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 December 14, 2016, meeting. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes. Blendon/Westerville Deputy Fire Chief also attended. The Purchase Orders and Cemetery Deeds were signed by the Board.

Administrator’s Report:

Mr. Rhoads updated the Board on the following: Met with Senator Bacon regarding the ability to create rezoning being under Home Rule and rewording of Minerva Park JEDZ issue. Northwest Title will be moving to Executive Parkway with approximately 15-35 jobs. January 4th is the next Trash Consortium meeting.

Communications:

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

Old Business:

1. Draft of Winter Newsletter- Mrs. Heichel presented the Board and staff with the winter draft to review and respond by Friday, end of day, with changes. It will go to the printers on Monday.

New Business:

1. Final Amended 2016 Annual Appropriation Resolution- Mr. Estep requested approval from the Board for the 2016 Final Amended Appropriations of $5,305,000.00, with a Q&A session. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the final amended appropriations for the calendar year 2016, at a total of $5,305,000.00, as presented. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

2. 2017 Pay Increases- Mr. Rhoads requested the Board approve the recommended pay increases for the Police Department and Staff, including the part time employees. Mr. Welch moved to approve at a 2.5% increase, at a cost of $47,000.00, for the calendar year 2017, as presented. Mr. Welch moved to approve the 2.5% increases for Police Department and full and part-time staff effective January 1, 2017, as presented. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

3. Resolution 2016-20- Township Attorney- Mr. Rhoads requested approval of Don Brosius, as Attorney for the Township. Mr. Welch moved to approve Resolution 2016-20, hiring Mr. Brosius as our Attorney for the calendar year 2017. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

4. Resolution 2016-21 Attorney Resolution- Mr. Rhoads requested approval of hiring of the law firm of Metz & Bailey for 2017. Mr. Welch moved to approve Resolution 2016-21, hiring Metz and Bailey for the calendar year 2017. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.
Director/Staff Updates:
Mr. Giamarco discussed how busy the year has been with road maintenance, with a punch list to be completed for all the construction in the spring. Trying to get organized for the move in to our new buildings, with our temporary occupancy permit, for now.
Fire Deputy Chief Ross wished everyone a “Happy New Year.”
Mrs. Heichel noted she was looking forward to another great year.
Mr. Estep reminded everyone that the inventory report is due January 9, 2016.
Mrs. Harter noted that the deadline to sign up for the January OTA Winter Conference, due by the 11th of January. Let her know if you want her to sign you up. Also, the collection for the Nationwide Children’s Toy Drive went very well and received approximately $1,000.00 in cash, gift cards and toys.
Mrs. Bowman stated she received notice that the Senior Option Transportation Grant was awarded to Blendon Senior Center. Backup camera to be installed on the senior bus.
Chief Belford thanked the Board, on behalf of the police department and staff for our raises. He noted that everyone is grateful to work for Blendon Township and appreciate the support from the Board and the residents. It is overwhelming, in the light of a tough year for law enforcement, to see the outpouring of support, especially this year. The Police Department also received an anonymous donation of $200.00 for the department to use in our outreach programs, such as our very successful Heroin Prescription Drug Community Outreach Program. Our goal is to reach families and friends of victims and let them know with the “Good Samaritan Law”, not to worry about getting them in trouble, but getting them help. A documentary has been filmed, and narcan is available on our vehicles, with a sea of change in attitude toward victims needing help. Mr. Welch moved to accept the anonymous donation of $200.00, for the Blendon Police Department. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

Open Floor:
Mr. Alan Gilbert, 7799 Cabbage Road, is building a home in the Township and decided to stop by and see firsthand what is happening in our Community. The Board was happy to have him and welcomed him.
Mrs. Sharon Ricker, 5561 Oslo Drive, thanked the police department for having Det. Moynihan attend the “Holiday Lights” award ceremony, noting 10 years of having this award ceremony. She also noted a family living in Blendon Township for two years, came to the event and was very impressed. The Board thanked her for her work.
Pay bills: Mr. Flaherty moved to pay the bills. Mrs. Heichel 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 6:58 pm.
Mr. Flaherty noted that the next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at 6:30 pm.

Happy New Year Everyone

Approved by: 
Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: 
Stewart L. Flaherty, Chairman