

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held June 18

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; and Pat Myers, Administrator.

#### **Public Comment**

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

#### **Trustee Comment**

**Trustee Ciamacco**— Trustee Ciamacco discussed updates regarding the Blendon Beautiful Initiative. Cleveland Heights was done on April 24th and May 8th. Sunbury Woods was cleaned up the week of May 27th. The County informed them that they cannot do the Brazzaville area and other areas that are private property. However, the landlord at Glengary did clean up the Glengary common area at Brazzaville in mid-April and mid-May per the Board's request as part of the initiative. They are committed to monthly visits there and continued clean-up of that area. Trustee Ciamacco will be driving the township streets again, looking for the next place to send the clean-up crews.

**Trustee Heichel**— Trustee Heichel discussed that Administrator Myers and herself, along with two members of the Westerville Economic Development team and engineers from Kleinfelder, have a meeting scheduled for Monday, June 23rd to discuss the JEDZ Phase 2 Executive Parkway/Sunbury Road Project. Updates from this meeting will be shared at the Board of Trustees meeting.

The first successful summer concert of the season was held on June 14th at Minerva Park Middle School. Although rain was predicted, the weather turned out to be beautiful. Once residents saw the sunny skies, they arrived in large numbers. It was a pleasure to welcome attendees from across Blendon Township.

The past two weeks since the last meeting have been highly productive. Each Trustee continues to work independently on reports, updates, and ongoing projects while also supporting the Administrative Assistant. Her responsibilities extend beyond assisting the Trustees—she also supports Administrator Myers and manages all aspects of Blendon Central Cemetery, which can often be a full-time responsibility in itself.

**Trustee Shinaberry**— Trustee Shinaberry gave thanks to all of the staff and high school volunteers who assisted at the June Township Summer Concert on Saturday. Special appreciation goes to Matt and his service crew for their hard work. The concert was a tremendous success, with excellent attendance and everything running smoothly. Many attendees shared compliments about the venue, and lots of photos were taken. She stated that anyone who wishes to see photos can reach out to her.

In light of the community's growing interest in sustainability and recycling, we'd like to bring attention to a new initiative. SWACO (Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio) is currently running a pilot program for end-of-life clothing recycling. This program is intended for textiles that are damaged, stained, or too worn to be donated. These items will be recycled into products such as insulation, punching bags, and other materials rather than ending up in landfills or being incinerated as part of the global secondhand market. Drop-off locations for the pilot program are currently limited but include SWACO's Recycling Convenience Center on Jackson Pike and select participating locations in Bexley, Worthington, Upper Arlington, OSU, and certain Goodwill stores. A list of acceptable items is available on their Tips & Resources webpage: <https://recyclerright.org/end-of-life-clothing-drop-off-sites/>.

Additionally, for residents concerned about their recycling containers, if a large blue recycle bin becomes unusable, Rumpke has provided large stickers that can be placed on a regular trash can to designate it for recycling. These stickers are available for pickup at the Administration Building.

#### **Fiscal Officer Report**

**Minutes**—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the Trustees if they had reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes from the June 4, 2025 meeting. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes on June 4, 2025. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

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

#### **Administration/Human Resources**

**Donation acceptance**— Administrator Myers asked the Board for acceptance of the following donations: \$25.00 for Ridgewood Park rental, \$111.00 from the Memorial Day Ceremony/Celebration, and \$98.00 from the 50/50 raffle at the June Concert (including a last minute \$8 donation).

Trustee Shinaberry motioned to accept the donations as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Ciamacco thanked everyone for their donations.

All voted yes.

**Zoning Commission Vacancy**- Administrator Myers discussed the resignation of Mr. George Gummer from the Zoning Commission. Mr. Gummer provided his dedicated service for 16 years to Blendon Township and the Township appreciates his loyalty. A message will be put on the township website and Facebook about the vacancy and how to apply.

**June Summer Concert**—Administrator Myers thanked the entire staff who helped with the June Summer Concert.

**Zoning Department & Code Compliance Update**—Administrator Myers stated there are 51 total Residential Zoning permits to date for the year and 42 total Commercial Permits. There have also been 102 Code Compliance complaints for the year, with some being multiple for the same residence, and there are 20 current open cases being looked into, including two tall grass cases.

**Aqua Water**—Administrator Myers discussed that a representative from PUCO will be at the next meeting on July 2nd to provide information and answer questions regarding the proposed rate increase from Aqua Water.

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

Matt Newman discussed a proposal to create a Facebook page for Blendon Central Cemetery, in order to get updates, pricing, rules, and more information out to everyone. This would also lessen the load of phone calls and inquiries that the Administrative Assistant receives. Administrator Myers further explained this would be strictly informational with comments off. Trustee Ciamacco stated she wanted more information before saying yes. Administrator Myers stated that they will work on putting something together to share with the Board so they can see it before approving.

Matt Newman stated that mosquito spraying will start June 26th, weather permitting. They will also be putting signs out. The opt-out form is on the website. Trustee Ciamacco asked about West Nile cases, and Matt responded that the cases are higher this year.

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**Police**

Chief Belford stated that the Ohio Collaborative for Law Enforcement Accreditation Program has recertified BTPD, a process that occurs every two years. Further, they don't just review policy and procedure, but they also ensure that the department is following those directives in actual practice. BTPD has moved from a Silver Agency to a Gold Agency with LEXIPOL in regard to following federal, state law, case law and best practices in Law Enforcement.

**Fire**

Chief Miller was absent.

**Announcements**

Blendon Township offices and Senior Center are closed on Thursday, June 19th for Juneteenth.

Wednesday, July 2, 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.

**Executive Session**

Trustee Shinaberry moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:53 PM pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1) for the purpose of considering the discipline of a public employee and taking any action deemed necessary and desirable in connection with those purpose, also pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(4) preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Trustee Shinaberry moved to return from Executive Session to the Regular Trustee Meeting at 7:50 PM. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Trustee Shinaberry asked if there was any further action to be taken by the Board. Trustee Ciamacco moved to approve the MOU between Blendon Township, the FOP, and Officer Grubb, and authorize Chief Belford to execute the same on behalf of the Board. Trustee Heichel seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Shinaberry read the following statement: The recent failure of the police levy has put Blendon Township in a difficult financial position, requiring significant budget cuts, including the potential layoffs of several of our police officers. It is with great concern that we face these circumstances, as they impact the safety of our entire community. In light of these unavoidable constraints, the Blendon Township Trustees have made the difficult decision to move Officer Connor Grubb from paid administrative leave to unpaid administrative leave.

While we continue to uphold that Officer Grubb is presumed innocent until proven guilty and await access to critical evidence from the independent BCI investigation to make a fair decision regarding his employment, we cannot justify keeping an officer on paid leave while simultaneously being forced to reduce our active police force. This difficult decision is solely driven by the need to responsibly manage township resources during this challenging time. We remain committed to transparency, fairness, and protecting our community to the best of our ability. Thank you for your understanding.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Shinaberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Trustee Heichel seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by:   
Cathy Shinaberry, Chairperson

Approved by:   
Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer