**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 December 2, 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:**
Continuing with history for our Bicentennial, **Mr. Rhoads** noted that on this date in 1773, the Boston Tea Party was formed and dumped enough tea in the harbor to turn it green, and in 1950, President Truman called for a state of emergency when China sent troops into North Korea with the possibility of a Third World War.

**Mr. Rhoads** reported updates to the Board, Staff and Attendees:
1. **JEDZ Board** meeting this Friday, December 18, 2015, to adopt code changes.
2. **Board of Zoning Appeals**—no meeting due to no cases.

**Communications:**
1. **Update Reports to the Board—E-mailed from the Directors.**
2. **Old Business:** None at this time.

**New Business:**

1. **Squire Patton Boggs Engagement Letter—Mr. Rhoads** requested approval from the Board for legal advice on our bonds. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the engagement letter from Squire Patton and Boggs, covering legal advice on the bond issues in 2016 for $12,500.00 to $16,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

2. **Umbaugh Municipal Advisory Engagement Letter—Mr. Rhoads** requested approval from the Board for financial advice on our bonds. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the engagement letter from Umbaugh and Associates Municipal Advisory, covering financial advice on the bond issues in 2016. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

3. **Resolution 2015-11—Mr. Rhoads** requested issuance from the Board for Resolution 2015-11 notes for Westerville Road Improvement at $1,700,000.00. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-11 for the Westerville Road Improvement notes, in anticipation of bonds, at the estimated cost of $1,700,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

4. **Resolution 2015-12—Mr. Rhoads** requested issuance from the Board for Resolution 2015-12 notes for the renovation of the Township Complex at $1,700,000.00. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-12 for the Township Complex renovation notes, in anticipation of bonds, at the estimated cost of $2,115,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

5. **Complex Engineering Proposal—Mr. Rhoads** requested approval of OHM proposal for bidding and project management. Mr. Flaherty moved for the proposal from OHM for the engineering of the Township Complex at a fee of $198,000.00 and $299,912.00 for the engineering of Westerville Road at the 1-270 exchange with fees to be paid out of the bond notes. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

6. **Resolution 2015-13—Mr. Rhoads** requested issuance from the Board for the Resolution 2015-13 notes for the fiber optics of the Township to connect with the City of Westerville fiber network. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-13 for the Township fiber optics infrastructure notes, in anticipation of bonds, at the cost estimate of $340,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.
New Business—continued...

7. Resolution 2015-14: Mr. Rhoads requested issuance from the Board for the Resolution 2015-14 notes for improving the Township’s infrastructure traffic signals for the Buenos Aires and Paris intersection. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-14 for the Township’s traffic signals notes, in anticipation of bonds, at the cost of $200,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

8. Resolution 2015-15: Mr. Rhoads requested issuance from the Board for the Resolution 2015-15 notes for reconstruction of our Township roadways, sidewalks and curbs. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-15 for the Township curbs, sidewalks and roadways notes, in anticipation of bonds, at the cost of $650,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

9. Resolution 2015-16: Mr. Rhoads Rhoads requested issuance from the Board for the Resolution 2015-16 notes for improving our Township parks. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-16 for the Township parks notes, in anticipation of bonds, at the cost of $275,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

10. Resolution 2015-17: Mr. Rhoads requested the Board’s approval to rehire Loveland and Brosius Law Firm for 2016, with no retainer and same fees. Mr. Flaherty moved for the adoption of Res. 2015-17 authorizing Attorney Brosius for the Township legal matters for the year 2016. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

Mr. Flaherty noted for the record that we have to do individual resolutions for a large amount of projects that will be done. Each project is separate for the bonding, due to different time tables and different amounts, rather than one blanket resolution.

11. 2016 Pay Increases: Mr. Estep requested the Board approve the recommended pay increases from Mr. Rhoads for the Police Department and Staff, after individual reviews and consideration of cost of living. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the 2016 pay increases for the individuals as presented at the estimated cost increase of $46,000.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

12. Resolution 2016-01 Meeting Dates: Mr. Rhoads presented the Board the resolution for the 2106 meeting dates. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve Res. 2016-01 for the regular Board of Trustees meetings set for 2016. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

13. 2016 Mowing Contracts: Mr. Rhoads discussed several proposals, Ameriscapes proposal at the 2015 rate and Sanders Lawn Care was a little under, for the mowing and maintenance of the Blendon Central Cemetery for 2016. After much discussion, Mrs. Heichel moved to approve the 2016 Sanders Lawn Care proposal from Mr. Rhoads suggestion to try the Sanders Lawn Care Company and with supervision. Mr. Flaherty seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

14. 2015 Final Amended Appropriations: Mr. Estep requested approval from the Board for the 2015 Final Amended Appropriations of $6,721,250.00, which we never spend. Mr. Flaherty moved to approve the final amended appropriations for the calendar year 2015, at a total of $6,721,250.00. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Welch, yes; Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes.

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Director/Staff Updates

Mr. Glamarco advised the Board that the fall cleanup is still happening until the weather changes, with a prediction of January 12, 2016 for our first snow.

Mr. Flaherty discussed the work on the 2015 Bicentennial video, but plan to show at our next meeting or first meeting in January 2016. We are still working on a whole series of YouTube presentations, as well. These will include as many of the interviews as possible.

Also, in regards to the 17 Resolutions, it may not sound like a lot, but many years ago we would only have a couple. Each Resolution represents a large amount of work projects that we are undertaking. We are leveraging the money coming in from JEDZ to then take advantage of the low interest rates to do the notes and the bond issue. In considering where the money was going to come from to pay for the bonds and notes, it is out of the JEDZ income, but there were no assumptions made that the JEDZ income was going to increase as it has in the last couple of years. This is taking only a percentage of the JEDZ income. It does allow us to tackle a whole lot of projects and upgrade the Township in the next couple of years. We have the money to pay for it and our Township is in for substantial changes and not burden the taxpayers.

Mr. Welch and Mrs. Heichel both agreed and it is out of necessity and look forward to the projects with the entire Staff on board and witness all the changes. The video will be shown at the January 13 Board of Trustees meeting.

Also, Mrs. Heichel and Sgt. Moynihan, with Officer Shawn Hensley attended the MADD Awards Ceremony. They presented awards to what they called “the best of the best” and proud to say Officer Hensley was one of the recipients of the award.

Mr. Estep introduced Mr. Brian Cooper with Umbaugh Municipal Advisory and welcomed the Board to introduce themselves after the meeting.

Mrs. Harter mentioned the Sunshine Rotary Meeting that Mr. Estep also attended. He was honored for his service and dedication to Blendon Township and will also be honored on Memorial Day at Westerville’s Field of Flags in May 2016.

Mrs. Jordan noted that “Breakfast with Santa” had a turnout of 200 people and how wonderful Santa was, again this year, to spend time with us. Mrs. Clause was here to read stories to the children. Many were thankful to not have to go to the mall for pictures. It was appreciated.

Open Floor:
Mrs. Sharon Ricker, & Mrs. Pam Clegg, discussed inoperable vehicles and presentation of Holiday Decorations Awards.

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 30, 2015, at 6:30pm. Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Approved by: Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: James Welch, Chairman