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. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve and waive the reading of the minutes as presented for the October 21, 2015, meeting. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes. Blendon/Westerville Fire Chief also attended. The Purchase Orders and Cemetery Deeds were signed by the Board.

Administrator's Report:
Mr. Rhoads reported updates to the Board, Staff and Attendees:
1. ODNR Grant- We received notice that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is awarding us $30,000 to develop the park at the corner of Buenos Aires Blvd. and Harbin Drive.
2. MORPC Meeting- The next commission meeting is this Thursday.
3. Development- A meeting was held with Jason Bechtold, City of Westerville, and a developer looking at the SR3 corridor.

Communications:
1. Update Reports to the Board- E-mailed from the Directors.
2. Group Home Updates

Old Business

1. Resolution 2015-09- Mr. Estep asked that the board pass this resolution to place the 5.75 mill police levy officially on the ballot for March of 2016. Mr. Estep advised the board that the auditor certified the amount of money the new levy will generate at $988,252.00. Mrs. Heichel advised the audience that the increase is 15 cents per day. Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt Resolution 2015-09. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.

2. Health Care Cash Program- Mr. Rhoads distributed a cash program which will allow reimbursement to employees who opt-out of our health care programs. Mr. Rhoads asked the board to review the program so they can take action at the next meeting. Mr. Flaherty advised the board that the new policy will reimburse employees 25% of the cost of the program which will save the township money.

New Business

1. Full Time Police Officer- Chief Belford requested the board hire Luke Rees as a full time police officer to replace the vacant position left behind by Detective Phillips. Chief Belford advised that Administrator Rhoads, Lt. Lephart and Chief Belford interview Officer Whiteside and Officer Rees and the votes were unanimous to recommend hiring Officer Rees. Performance evaluations and statistics were given to the board for review. This is an entry level position at step A. Mr. Flaherty moved to hire Officer Rees as a full time officer effective November 19, 2015. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.

2. DUI Contract- Mr. Estep presented the yearly DUI contract between Franklin County and Blendon Township for 2016. The fringe rate is now 22.55 which is a slight decrease. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the contract and Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.
Director/Staff Updates

Mr. Giamarco mentioned that the Halloween party was a success and it was very wet. Acapulco and Lisbon Road improvements should be finished in a couple weeks.

Mr. Rhoads mentioned that our income and expenses are looking good for 2015. Our expenses are lower than anticipated.

Mr. Flaherty advised the board about the most recent JEDZ Board meeting. During the meeting the board found that businesses in the area, especially auto repair businesses, are having problems sourcing mechanics. The JEDZ Board is going to find out ways to help find skilled technicians. Mr. Welch added that finding these skilled technicians is a major issue in Central Ohio.

Mrs. Heichel mentioned that she attended the Grimes Tire ribbon cutting today along with Administrator Rhoads.

Mr. Estep brought up the issues with health insurance and the fact that the FOP contract prevents the members from paying health care contributions for the first year of the contract. Mr. Estep recommended that we wait until January of 2017 to require contributions from all employees, instead of just non-union employees in 2016. Mr. Estep advised that we would have to open negotiations if we required the Police employees to contribute in 2016. The board agreed to postpone contributions until 2017 and asked Administrator Rhoads to write up a resolution for the next meeting.

Mrs. Jordan advised the board that the health fair was a success and there were over 40 programs scheduled in October. The center also had a very large voter turnout this year.

Chief Belford informed the board of department restructuring in light of Detective Phillips' departure.

Open Floor:

Mrs. Carolyn Cordray, 3734 Caracas Drive, on behalf of the HRAA, thanked the Trustees for helping with the Halloween party. The HRAA handed out many prizes and free food. Mrs. Cordray advised the Trustees that they registered just under 180 children who attended the party. Mrs. Cordray also advised the board about the upcoming internet safety class.

Mrs. Sharon Ricker, 5361 Oslo Drive, asked Trustee Heichel about health care contributions and JEDZ taxes. Mrs. Heichel advised Mrs. Ricker that the costs are $50 per individual, $75 per couple, and $100 per family. Mr. Estep advised Mrs. Ricker about our deductibles and how they apply to our Health Savings Account.

Mrs. Jay Neff, 3615 Stockholm Road, updated the board about email communications in regards to group homes.

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

Mr. Welch advised that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 6:30pm.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Approved by:
Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

Approved by:
James Welch, Chairman