

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held June 18

20²⁴

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Heichel. She welcomed everyone in attendance.

Trustee Heichel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present

Chair Heichel, Trustee Ciamacco, Vice-Chair Shinaberry

Also in attendance was John Belford, Police Chief; Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer; Matt Newman, Service Department; Adam Sears, Zoning & Code Enforcement; Pat Myers, Administrator.

Fiscal Officer Report—Introduced by Chairperson Heichel

Minutes—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Minutes from the June 5, 2024 meeting. Trustee Shinaberry stated yes and moved to approve the June 5, 2024; minutes as written. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Bank Reconciliations for April 2024— Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the bank reconciliations for April 2024. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Approval of Purchase Orders—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Purchase Orders presented. Trustee Shinaberry stated yes and moved to approve purchase orders as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Bills—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the bills presented. Trustee Shinaberry stated yes and moved to pay the bills. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Administration

Administrator Myers— Administrator Myers stated that Trustee Ciamacco has laryngitis, and he would be reading comments provided by her for him to read.

Marijuana Resolution: Administrator Myers presented Resolution 2024-18, which prohibits adult-use cannabis operators, cultivation, dispensing, and processing pursuant to sections 3796.29 and 3780.25 of the Ohio Revised Code, and he requested a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Heichel moved to accept the resolution as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

Electric Service Opt-Out Aggregation Resolution: Administrator Myers presented Resolution 2024-19 for Electric Service Opt-Out Aggregation, which will put it on the election ballot. He requested that the Board pass the resolution. Trustee Heichel moved to accept the Resolution 2024-19 as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

Natural Gas Opt-Out Aggregation Resolution: Administrator Myers presented Resolution 2024-20 for Natural Gas Service Opt-Out Aggregation, which will put it on the election ballot. He requested that the Board pass the resolution. Trustee Heichel moved to authorize all actions necessary to affect an Opt-Out Natural Gas Service Aggregation Program pursuant to section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code, directing the Township to submit a ballot question to the electors, as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

SOPEC Resolution: Administrator Myers presented Resolution 2024-21, which would enter Blendon Township into the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council. He requested that the Board pass the resolution. Trustee Heichel moved to authorize the Township to enter the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council ("SOPEC"), the execution and delivery of the agreement establishing SOPEC, and approving the bylaws of SOPEC, as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

Fireworks Discussion: Trustee Heichel led the discussion, stating that in July of 2022, Ohio's Revised Fireworks Law changed. Adults can legally use consumer-grade (1.4G) fireworks under certain restrictions on date/time, place, and distance from persons and property. However, communities have the option to follow these Ohio laws or enact a ban on fireworks. Trustee Heichel addressed Trustees Shinaberry and Ciamacco about deciding whether to maintain the current fireworks law or ban fireworks in Blendon Township. She added that the Board had received various public comments over the years regarding fireworks and presented the following points of pros & cons:

Cons: 1. Fireworks can cause air pollution, leaving metal particles, dangerous toxins, harmful chemicals, and smoke in the air for days.

2. Fireworks can pollute public water supply systems, leaving the water with the same chemicals fluttering through the air.

3. Another reason fireworks are not good for the environment is their effect on local wildlife. For the most part, fireworks and wildlife don't mix. Most animals will be caught off guard by the bright lights and loud noises from a fireworks display. These effects can disorient animals, stress them out, and even cause them to flee their habitats.

4. Fireworks in the neighborhoods frighten some dogs, wake sleeping children, and, in some cases, can cause PTSD in veterans.

Pros: What do fireworks symbolize in America?

1. Cultural Celebrations: Fireworks have been a part of cultural celebrations, especially in China, for centuries.

2. Fireworks have been part of U.S. Independence Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

3. While July 4th is still the "big day" for Americans, they continue to use fireworks year-round to celebrate festivals, special events, and sporting traditions such as the Olympics and the Super Bowl.

4. Patriotic Pride: Our Founding Fathers quickly adopted fireworks to show patriotic pride. Fireworks have been a staple of Independence Day in the U.S. since almost the beginning. Visitors come together each Independence Day to celebrate our country and our community and honor our military and veterans.

Chief Belford presented the pros and cons of each option from the enforcement perspective and reiterated that under the current law, adults can legally use consumer-grade (1.4G) fireworks under certain restrictions on date/time, place, and distance from persons and property. Trustee Heichel requested a motion to stay with the current Ohio Guidelines or ban fireworks in the neighborhoods.

On behalf of Trustee Ciamacco, Administrator Myers stated that although she agrees with what Trustee Heichel said, this is a national holiday. If the options are a total ban or follow current State of Ohio guidelines, Trustee Ciamacco moved to follow the current State of Ohio guidelines. Trustee Heichel seconded. During the discussion, Trustee Shinaberry discussed cons, such as PTSD, as well as the people's right to celebrate. Trustee Heichel voted no. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco voted yes.

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Donation acceptance: Administrator Myers requested the Board accept the donations received from the June 15th summer concert, in the amount of \$320.00. Trustee Heichel moved to accept the donations. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

Zoning Commission Recommendation Discussion: Administrator Myers requested a consensus from the Board to allow Adam Sears to go to the Franklin County Commission to potentially start the process of changing Blendon Township’s zoning code regarding 40 and 60-foot lots. He explained there was a Blendon BZA hearing regarding 40 and 60-foot lots in certain areas of the township. The Board gave the okay to move forward and start the process.

Human Resources—None to report.

Matt Newman—Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery—None to report.

Police

Chief Belford— Chief Belford discussed two compliments that were received regarding two separate actions taken by Blendon Township Police Officers: Sgt. Moynihan, Officer Cardi, Officer Reese, Officer Forren, and Officer Moeller.

Chief Belford also discussed social media awareness campaigns and flyers for fireworks. The campaign will be rolling out Monday, June 24th and go until Independence Day weekend to combat illegal fireworks use.

Fire—Fire Chief Miller was absent.

Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

At the end of public comment, Trustee Heichel requested the Board vote to rescind Nuisance Resolution 2024-17, which amended the Nuisance Abatement for 7250 Cabbage Road. This was amended in order to meet the timeframe of resolving the issue with a 3rd party contractor to remedy the property. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. Discussion: Trustee Shinaberry asked if the plan they received for 7250 Cabbage Road is able to be amended. Administrator Myers stated yes, and that can done at a later time. Trustee Heichel wanted to rescind the resolution to stop the mowing from occurring and let the home owner proceed with their plans. All voted yes.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Heichel— Trustee Heichel stated that the first summer concert of the season was a success.

Trustee Shinaberry— Trustee Shinaberry stated she enjoyed hearing the compliments regarding the Police Department.

Trustee Shinaberry also discussed the summer concert being a success and that it could not have happened without the help of the Service Department. She further discusses the next concert being in Sunbury Woods Commons on July 13th. Information regarding the event is located on the township website and Facebook groups.

Trustee Shinaberry discussed a project started by resident Lori Mann, which involved placing “no dumping” stickers on storm drains in the township. She stated that she along with the other two trustees went through Sunbury Woods subdivision to place the stickers and then the service department helped the trustees complete the project within the rest of the township neighborhoods. She thanked Lori for starting the project and said to the best of her knowledge, the entire township is completed.

Lastly, she discussed that a fully compliant ADA swing along with its compliant path is now located in Phelps Acre Park. This was an ARPA funded project that was approved at a previous meeting.

Trustee Ciamacco— Trustee Ciamacco stated she had visited the property at 7250 Cabbage Road several times since the last meeting and gained a new appreciation for their sustainable yard efforts. Adam, Blendon Township’s Code Enforcement Officer, and she have been diligently researching to establish beneficial practices for our township, potentially serving as a model for other areas. Although creating regulations and codes will take time, she stated they have rapidly advanced in understanding native and biodiverse gardening. Trustee Ciamacco has consulted with specialists from Franklin County Water and Sewer, including Henry Stahl, Kyle Wilson, and Dave Reutter, and spoke with Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist at ODNR. Adam also contacted the Franklin County Health Department, fire chiefs, and the Poland Village administrator, who approved natural lawns in May 2024.

Trustee Ciamacco has attended many of the concert series in the past and last Saturday, for the first time as a Trustee. She enjoyed meeting everyone. Their kind words, support, and encouragement meant a lot to her.

Announcements

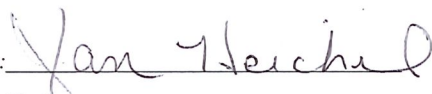
Tuesday, July 2, 2024, will be the next Board of Trustees Meeting at 6:30 PM at the same location, 6330 Hempstead Rd., Westerville, Ohio, and live streamed on YouTube. Thursday, July 4th, is a holiday (Independence Day), and the township offices will be closed.


Executive Session

Trustee Heichel moved to adjourn into executive session at 7:18 PM pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G4, preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation, or other terms and conditions of their employment. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes. The Trustees returned from the executive session at 7:43 PM. and there was no further business for the Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Heichel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. Trustee Shinaberry seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by: 
Jan Heichel, Chairperson

Approved by: 
Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer