

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Held

20

August 13

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; Pat Myers, Administrator; and Westerville/Blendon Deputy Fire Chief.

Statement about 2025-LHR-01

Trustee Shinaberry read a statement regarding the proposed draft for the Managed Natural Landscape Policy.

Trustee Shinaberry made a motion to table the Home Rule Resolution 2025-LHR-01. Trustee Ciamacco seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Ciamacco discussed the passionate and constructive feedback on the draft presented. She stated that for the last 1.5 years, she has personally been attempting to create her own butterfly, pollinator, and wildlife habitat, so this topic has become near and dear to her. In her research, she found that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation might have habitat grants, so she contacted them to ask about any current pollinator and butterfly grants. They referred her to The Pollinator Partnership, The Xerces Society, and the Monarch Joint Ventures Pollinator Habitat help desk. She is waiting for responses. She also reached out to some of the speakers from last Wednesday for additional information. Since there is more research needed, and many changes needed to the existing draft, she personally did not feel comfortable doing anything other than tabling it until they all have more time to research and consider many of the comments provided at the public hearing. In the meantime, they were able to locate some links regarding Natural, native, and bio-diverse gardening and have created a tab for them on the township website. All voted yes.

Trustee Shinaberry said since this was tabled, there is no need for the Second Reading Meeting, and asked Administrator Myers to put out proper notice about the cancelled meeting.

Public Comment

Time was permitted for meeting attendees to make comments.

Trustee Comment

Trustee Ciamacco— Trustee Ciamacco discussed that earlier this year, she had a resident ask how much our police department does on a daily basis. As a result, she started to look at the daily runs. She continues to request a monthly breakdown from the chief, and she had him break it down into four areas of our township: the Huber Ridge area, the Sunbury Woods area, the Cleveland Heights area, and the East of Sunbury Rd area. She wanted to make sure residents know how many runs the township police make on a monthly basis and plans to continue to share this information in the future. During the month of July, the police made 128 runs in the township. The breakdown is as follows:

- Huber Ridge area- 85 runs
- Sunbury Woods-10 runs
- Cleveland Heights area-20 runs
- East of Sunbury Rd area-13 runs
- The police department had a total of 464 calls during the month of July.
- 118 arrests from 1/1/25-7/31/25

Lastly, she announced that as a private citizen, she had the opportunity to have a discussion with a cybersecurity expert, and he gave some interesting information. Among other things, he informed her that there appear to be many hacks, fake profiles, and emails duplicating people. If you want to monitor your personal accounts, there is a Google Security tab you can click to get monthly reports. Ohio has a strict anti-bullying law, so if you feel you are the victim of bullying, they encourage you to report it: Go to stopbullying.gov for details on how and where to report.

Trustee Shinaberry— Trustee Shinaberry briefly discussed how she attended the July 24th meeting of the Franklin County District Advisory Council and the Franklin County Township Association, and the DAC voted on a new member to the Board of Health. She also reminded everyone of the final summer concert in Ridgewood Park on August 23rd from 6:00-8:00PM.

Trustee Heichel— Trustee Heichel shared an overview of the many township responsibilities carried out over the past two weeks, not only by her but also by the other two trustees. She emphasized that this report reflects only a portion of the ongoing duties, whether daily, weekly, or monthly, that must be completed. Among these responsibilities are writing the township newsletter, creating monthly email alerts, coordinating the upcoming "Concert in the Park" (the final concert of the season), reviewing bills, purchase orders, and payroll, reviewing cemetery deeds, and much more. Trustee Heichel noted that the role of a trustee is easily 25 to 30 hours of work each week.

She also highlighted the importance of staying informed through weekly updates from the Ohio Township Association, which provides valuable information on state and local legislation that could impact the township. Trustees must read, research, and often respond to these legislative matters. As an example, she referenced House Bill 315. A resolution regarding this bill will be presented at a public hearing before the next Trustees' Meeting on August 27 at 6:00 p.m. The Zoning Commission has already approved a related Zoning Text Amendment. If the resolution is passed, this change will allow zoning notices to be published on the township's website and social media platforms instead of in newspapers. This update will save the township a significant amount of money.

Fiscal Officer Report

Minutes—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the Trustees if they had reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2025, the Special Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes from the August 6, 2025, meeting. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the minutes as presented. 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.

June 2025 Bank Reconciliation—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the Trustees if they had reviewed the June 2025 bank reconciliation. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Administration/Human Resources

Donation acceptance—Administrator Myers asked the Board for acceptance of \$100.00 in donations for Ridgewood Park rentals (Four \$25.00 donations). Trustee Shinaberry motioned to graciously accept the donations as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Set hearing date for Zoning Text Amendment—Administrator Myers asked the Board to set the hearing for the zoning text amendment, which has to do with House Bill 315. This will allow for a language change regarding posting notices in newspapers. By law, they would no longer have to post in newspapers, which can be costly. He recommended setting the meeting 15-30 minutes prior to the next Trustee Meeting. Trustee Shinaberry moved to set the hearing for August 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Trustee Heichel seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Heichel discussed how they receive notices weekly from the Ohio Township Association (OTA), and this will help save the township money. Trustee Shinaberry also discussed the OTA and how they are real advocates for things in the legislature that benefit townships. All voted yes.

Resolution NU 2025—07—Administrator Myers asked the Board for approval of Nuisance Resolution 2025-07, declaring the property at 3623 Bolamo Drive a nuisance, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 505.87. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Resolution NU 2025—08—Administrator Myers asked the Board for approval of Nuisance Resolution 2025-08, declaring the property at 3594 Stockholm Road a nuisance, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 505.87. Trustee Shinaberry motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

Audio/Visual Discussion— Administrator Myers discussed the many emails he has received for various things over the last couple of weeks. One of those things was regarding issues with the audio/visual for meetings. He has met with the vendors, and they will be proposing some enhancement ideas on Friday, 8/15. Another concern that was brought to him was regarding ADA compliance. He confirmed that the Township was in compliance with the law, according to legal counsel, but there are some things Administrator Myers would like to do and will propose to the Board in the future.

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Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

Matt Newman stated that the Service Department will be spraying for mosquitoes on Thursday, 8/14, after dusk, weather permitting.

Police

Chief Belford asked the Board for approval of the FOP contract for 1/1/2025-12/31/2025 between Blendon Township and Fraternal Order of Police, Capital City Lodge No. 9. This one-year contract would provide a 3% raise, update comp-time to 100 hours, and add a provision which allows officers to purchase their firearm at the end of service. Trustee Shinaberry moved to approve as presented. Trustee Heichel seconded. All voted yes.

He also spoke about Trustee Ciamacco's comments regarding Ohio's cybersecurity laws. He referenced a case in Miami, Ohio, involving online menacing, highlighting that a conviction was upheld despite the absence of actual harm or proven mental distress, based solely on the victim's belief that they could be harmed or suffer mental distress. This case sets a new precedent and will impact how officers are required to handle and instruct on cyberstalking incidents. Chief Belford noted that he is awaiting updates to Lexipol, which will guide future retraining and instructional procedures.

Fire

Westerville/Blendon Deputy Fire Chief shared that they have had 5,995 runs this year and are on track for over 9,000 runs for the year.

Announcements

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, will be the Zoning Text Amendment Hearing at 6:00 PM, at 6330 Hempstead Rd., Westerville, Ohio.

Wednesday, August 27, 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.

The August Summer Concert will be held at Ridgewood Park from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Saturday, August 23, 2025.

Adjournment

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

Approved by:



Cathy Shinaberry, Chairperson

Approved by:



Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer