

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held May 7

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, and Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer.

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

Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

Trustee Comment

Trustee Ciamacco— Absent.

Trustee Shinaberry— Trustee Shinaberry discussed the pen pal project between seniors at the Senior Center and 3rd and 4th graders from Huber Ridge Elementary, stating it came to a climax yesterday. Two busloads of students went to the Senior Center so the seniors and students could meet their pen pals before the end of the school year. Valerie Shaw, Sr. Center director, had it well planned with crafts and things for the students to do with their senior pen pals. She said it was a big hit, and all enjoyed it.

Trustee Heichel— Trustee Heichel discussed how she, alongside Administrator Myers, had two meetings since the last Board of Trustee meeting, one on April 29th and the other on May 6th for the JEDZ Phase 2 Executive Parkway /Sunbury Rd. Corridor. For our audience and YouTube viewers, she asked to direct thoughts to Route 3/Westerville Rd. Corridor in the business district. She stated that she was largely involved in bringing the JEDZ to Blendon Township along with others who are no longer a part of the Board. That area has seen significant, beautiful, and safer upgrades—including the addition of sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, and thriving businesses. This was Phase 1 of the JEDZ project.

We are now moving into Phase 2, focusing on the Executive Parkway / Sunbury Road Corridor. During the recent meetings, business stakeholders and consultants reviewed an informational PowerPoint presentation that provided a project overview, highlighted initial study area research, and outlined the next steps. Attendees also participated in an interactive SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats/Risks). The meetings were highly productive, with excellent comments and feedback from stakeholders.

Next Steps:

All Blendon residents will be invited to a Public Vision Meeting / Open House on May 20th, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, in the Senior Center, 6330 Hempstead Road. Residents will be encouraged to share ideas, ask questions, and engage in the planning process. Signage will be posted throughout the community to inform and remind residents about the meeting; a survey will be coming, as well as a website. More information on the survey and website will be shared on May 20th. Administrator Myers and Trustee Heichel will also be pursuing grant funding to support this next phase of development.

Fiscal Officer Report

Minutes—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the other Trustees if they had reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes from the April 23, 2025 meeting. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes on April 23, 2025. Trustee Heichel seconded. Trustee Heichel voted yes. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

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. Trustee Heichel voted yes. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

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. Trustee Heichel voted yes. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

Administration/Human Resources

America 250 grant acceptance— Administrator Myers asked the Board to accept a \$5,000 grant award for the America 250 initiative. Trustee Shinaberry moved to accept the grant as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. Trustee Heichel voted yes. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

Donation acceptance— Administrator Myers asked the Board to accept the following donations:

\$194.00 from Breakfast with the Bunny

\$491.50 from Shred-It Day

\$500.00 from RAR Monument (Memorial Day sponsor)

\$8000.00 from Aqua Water (Summer Concert Sponsor)

\$2,500.00 from Jeff Beard Concrete (Summer Concert Sponsor)

Trustee Shinaberry moved to accept the donations as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. Trustee Heichel voted yes. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

Purchase order request— Matt Newman asked to Board to approve a purchase order for Jeff Beard Concrete in the amount of \$42,401.00 for curb, gutter, and inlet repairs at 32 separate addresses in the township. He also mentioned that this already is a budgeted item. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve the purchase order as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. Trustee Heichel voted yes. Trustee Shinaberry voted yes. Trustee Ciamacco was absent.

Mr. Newman also shared that the Community Clean Up went well, with five 40-yard containers filled, two shred trucks, 60 tires, and a whole truckload of scrap steel.

Administrator Myers mentioned that OTARMA comes to the complex annually to survey and speak with all of the departments. After they left, they noted that they hadn't seen a Service Department as clean and in order as Blendon Township's. The only thing that they noticed was that there were plastic gas cans and that they should swap them with metal gas cans.

Police

Chief Belford shared ODOT has flagged the intersection of 161/Buenos Aires as a location of concern, due to accident rates & safety. There has been a discussion started about next steps and a plan will be initiated to improve the intersection. They also have received complaints regarding red lights being run at the same intersection. This is a challenge for the Police Department due to safety concerns on the higher speed limit/busy roadways. Officer Retherford has been working on a strategy to monitor and enforce the area.

Lastly, he thanked the 49% of voters who voted yes for the Police levy. Now, he will be working with Fiscal Officer Bury and will provide the Board with a plan to move forward. The Police Department will work diligently to maintain essential services and ask the community for understanding as they navigate challenges in the coming weeks.


Fire— None to report.


Announcements

Wednesday, May 21, 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 6:44 PM. Trustee Heichel seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by: 
Cathy Shinaberry, Chairperson

Approved by: 
Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer