

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

BAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 1014H

Held August 21

20 24

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; Matt Newman, Service Department; Pat Myers, Administrator; and Robert Morton, Deputy Fire Chief.

Administrator Myers—

Administrator Myers made a statement to the audience at the beginning of the meeting. He stated that the Board welcomes everyone to the meeting and acknowledges that some may want to discuss last year's officer-involved shooting and recent changes against the officer. The Trustees have spoken with the Police Chief and legal counsel about the matter but will not make any decisions or hold deliberations tonight. They emphasize their commitment to transparency throughout the process.

Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Ciamacco— Trustee Ciamacco stated that she wanted to thank all of the residents who reached out to her with various questions, comments, issues and their support. We are all here to help you. Recently, she has received many more inquiries about the real estate market in not only Central Ohio but Blendon Township specifically. She believes this could be due to all of the recent changes in the real estate industry, in general. As a result, she thought she would periodically update everyone on what is happening close to us and try to answer a few of our residents more frequently asked questions.

How do I contest my property taxes?

-You can file electronically at <https://bta.ohio.gov> or download the DTE form 4. The notice of appeal must be filed with both the BOR (Board of Revisions) and the BTA (Board of Tax Appeals) within 30 days from the date of the mailing of the BOR decision, or the appeal will be dismissed.

-You can file an appeal with the Auditor's Office Board of Revision.

-You can also request the application be mailed to you by calling 937-496-6856. The application must be filed between January 2 and March 31. You can do this on your own or hire an attorney to represent you.

How do I become exempt from property taxes in Ohio?

Ohio has three types of Homestead Exemptions:

- (1) senior and disabled persons,
- (2) disabled veterans, and
- (3) surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the line of duty.

Who is eligible for the Homestead Exemption program?

The homestead exemption is a statewide program that allows qualified senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled homeowners to reduce their property tax burden by shielding some of the auditor's appraised value of their home from taxation. The exemption takes the form of a credit on property tax bills. Those eligible must be 65 years of age or older or be permanently or totally disabled, meet annual state-set income requirements, and own the home where they live as of January 1st of the year in which they apply.

Local statistics Per the CBR:

In Blendon Township, we have 35 listings active, in contract, or coming soon on the market.

In Blendon Township, since 1/1/24, we have had 102 closed transactions.

According to a report from Rocket homes, Blendon Township is still experiencing a "sellers' market" and the current median sold price in Blendon Township is \$331,500.

In our entire CBR MLS system through June of 2023 as compared to June of 2024:

Closed sales were up 3.3%.

The average sales price was up 6.2%.

Trustee Heichel— Trustee Heichel stated at a previous trustees meeting that Trustee Ciamacco presented an analysis of Blendon Township's past printing costs by reviewing invoices from all of our departments and consulting vendors for pricing details. She also compared different copier options that incorporate modern technology. As a result, on July 2nd, 2024, the trustees agreed to enter into a new lease agreement with Blue Technologies for four new copiers, replacing our current copiers that were not equipped for in-house printing other than daily miscellaneous printed items. They also had an expired lease. The new copiers have now arrived, allowing the township to achieve significant cost savings by handling most, if not all, printing in-house, such as newsletters, business cards, and postcard mailings. We can now produce more materials at a much lower cost and improve our communication with mailings with our community members.

Trustee Shinaberry— Trustee Shinaberry stated that the next SWACO Hazardous Waste Disposal is Saturday, September 22, from 8-2 at the Westerville Public Service Department, 350 Park Meadow Rd. The entrance is off Schrock Rd. www.westerville.org or www.swaco.org websites have information on permissible items. Rumpke Waste service will be delayed one day due to Labor Day, so pick up will be on Saturday, September 7. The last Summer Concert of the season is this Saturday, August 24, at Ridgewood Park from 6 PM-8 PM. As usual, there will be a free live band (Street Players), free food (pizza & chips), free bounce houses, face painting, cotton candy, snow cones, and other activities. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket and come join the fun!

Fiscal Officer Report -Introduced by Chairperson Heichel

Minutes—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Minutes from the July 31, 2024 meeting. Trustee Heichel made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes on July 31, 2024. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

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

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Held August 21

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

Bank Reconciliations for June 2024— Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the bank reconciliations for June 2024. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

Resolution 2024-31: Supplemental Appropriations— Fiscal Officer Bury explained these are for tax collection fees since they came in a little higher than anticipated. The remainder is all related to Workman's Comp expenses and some insurance benefits that are running a little bit short compared to our estimates. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the resolution as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

Administration

None to report.

Human Resources—Administrator Myers presented Resolution 2024-30 Establishing a pre-tax pick up program with OPERS (Ohio Public Employee Retirement System) effective September 1, 2024 for all employees. Pat clarified that "pick up" does not mean the township will pay. Currently, it is a post-tax, which is OPERS preferred method over pre-tax. This which would reduce employees taxable income at the end of the year. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the resolution as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

Matt Newman asked the Board to accept the metal recycling funds in the amount of \$77.77 from SA Recycling LLC. Trustee Shinaberry moved to accept the funds as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

Police

Chief Belford— None to report.

Fire

None to report.

Announcements

Wednesday, September 4, 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.

The Car Show is this Saturday, 8/24/2024, at the Senior Center from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM,

The August Summer Concert in the Park is this Saturday, 8/24/2024, at Ridgewood Park from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Heichel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. Trustee Shinaberry seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by:



Jan Heichel, Chairperson

Approved by:



Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer