report:
Mr. Rhoads noted that 2649 Clybourne structure is to be torn down after being declared a nuisance at the February 24, 2016, meeting. The Zoning Commission met to discuss zoning changes with plans to submit to the Franklin County Zoning Commission. Changes include a new commercial, detailed overlay exclusive for our Westerville and business areas and changes to commercial vehicles in our community for heavy trucks. Eventually the Board will consider the changes for adoption. MORPC meeting is tomorrow and Zoning Appeals meeting was cancelled due to no cases.

Communications:
1. Update Reports to the Board- E-mailed from the Directors.

New Business:
1. 2016 Street Sweeping Contract- Mr. Giamarco presented the Board for approval to have Contract Sweepers sweep our streets for 2016, with a minimal increase. Also presented, from Contract Sweepers for sweeping the 270 corridor, as well. Mr. Welch moved to approve the 2016 contracts with Contract Sweeper, as presented for a cost of $9,050.00, and for the 270/3 corridor for $3,300.00 (possible 2 sweeps). Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

2. 2016 Winter Newsletter- Mrs. Heichel presented the Board for approval of the Winter Newsletter, with two revisions. Mr. Welch moved to approve the 2016 Winter Newsletter as presented with two changes at a total cost of $2,711.65 including postage. Mr. Flaherty seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

Director/Staff Updates:
Mr. Giamarco noted the cemetery has been very busy in January and February. They have finally used salt, but not enough snow to plow yet.

Fire Chief Miller discussed responding to several chimney fires and suggests have them cleaned before use and carbon monoxide detectors installed close to bedrooms, so they can be heard. They save lives, as carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless.

Mr. Rhoads discussed working with Mr. Estep on the bonds and had received the proceeds and plan to move forward.

Mr. Flaherty suggested looking into bringing more dumpsters in during spring cleanup to areas that are prone to have move out and large items to be disposed of. Maybe have a Rumpke truck in the area with perhaps a scout troop to help with labor, to make is as easy as possible.

Mr. Welch noted he liked the pie reports, as they are easy to read and the information is clearer.

Mrs. Heichel noted she attended the Ohio Township Association and enjoyed it and found it very interesting.

Mr. Estep thanked Mr. Rhoads for his cooperation and noted for the record, that the principle amount of the bond is $5,280,000.00, with an interest of $105,000.00, but $68,000.00 was discounted, so the actual cost is $83,528.00. We have $5,302,000.00 wired into our account, to use as working capital.
Minutes of
Blendon Township Board of Trustees
Meeting
February 10, 2016

Director/Staff Updates: continued....
Mrs. Harter noted that the warm weather has improved sales in the cemetery with a large interest in the mausoleum. So the cemetery has been very busy with funerals and sales. Mrs. Jordan is waiting for a call back regarding the family portraits, and March 19th is the Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt for children up to 4th grade, and welcome pictures to be taken. Festivities start at 9:00am. The egg hunt at 11:00am.

Chief Belford noted he is waiting for a response on medication drop off for Shred-it Day. March of 2017, the first list of certified agencies to cover a standardized format for primarily “use of force” and “recruiting hiring” policies, created by Ohio Attorney General, to develop an Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Certification. We will be required to adopt this certification, over a course of a year. It is our objective is to be done and on that list. Also, one of our police officers was given an anonymous $25.00 donation by a customer at Tim Horton’s to buy our officer’s coffee. Mr. Welch made a motion to accept the $25.00 anonymous donation for our police department. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes. Chief Belford also requested that an anonymous $200.00 donation dropped off at our police department be accepted. Mrs. Heichel made a motion to accept the $200.00 anonymous donation for our police department. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

Open Floor:
Mr. Flaherty noted he would like to make a comment about our “open floor” and this is in direct response to a Facebook post, which normally is not paid too much attention to. A citizen felt that since we did not agree with or jump right on the suggestion, “we were blowing them off” and ignoring them. The Board, as a whole, value “open floor” very much and we like the involvement from our citizens, as it helps us know what is going on. Even if we don’t agree with you or follow through 100% on what you want to do, we do value the opinions and this is an important part of the meeting to us.

Mr. Tom Wiebell, 5119 Oslo Drive, noted that he enjoyed his small part in putting together the “Bicentennial Video” and the Board assured him he was a large part and was very much appreciated. We could not have done it without him and know there’s more to come.

Mrs. Pam Clegg, 3614 Makassar Drive, hoped our police officers do get to enjoy the coffee and also asked about the carbon monoxide detectors age to replace and Fire Chief Miller noted if 5 years old, it’s time to replace.

Mrs. Kim Iquina, 6359 Hibiscus Court, she noted her concerns about the upcoming tax levies and felt they already pay a lot in taxes. And also the replacement of playground equipment removed from the Sunbury Woods Park. Mr. Rhodes stated a swing set has been ordered and this spring, other “insurance friendly” equipment will be added. Asking about the grills and signage placement was also discussed, and the Board plans to look into it. Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Estep and Chief Belford discussed that the levy is essential to maintain our safety services. When comparing townships and their taxes, try not to compare “apples to oranges”, as services depend on coverage and level of services provided. Our police department is 24/7, 365 days a year, with one-on-one familiarity with our residents, along with 2 to 5 minute response times. It was noted that passage of this levy would keep our community at the top of the list, not bottom. We, as a Board, live in Blendon Township and realize this is the cost of being the best we can be. We think hard about raising taxes and know taxes are paid by us, as residents, as well, but we cannot afford to let our security down. Please attend more of our meetings, we enjoy having residents come and witness our service and dedication to the Blendon Community.

Pay bills: Mrs. Heichel moved to pay the bills. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes: Mr. Welch, yes. The attached list of checks was approved for payment. Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Mr. Flaherty noted that the next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 6:30pm. Happy Valentine’s Day.

Approved by: Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: Stewart L. Flaherty, Chairman