

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON-LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held July 17

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, Vice-Chair Shinaberry, Trustee Ciamacco.

Also in attendance were John Belford, Police Chief; Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer; Matt Newman, Service Department; Pat Myers, Administrator; and Brian Miller, Fire Chief.

Chair Heichel stated that the format of this meeting would be different, and she passed the beginning of the meeting on to Administrator Myers.

Administrator Myers—

Administrator Myers made a statement to the audience regarding talking during the meetings. He requested that if meeting attendees need to have a conversation, please step outside of the meeting room so that no background noise interferes with the live recording.

Resolution 2024-29

Administrator Myers presented Resolution 2024-29 to the Board, requesting a motion to pass it. Chair Heichel read the resolution out loud to the Board, which recognized John Giamarco for his 39 years of service to the township, as well as re-naming the Service Department Building at 6360 South Hempstead Road to the "John Giamarco Service Department Building," effective July 31, 2024. Trustee Heichel made a motion to accept the resolution. Trustee Shinaberry seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Heichel, Shinaberry, and Ciamacco all had statements prepared regarding John Giamarco's dedication to the township. They thanked him for all of his hard work and wished him a happy retirement. A custom building plaque was presented to Mr. Giamarco. It will be professionally mounted on the front of Blendon Service Department Building located at 6360 South Hempstead Road Westerville, OH.

All voted yes.

Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

Compost Exchange Presentation

Presentation from the Compost Exchange, a food scrap composting business in Columbus, Ohio. This service collects food scraps, ensuring their proper composting instead of contributing to the environmental issues in landfills. The service is \$20.00 a month, however, the first month is free after signing up for curbside service. The trustees agreed they would review the brochures and get with Administrator Myers in the near future on the direction they wish to take.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Heichel— Trustee Heichel stated that she attended the Garden for Wildlife seminar by the National Wildlife Federation and gathered information on pollinator gardening tips. She stated that the Trustees will continue to research and develop minimum standards for the design, installation, and maintenance of landscaped areas that use appropriate native vegetation.

Trustee Heichel discussed the July Summer Concert, which occurred in Sunbury Woods Commons, and stated that a lot of positive feedback was received.

Trustee Ciamacco— Trustee Shinaberry read Trustee Ciamacco's notes for Trustee Comment. Trustee Ciamacco wanted to address the fireworks discussion that April and others discussed in previous meetings over the years. She wants to assure April that she and others with the same concerns are being heard. She absolutely agrees with many of the points that were brought before the Board as a reason to ban fireworks in Blendon Township, but she also understands we have an entire township, and not all will agree to a complete ban on fireworks. Part of what she pledged to do when she was elected was to listen to as many residents as possible to try to promote fair and balanced policy, not those based on her personal views and opinions nor those from people with the loudest voices. This may not be the "popular" approach, but it is, in her opinion, the right thing to do. She would love for this matter to be placed on the ballot to let ALL of our residents vote, but she understands this cannot be done.

On Saturday, at the concert in Sunbury Woods, she decided to take an unofficial and spontaneous survey of random people in the crowd. She was able to talk to a total of 51 people and asked their opinion on the matter. Either a complete fireworks ban in Blendon Township or leave it as it currently is. The results: 49 wanted to leave it as it is, and 2 wanted a ban. She heard many of the same concerns that we all have: Animals terrified, aging family members afraid, fireworks being shot off at all hours and not within the State of Ohio restricted dates/times, etc. Even though they expressed their concerns about these items, they all said they found ways around it and would not want fireworks banned altogether. Many also stated: "A ban of fireworks will not stop those who do not adhere to laws anyway". She just does not feel a complete and total ban on fireworks in Blendon Township is the answer. She feels we should continue to investigate this, talk to other communities, and possibly establish policies that will be considered fair to the entire township.

She also wanted to thank all of the residents who attended the Sunbury Woods event. It was a great turnout and we had wonderful feedback.

This week, she met with Cathy Paessun Council member for Minerva Park. They discussed that many residents of our township are not aware that Minerva Park even has a pool. She will be getting back to Trustee Ciamacco on pricing for township residents and expressed how all are welcome. Over the coming weeks and months, we will be promoting it and providing additional details as they become available to us.

Trustee Shinaberry— Trustee Shinaberry discussed House Bill 315, which recently passed the House of Representatives, and has 15 provisions directly affecting townships including allowing townships to post notices on websites or social media instead of requiring a newspaper, appropriating money to offset the cost of indigent burials, appropriating grant money for townships to modernize their zoning regulations and processes, and creating a "township" BMV plate for township vehicles. She stated that she wrote to state senator William DeMora, encouraging him to pass the bill before the end of the year.

She also stated she completed the required Fraud Reporting & Training and received her Certificate from The Ohio Auditor's Office.

Trustee Shinaberry discussed how the U.S. will be celebrating its semi-quincentennial in 2026, and she applied for Blendon Township to become an America 250 community.

Trustee Shinaberry attended a presentation sponsored by the Westerville Garden Club on gardening in a time of climate change. She contacted two leaders of the group and asked if they would walk Ridgewood Park with her to discuss any suggestions regarding native plants. The club president messaged her, stating he would walk the park with her.

Lastly, she thanked the Service Department for their help with the July Summer Concert, and she looks forward to seeing everyone at the next concert in August.

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Fiscal Officer Report - Introduced by Chairperson Heichel

Minutes—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Minutes from the July 2, 2024 meeting. Trustee Heichel made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes on July 2, 2024. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. Trustee Heichel voted yes; Trustee Shinaberry abstained, and Trustee Ciamacco voted yes.

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

Bills—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the bills presented. Trustee Shinaberry made a motion to approve the bills. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Administration

Administrator Myers—

Police Levy Resolution: Administrator Myers discussed a resolution to proceed with the upcoming police levy. He requested that the Board read aloud and pass Resolution 2024-28. Trustee Heichel read the resolution aloud in its entirety. Trustee Heichel moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes. Administrator Myers stated that any questions may be directed to him.

Cloud Permit Code and Zoning Software: Administrator Myers discussed a zoning software by the company Cloud Permit that residents can use to submit requests online. He requested that he be authorized to sign an agreement with Cloud Permit and for it to be paid by the ARPA funds in the amount of \$21,800.00. He also stated that the contract can be renegotiated in three years. Trustee Shinaberry moved to authorize Administrator Myers to sign the agreement with Cloud Permit as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Shinaberry said that she thinks this could be a good thing for everyone.

All voted yes.

Senior Center freezer: Administrator Myers discussed a freezer at the Senior Center that needs to be replaced due to being too small and not closing properly. He requested that he be authorized to purchase a new and larger freezer using ARPA funds, not to exceed \$1,500.00. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the expenditure as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Shinaberry recommended checking with a repairman to determine which models/brands we should consider or avoid.

All voted yes.

Donation acceptance: Administrator Myers requested that the Board accept a \$145.00 donation from the July Concert in the Park. Trustee Shinaberry moved to accept the donation. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Human Resources

Nothing to report.

Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

Mr. Newman-

Concrete proposals: Mr. Newman requested that the Board accept the proposals from Jeff Beard Concrete Construction for \$8,182.00 for curb inlet replacement from the Roads District Fund and \$6,460.00 for work at Ridgewood Park for preparation of new exercise equipment that was previously approved, all coming from the ARPA funds. Trustee Shinaberry moved to accept the proposals as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Rock salt pricing acceptance: Mr. Newman presented a road salt bid for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$61.35 for 500 tons. Trustee Shinaberry moved to accept the bid as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Police

Chief Belford— Chief Belford discussed the upcoming National Night Out on August 6, 2024 from 6PM-8PM. Blendon Township Police Department has only been notified of one National Night Out event being scheduled in the township. They will advertise via social media and recommend that everyone get involved with their neighbors and community.

Fire

Fire Chief Miller—Fire Chief Miller stated that they have done four water rescues on Hoover Reservoir in the last couple of weeks. He recommended everyone be weather-aware if they are going out on the water and emphasized the importance of life jackets.

Announcements

Wednesday, July 31, 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.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Heichel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM. Trustee Shinaberry seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by:

Jan Heichel, Chairperson

Approved by:

Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer