

## Blendon Township Board of Trustees

Held March 23, 20 2016**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 March 9, 2016, meeting. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes. Blendon/Westerville Fire Chief also attended. The Purchase Orders and Cemetery Deeds were signed by the Board.

**Administrator's Report:**

**Mr. Rhoads** discussed recent updates: Developer Tindle has purchased the Harbin Drive land and plans high-end, empty-nesters, one-two bedroom apartments. OHM's Westerville Road Project is going well and awaiting construction drawings to be ready for bidding. The Harbin Drive Park is almost ready and sprucing up of entryways is looking good.

**Communications:**

1. **Update Reports to the Board-** *E-mailed from the Directors.*
2. **4612 Cleveland Avenue Liquor Permit-** *Allowing to renew due to no objections.*

**Old Business:**

1. **Ridgewood Park Upgrades-Mr. Rhoads** presented the Board with many options available to put our bond money to work including a new concession stand and possible amphitheater and their placements. Discussion regarding storage, more specifications and waiting on the amphitheater, instead perhaps more renovations with a natural look. The paths are constantly used so an upgrade is needed.
2. **Heritage Day Planning-Mr. Flaherty** asked for suggestions and discussed several items: Demonstrations, examples such as Life Flight, Karate, Battle of the Bands, Bounce Houses, Race, frozen yogurt, and Old fashion baseball and other games. Perhaps invite Bill Foley for his heroic actions and playing his guitar. Mr. Flaherty noted the need for a point person. To be discussed later, after next staff meeting. Warning signs for race day should be placed well in advance for residents to be aware of no parking in street that morning. Resolution for signage and naming of Ridgewood Park should be passed next meeting.
3. **Buenos Aires Signal Upgrades-Mr. Giamarco** presented the Board with a contract with M.P. Dory (State contractors) for traffic signals at the Paris and Buenos Aires intersection. Mrs. Heichel moved to approve the bid from M.P. Dory for the traffic signals at Paris and Buenos Aires Blvd, with completion before the start of the school year, at the price of \$133,650.00. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.
4. **Resolution 2016-03 Amending Sidewalk Replacement Policy- Mr. Rhoads** discussed the rules to include that the Township can have it bid out yearly and charge the resident or the resident can replace the sidewalk at their expense. After discussing the criteria and positive approach of this policy, and informing the homeowner that it is their responsibility, Mrs. Heichel moved adopt Resolution 2016-03 amending the sidewalk replacement policy, as discussed. Mr. Welch seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

**Director/Staff Updates:**

**Chief Belford** discussed with the Board his attending the Franklin County Opioid Summit, hosted by the Franklin County Coroner, Sheriff and Prosecutor Ron O'Brien and the Columbus Police Department. Last year Blendon Township had hosted three meetings before, with today's meeting with the County, the City of Westerville and then, next month Mifflin Township that we will be attending. "Operation Hope" was unveiled at the County's meeting where the uncover policing is now having an officer follow up visit with the addict and family members and asking how we can help with the situation.

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Held  
Director/Staff Updates continued.....

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This has been done by the Blendon Police Department years before this unveiling. This then results in an investigative unit that can trace this to dealer who sold in the first place. After the media had left, they missed our Detective Moynihan, with his idea to hand a phone to the victim with a direct line for help. He is now in charge of this program. The credit should be going to our Detective for this excellent idea. Our next meeting is changing from awareness and information to placing the chairs in a circle and discussing what we are going to actually do. And have small working groups with small action items to be worked on. This is our next effort going forward, and surely the County and State will follow and take the credit. A late summer or fall meeting is being planned. When grant money is available, we will involve all the communities and it is best to have all work together, making grants more available. This problem is crossing over all communities, and we all should be in this together.

**Mrs. Jordan** discussed the success of the Easter bunny, breakfast and egg hunt of over 900 eggs. Plans next year are to perhaps have the hunt, then breakfast and visiting the bunny. Mrs. Harter was thanked for her help as the Easter Bunny, with 80 plus children. The date for the portraits is October 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. Doug Alton was very informative and helpful. Some details still need to be worked out.

**Deputy Chief Ross** expressed his appreciation for the support of the communities for both fire and police. Both communities with a two to one voting ratio was nice to see and very gratifying as echoed by the Board.

**Mr. Giamarco** discussed attending seminars on the Zika virus and familiarizing himself with how it is transmitted and control of mosquitoes in the community. Spraying will increase if deemed necessary on a weekly basis. The CDC noted that one case will be an outbreak and a step up program will follow. The government has set aside money to help, but not earmarked for how it will be used. Mr. Flaherty asked Mr. Rhoads and Mr. Giamarco to draft a letter containing our extra steps assure the community and our budget is limited and request assistance.

Open Floor:

**Mrs. Carolyn Cordray, 3724 Caracas Drive**, updated the Board on the joint block watch association between Huber Ridge and Sunbury Woods Associations. "Active Shooter" classes have been scheduled for two dates: Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm and Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am at the Senior Center. This is open to the township and surrounding communities and a need of any ideas would be appreciated to get the word out

**Mr. Jason Miller, 5315 Strawberry Farms**, offered the suggestion of a "dunk tank" for Heritage Day, that his son had suggested the idea to him. Mr. Miller also requested use of the baseball fields in the back just for practicing, not a league. The Columbus Cobras' would like use of the fields on Tuesdays and Thursdays with away games on Saturdays, from now to mid-July, with active insurance. Mr. Welch made a motion to authorize the Columbus Cobras' baseball team use of the baseball fields at Ridgewood Park through mid-July, with proof of insurance and accessibility only when the park is not in Township use. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

**Pay bills:** Mrs. Heichel moved to pay the bills. Mr. Welch 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 7:34pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:35pm **Mr. Flaherty** moved to enter into Executive Session for the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee. Mrs. Heichel seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

**OUT of EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:20pm.

Held \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_

**Blendon Township Board of Trustees**

**March 23, 2016**

Being further business before the Board, the meeting came to order at 8:21pm.

**New Business:**

- 1. **Resolution 2016-05 Police Command Position- Chief Belford** requested the position of Second Lieutenant be filled by Bryan Rhoads. Mrs. Heichel made a motion to create the Second Lieutenant position and be filled by Bryan Rhoads, effective immediately. Mr. Flaherty seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Flaherty, yes; Mrs. Heichel, yes; Mr. Welch, yes.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

**Mr. Flaherty** noted that the next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at 6:30pm.

Approved by:   
**Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer**

Approved by:   
**Stewart L. Flaherty, Chairman**