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 6:30 pm. 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. Bond Update- Mr. Estep and Mr. Rhoads met with the attorneys again and provided the Trustees with a debt sheet.
2. BZA- The next commission meeting is cancelled due to no cases.
3. Records Retention Meeting- The yearly Township records retention meeting with be held on December 2, 2015, immediately after the Trustee meeting.

Communications:
1. Update Reports to the Board- E-mailed from the Directors.
2. Group Home Updates- Mrs. Joya Neff did not have any updates for this meeting.
3. Westerville Sunrise Rotary- Bob Gibson and Paul Kullie of the Westerville Sunrise Rotary Club presented a “Service Above Self” award to honor Fiscal Officer Wade Estep for 2015.

Old Business
1. Health Care Policy- Mr. Rhoads asked the board to adopt the Section 125 reimbursement plan for full-time employees who decide not to use our health coverage. Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the policy as presented. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.
2. Health Care Contributions- Mr. Rhoads distributed an official memo detailing the board’s intentions to require health care contributions from full-time employees beginning in 2017. Mr. Flaherty moved to adopt the policy as presented. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.
3. JEDZ Development Study- Mr. Rhoads provided the Board of Trustees a proposal from the Edge Group to study the Reno Road land as discussed in the previous meeting to determine the best redevelopment strategies now that the land is for sale. The price is not to exceed $5,125.00. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the proposal as presented. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.

New Business
1. Elected Official Pay Changes- Mr. Estep explained to the Board about the new pay increases for public officials. The Ohio legislature increased elected official pay after eight years. The increases will go in effect for elected officials taking office after January 1, 2016, and the other officials will receive the increase during their next re-election term. Mr. Flaherty moved to authorize the pay increases adopted by the State Legislature under O.R.C 505.24. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.
2. Township Newsletter- Mrs. Heichel presented the autumn newsletter to the Board for approval along with some minor changes, and asked the board to approve $2701.65, for Ypress to print and mail the newsletters to our township residents. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the proposal. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes.
New Business continued......

3. Rumpke Updates- Mr. Rhoads advised the Board of Trustees that Rumpke representative Michael Darling was in attendance to address any concerns the Board may have with performance. Mr. Rhoads felt it was best to have the comments and concerns heard directly from the Trustees instead of constant emails and phone correspondence. Mr. Flaherty advised Mr. Darling that he has always been a supporter of their service, but the service is slipping. Mr. Flaherty advised that his recycling was missed on his street and it’s been a repetitive issue. Mr. Flaherty advised that he does not call each time, but he should. He also advised Mr. Darling that he has to pick up trash and debris up and down the street and this is happening throughout the entire Township. Mr. Flaherty is disappointed because the service was better, and Mr. Flaherty would like to see some sort of remediation clause in the contract which will allow for a certain amount of mistakes and then the issues should start costing Rumpke money. Mr. Flaherty advised we are trying very hard to make the Township a better place to live but the services by Rumpke are taking us into another direction, and that is why Mr. Darling was invited tonight. Mrs. Heichel advised Mr. Darling that she received several complaints about trash in the streets, houses missed, cans in the middle of the driveway and numerous other issues. Social media plays a major role when finding out about issues throughout the Township. Mr. Welch advised Mr. Darling that many of the emails Administrator Rhoads sends in about issues are from Mr. Welch, as he has to monitor social media on Fridays and often spends all weekend replying to problems. Mr. Welch advised Mr. Darling that on occasion we have sent our part time employees out to follow the trucks to monitor performance and we should not have to follow his employees. Mr. Welch asked Mr. Darling to provide the Board with plans for correction. Mr. Flaherty asked the Board when the contract expires. Mr. Giamarco advised that the contract is for 5 years, but we can cancel after 3 years. Mrs. Carolyn Cordray, in the audience, advised Mrs. Heichel that she hasn’t had any issues, but on social media calls Friday “Rumpke Day” because of all of the complaints. Promises are often being made by Rumpke customer service representatives but they are not following through. Mr. Darling advised the Board that he will look into all of these issues and provide the Board with findings and corrections prior to the next Board Meeting.

Director/Staff Updates.

Mr. Giamarco advised the board that paving has been completed in the Harbin area. Aqua had a large water main break in the Fox Run area and a boil alert will be issued for the area. The Road Department has a great number of funerals and they are also ready for the snow season.

Fire Chief Miller advised the Board that the Fire Department was made aware of the water main break on Fox Run and they contacted Harlem Township for additional truck protection should there be any issues in the area. Chief also advised the Board that Westerville City Council passed their final resolution placing the Fire Levy on the March 2016 ballot.

Mr. Jordan advised the Board that the holiday bazar brought in hundreds of attendees and she is preparing for upcoming events such as Breakfast with Santa.
Open Floor:

Mrs. Carolyn Cordray, 3734 Caracas Drive, asked the Board if the “Breakfast with Santa” is on the website yet. Mr. Rhoads advised he will check.

Mrs. Sharon Ricker, 5561 Oslo Drive, advised the Board that she has never had any issues with Rumpke and if she did have a problem she would handle the issue herself. Mrs. Ricker puts out a great deal of yard waste and they always take everything.

Mrs. Pam Clegg, 3614 Makassar Drive, thanked Mr. Darling for his trash service. Mrs. Clegg felt inclined to advise the Board that she appreciates everything they have done, and are working to do for the future. Any time she comes to the Board with questions she wants to make sure they understand she appreciates their service. Mrs. Clegg asked Mr. Giamanco if Ulry Road is part of Blendon Township. Mr. Giamanco advised that almost all of Ulry Road is within the City of Columbus. He also advised that Warner Road was annexed into Columbus, as well, in March of 2015. Mrs. Clegg was concerned with Warner Road and how it wasn’t widened all the way to Ulry Road. Mrs. Clegg also asked the Board if we can add information into the newsletter about leaves and proper disposal. Mr. Giamanco advised that this newsletter does in fact have information about leaf removal. Mr. Giamanco advised that Zoning Officer, Branch Wayt also passes out notices to those people he encounters in the neighborhood. Mrs. Clegg asked Lt. Lephart about inoperable vehicles on public roadways and what can be done to remove them. Lt. Lephart advised Mrs. Clegg about the legal abilities the Police Department has to remove vehicles from Township roadways.

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, December 2, 2015, at 6:30pm.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

Approved by: [Signature]
Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: [Signature]
James Welch, Chairman