Pledge of Allegiance

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

Minutes of the August 26, 2015 Meeting:
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, with one small change regarding group homes, Chief Belford made the comment not Chief Miller, for the August 26, 2015, regular meeting. Mr. Flaherty seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes. The Blendon/Westerville Deputy Fire Chief Ross was in attendance.

Purchase Orders and Cemetery Deeds were signed by the Board.
Administrator's Report: Mr. Rhoads, continuing with our Bicentennial History, noted that in 1776, on this day, Congress renamed the Nation, The United States of America, formally called United Colonies. Also, California became the 31st State by reaching a population of sixty thousand in one year, because of the gold rush. A draft of the commercial code has been received from OHM and sent to the Commercial Zoning Commission, for the commercial corridors. The building department has received several applications including Roush Honda, new homes in Cleveland Heights and many applications for porches, roofs and fences. A meeting next week with Senator Bacon regarding potential changes to the ORC Building Department wording, to change the law to allow us to permit, so a resident does not have to go downtown for them.

Communications:

1. Update Reports to the Board- emailed.

Old Business:

1. Senior Center Event Rental- Mr. Rhoads discussed with the Board regarding renting the Center to have church services. In talking with our attorney’s, when it comes to religious organizations, the separation of Church and State comes into play. Based upon the letter from our attorney’s, the recommendation is to not entertain church services at this time. The Board concurred with the attorney.

2. Fiber Optic Update- Mr. Rhoads noted because of the Bond issue that we are pursuing, it is on hold. Discussion regarding tying into cable now being laid, and possibly connecting, Mr. Rhoads will check on at Mr. Flaherty’s request.

New Business:

1. Resignation of Police Department Employee- Chief Belford recommended the Board accept the resignation of Officer Ben Newman. Mr. Flaherty moved to accept the resignation of Police Officer Ben Newman, effective immediately. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

2. Hiring Full Time Police Employee- Chief Belford recommended the Board hire Officer Robert Ricker as a full time police officer, effective October 11, 2015. Mrs. Heichel moved to hire Robert Ricker as full time police officer, effective October 11, 2015, at Step A. Mr. Flaherty seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

Director/Staff Updates:
Mr. Gianarelli thanked everyone and discussed the success of Heritage Day and the cooperation of staff, community and police, as it ran very smooth. Our roadwork for the year is completed, but still waiting on an estimate for SandiMark Place, as it was missed by Franklin County Engineers Office and hopefully, have it completed by end of season. The tree and sidewalk removal program will start up again next year in the Huber Ridge and Sunbury Woods Subdivisions. And planning in the next two weeks to monitor and spray for mosquitoes if necessary.
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Blended Township Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting

September 9, 2015

Director/Staff Updates continued....

Deputy Fire Chief Ross discussed with the Board a round-a-bout at Ulry and Central College roads. Insurance evaluations are every five years and waiting on results. They have reached out to Clinton Township regarding their group homes and they did receive safety plans.

Mr. Rhoads discussed the sidewalk and tree program policy in place and has plans for a resolution for the rest of the trees and sidewalks in the township. A MORPC meeting is planned tomorrow and also, September 19th is our Shred-It Day (paper only), from 10am-2pm. Dumpsters are planned for the fall at Ridgewood Park.

Mr. Flaherty also thought Heritage Day was great. Mother Nature shortened the Concert in the Park, with a thunderstorm scare, but otherwise the whole day was wonderful. The Board would like a summation from each person involved: what you did, what was spent? with employee hours to get a handle on the cost. Also, what could we do to improve on this event, since it was our first Heritage Day? Maybe apply for grant money for next year.

Mrs. Heichel agreed it was a fantastic time and would like to do it again next year. We have our "Bell" now, at Phelps Acre. A “thank you” letter is in the mail, expressing our deep gratitude for providing the bell on a permanent loan basis and allowing us to place it with honor in its original location. A dedication ceremony is planned sometime soon, after reviewing the signage.

Mrs. Harter discussed with the Board the success of Ridgewood Park and Blended Central Cemetery. Both are in excellent condition and the compliments are very positive.

Mrs. Jordan noted everything went very well for the 12th annual Blended Senior Center Car Show. With 40 entries, we had a great turnout. We had 57 sponsors and 75 raffle gifts. Our members purchased the trophies and John Giamarco did a great job as DJ. We received a generous donation of $1,969.00, from the Dorothy McVay Foundation, for a total this year of $4,086.00. Many activities are thriving at our senior center, with well attended programs.

Chief Belford requested help from the Board and residents to bring attention to the fact there is no crosswalk at Sunbury Road over 161. It is an accident waiting to happen. Only crash data talks, and voices are needed to get ODOT to listen, as pedestrians are at risk. A combined effort from police, fire, community, elected officials, letter writing, website and various campaigns are needed to get them to listen. An expensive lighted crosswalk arch in Columbus, was considered three years ago and never happened. The Board suggested we get MORPC involved at their next meeting. Perhaps Sen. Kevin Bacon as well.

Open Floor:

Mrs. Carolyn Cordray, 3734 Caracas Drive, noted the HRAA Fall Garage Sale is Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 8am-4pm.

Mrs. Jaya Neff, 3615 Stockholm, gave a report on informed rules and notifications with a lack of understanding. Emergency Management is handled by Franklin County according to Chief Belford. Mr. Flaherty suggested a letter be drafted and what recommendations need to be made. Confusion is not acceptable. Perhaps newspaper and media get involved, as well.

Mrs. Pam Clegg, 3624 Makasar, discussed zoning and service department issues. The Board plans to review and update zoning issues for next year.

Pay Bills: Mr. Flaherty moved to pay the bills. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes. The attached list of checks was approved for payment.

Mr. Welch stated the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 6:30pm at the Blended Senior Center. Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Approved by:

Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:

James P. Welch, Chairman