

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DRYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 1014B

Held December 4

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, Trustee Shinaberry, Trustee Ciamacco.

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

#### Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

#### Trustee Comments

**Trustee Ciamacco**— Trustee Ciamacco asked residents to continue sending Aqua Water bills to her.

**Trustee Shinaberry**— Trustee Shinaberry discussed HB 315, the Township Omnibus Bill, that bundles multiple township efficiency and funding provisions, and stated that she sent a letter to Senator DeMora asking him to support it. She received a response from his legislative aid that he is very supportive of the bill. Administrator Myers also joined the conversation, emphasizing the bill's importance for townships.

Trustee Shinaberry reminded everyone of the Free Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 7th at the Senior Center from 9 AM—11 AM.

**Trustee Heichel**— Trustee Heichel informed everyone of the Salvation Army Angel Tree Toy Drive that the township is hosting again. Tags are located on the tree in the large ballroom in the Senior Center. Directions are listed on each tag.

Trustee Heichel shared that in May of 2021, Blendon Township requested a Special Audit be performed by the Auditor of the State after Administrator Bryan Rhoads resigned from his employment. Based on preliminary feedback from the State Auditor, she made the following motions: Trustee Heichel made a motion to send a letter to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office asking that they reconsider their previous denial to proceed with criminal charges and except the criminal prosecution referral from the Auditor of State's Special Audit findings that former Blendon Township Administrator, Bryan Rhoads illegally obtained more than \$103,000 of taxpayer money. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

Trustee Heichel made a motion to authorize legal counsel to prepare a letter and forward that letter to Township residents regarding the results of a Special Audit conducted by the Ohio Auditor of State concerning former Township Administrator Bryan Rhoads. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

#### Fiscal Officer Report -Introduced by Chairperson Heichel

**Minutes**—Trustee Heichel asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Regular Minutes from the November 20, 2024, meeting. Trustee Shinaberry made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes on November 20, 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.

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

**Fiscal Officer Joann Bury— Amend a motion made on March 13, 2024 for approval of Annual Paving Program**— Joann Bury asked for a motion to amend a previous motion made at the March 13, 2024, meeting for an annual paving program where appropriations were requested from the road fund instead of the permissive license fund. Trustee Heichel moved to approve as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

#### Administration

**Cemetery Pricing**— Tabled until the next meeting.

**Commercial Building Inspector Agreement**— Administrator Myers asked the Board to cancel the current agreement with Toole and Associates and authorize Administrator Myers to sign a new agreement with Building Health Safety and Welfare LLC for Commercial Building Inspection. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

**CZ 2024-03 Map Amendment Hearing** — Administrator Myers asked the Board to set a public hearing before the Board for Zoning Case Number CZ2024-03 on December 18, 2024, at 7:30 PM at 6330 S. Hempstead Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081, and further authorize and direct the Zoning Inspector to make the amendment available for public examination and to give notice of this public hearing by publication, all in accordance with applicable law. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

**Floor Plan Agreement Purchase Order**— Administrator Myers asked the Board to approve a purchase order to Pizzazz Group, not to exceed \$2,200.00, to create 3D floor plans for the Administration Building, Maintenance Building, and Senior Center. Joann Bury asked for clarification on appropriations for the order, and they decided on the general fund. Trustee Heichel moved to approve as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

#### Human Resources

Administrator Myers asked the Board to hire Travis Hunt as a Full-Time Bus Driver at a rate of \$20.00 per hour with a start date of December 18, 2024. Trustee Heichel moved to approve as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded.

Discussion: Administrator Myers discussed the importance of drivers for the Senior Center and the daily activities of the Senior Center.

All voted yes.

Administrator Myers discussed that Jefferson Health Plan, OTARMA, and himself have had meetings to discuss insurance for 2025.

#### Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

Matt Newman asked the Board to approve a purchase order to Iron Pony in the amount of \$21,865.68 for the purchase of a 2025 Polaris Side by Side with a snowblade. This allows them to clear the sidewalks they are responsible for along Westerville Road and keep the Cemetery roads cleaned up, among other uses such as concerts in the park. Joann Bury stated that they need to request appropriations from the gas tax fund. Trustee Heichel moved to approve as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Ciamacco wanted it clarified that this is needed because they do not have the right equipment. Administrator Myers explained that from Paris Blvd to 270, that strip of sidewalk requires more staffing than the township has, because the only way to do it is by hand with snowblower or shovel. By the time they plow the regular roads, they will be able to do the strip of sidewalk as well. It will also be used for the sidewalks on the main complex here in the winter and picking up trash in the summer at Ridgewood Park. There is an old one from 2016 which will stay because it is more valuable to have both of them for the two other people in the Service Department to use at the same time. The sidewalks were not getting done in the wintertime.

All voted yes.

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### Police

Chief Belford discussed how the contract between Blendon Township and the Police is expiring. They have begun scheduling negotiations and they should begin next week and he will provide updates. He clarified that even if the contract expires, everything will continue as usual until the new contract is in place.

### Fire

Chief Miller discussed that the contract between Westerville and Blendon Township for fire protection has expired. The contract was done when Station 112 was built in 2003. The station was paid off last year, and the bond is now over. Chief Miller provided Administrator Myers with a copy of the new contract for the Board to review. Westerville City Council has reviewed, voted, and approved it already. Administrator Myers said he wanted to send it to the legal counsel for review first before it is sent to the Board. Chief Miller emphasized that there is still time to review and approve this contract.

Chief Miller also discussed live Christmas trees inside homes and the importance of keeping them watered, especially because of the drought. He said that fireplace and carbon monoxide runs will increase soon. He described the dangers of carbon monoxide. He lastly wished everyone a great holiday and to stay safe.

### Announcements

Wednesday, December 18, 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 Shinaberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM. Trustee Ciamacco seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by:



Jan Heichel, Chairperson

Approved by:



Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer