

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held April 23

20 25

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Trustee Shinaberry.

Trustee Shinaberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present

Trustee Shinaberry, Trustee Heichel, Trustee Ciamacco, and Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer.

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

Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

Trustee Comment

Trustee Ciamacco— Trustee Ciamacco provided a recap on the history of the upcoming proposed management landscape policy:

Last year, the township received multiple code enforcement complaints about the unsightly high vegetation, bugs, and rodents on residential properties that were not being mowed. Adam and Trustee Ciamacco took a closer look at some of the homes that were being reported. They found that one of them was attempting to create a natural or native environment. They visited the site on various occasions, along with professionals from ODNR.

To be very clear, the township promotes native, natural, and biodiverse gardening but, at the same time, has a duty to protect the remainder of the township from people who want to abuse what is truly considered native, natural, and biodiverse gardening and use this policy as a way to simply not mow. Unfortunately, that has become the issue with many cities, townships, and villages across the nation that have also attempted to promote managed landscape policies. There is an entire township that must be considered. The township realizes there is a delicate balance to appease all residents. The township takes the desire for some to garden naturally seriously and has invested a tremendous amount of time to educate themselves and others, extensively research, and meet with specialists to find a mutually beneficial resolution along with "best practices" for all residents of Blendon Township.

The township has been commended for attempting to create this balance and many, from what the township has been told, are very interested in not only helping but also have requested to use the township's final plan as something they may want to implement in their jurisdictions as well. The language that was floating around, to Trustee Ciamacco's knowledge, was a very preliminary initial rough draft that was sent out to many professionals (fire chiefs, ODNR, Franklin County soil and water, Franklin County Board of Health, The City of Columbus and many more) for their opinions & comments and was not a final draft.

The Board should have the comments from the township attorney back this week on the possible Managed Landscape policy. Even after that is received, there are several steps that need to happen as part of the Home Rule Resolution process before the policy can be implemented.

To recap the Process:

- Trustee review of comments from legal and make any changes deemed necessary
- Publication of a "Draft" for residents to see
- Schedule Public Meeting #1 for public comment
- Trustee review of those comments and make any changes based on that meeting
- Publication of a "Draft 2" for residents to see
- Schedule Public Meeting #2 for public comment
- Trustee Review of those comments and make any changes deemed necessary
- The last step is the Trustees passing a Limited Home Rule Resolution, adding this as a new rule/regulation or taking no action and not implementing this policy. This will most likely be done at a Regular Trustee meeting.

Lastly, Trustee Ciamacco announced that April 21-25 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. This annual campaign emphasizes the importance of safe driving through highway work zones. The 2025 theme, "Respect the zone so we all get home," serves as a reminder for drivers to stay alert and exercise caution in these areas.

Trustee Shinaberry— Trustee Shinaberry thanked Valerie Shaw, Senior Center Director, and her employees and volunteers for the great job they did on their Senior Center sponsored community Easter Egg hunt and free breakfast. There are some great pictures on the official Blendon Township Facebook page and on the Township Photos tab on the Blendon Township website.

She also thanked those who participated in the AM250 Two Lights celebration, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride. There are pictures on the official Township Facebook page of both township the Ohio Statehouse celebrations.

Back in January, Trustee Shinaberry applied for a grant from the AM250-OH commission to fund some projects and initiatives in connection with the celebration of the semiquincentennial. She was notified on April 15th that her proposal was chosen as one of 57 communities out of the 127 that applied. She will provide more information about that in the future.

Next, she announced that April 30th is the annual art show at the Senior Center.

Now that the grass is green again and flowers are blooming, she had 2 announcements:

Remember to take pictures of your flower gardens and landscapes during their peak times for the Blendon Blooms contest. Also, remember to send your best photos of the places and events you are proud of within Blendon Township's boundaries, including businesses, beautiful scenes, township parks, summer concerts, etc., for the chance to be featured on our website or in the township's 2026 calendar. You may submit up to 8 photos between now and October 1 for the calendar to have a chance to win prizes if any of yours are selected.

Lastly, she shared that Election Day is on May 6th.

Trustee Heichel— None to report.

Fiscal Officer Report

Minutes—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes from the April 9, 2025 meeting. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes on April 9, 2025. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

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

Bills—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the bills presented. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the bills. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Resolution 2025-16 Amending the 2025 permanent appropriations—Fiscal Officer Bury presented Resolution 2025-16, which is supplemental appropriations, to the Board. Trustee Heichel motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Trustee Shinaberry seconded. All voted yes.

Administration/Human Resources

Resolution 2025-01 Nuisance Abatement— Administrator Myers asked the Board to approve the resolution, which declares the property at 3524 Rangoon Drive, in Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio, a nuisance pursuant to Section 505.87 of the Ohio Revised Code, a subsequent resolution. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the resolution as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

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Approve Part-Time Kitchen Employee at Senior Center— Administrator Myers asked the Board to approve the hiring of Eileen Klinger as a Part-Time Cook at the Senior Center at the rate of \$15.00/hour and a weekly schedule not to exceed 10 hours/week. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the hiring as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Shinaberry asked for clarification on her start date. Administrator Myers clarified it will be tomorrow (4/24/25). He also stated that he talked with Valerie (Senior Center Director) about this and they came to the conclusion that they don't need a cook for more than the 10 hours per week.

All voted yes.

Hydrant Flushing— Aqua Water will be doing hydrant flushing from May 5th—May 16th. 3 days prior to the flushing, signs will be posted by Aqua. Information will also be posted to the township's website and Facebook.

Homeland Security training—Homeland Security contacted Chief Belford regarding hosting a drone training event at Ridgewood Park on June 24th & 25th. The park will still be open to the public during this time. Administrator Myers asked the Board for a nod of approval to okay this event, and all three Trustees approved it.

SOPEC inquiries— Administrator Myers shared he had 2 people reach out to him about the mail they received from SOPEC. He explained you can opt in or out at any time. SOPEC is offering a lock-in rate until June 2026. He also shared that AEP has sent out a warning about their rate increasing in June 2025. It is up to the resident to decide if they want to opt-out or not. He said any questions can be directed to his email, pmyers@blendontwp.org, or you can contact SOPEC directly.

Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

Matt Newman shared that the Community Clean Up starts this Friday, 4/25/25 from 7 AM—3 PM, Saturday 4/26/25 8 AM—5 PM (Document Shredding and Drug Take Back is 10AM - 2PM, and Sunday, 4/27/25 8 AM—5 PM. He also shared that street sweeping starts on Monday 4/28/25 and encourages residents to please get their vehicles off the streets.

Police

Chief Belford shared that they have received complaints about parking in the fire lane at Sunbury Plaza. He stated that BTPD officers are not able to enforce it because it is not properly marked. They are working with the Fire Department who is reaching out to the property owner to get it properly marked. Once that happens, BTPD can enforce illegal parking.

Fire

None to report.

Announcements

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 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 6:49 PM. Trustee Ciamacco seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by:



Cathy Shinaberry, Chairperson

Approved by:



Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer