

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Blendon Township Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10146

Held January 14

20 26

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

Trustee Zobel read a statement regarding her decision not to stand during the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked that anyone who wished to have a moment of reflection stay seated, or they could stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call: Present

Trustee Zobel, Trustee Ciamacco, Trustee Adkins, and Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer.

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

### Public Comment

Trustee Zobel discussed potential changes with the Board regarding public comment. She proposed that the time permitted to speak be increased to 5 minutes and that the time not be monitored with a timer. She also proposed that the attendees be allowed to ask quick, clarifying questions, as long as they are respectful. Lastly, she asked for a public comment period at the end of the meeting as well. Trustee Ciamacco suggested that a conversation be had with legal counsel first before any changes occur. Trustee Adkins was fine with Trustee Zobel's suggestions but agreed that a conversation with legal counsel should happen first.

P. Clegg (Makassar Dr.)—She thanked the Board for the street sweeping that occurred that morning.

S. Hostetter (Blue Bonnet Ct.)—He read a statement regarding his views on Connor Grubb and the shooting that occurred in 2023.

K. Kalmbaugh (Madrid Dr.)—She addressed the things said during Mr. Hostetter's statement.

### Trustee Comment

**Trustee Adkins**—Trustee Adkins thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for voting in the 2025 election. He gave some insight into what he has been doing so far, such as training and certifications.

He addressed the audio/visual issues that have occurred in the past during the public meetings and stated that they are being worked on.

He also addressed a rate case that Aqua Water is having, and notices have been sent out by them to all public bodies. The public hearings will begin taking place on January 27th at 5:00PM at the Columbus Metropolitan Library (1422 E Livingston Ave.). A virtual public hearing will take place on January 29th at 6:00PM.

**Trustee Ciamacco**—Trustee Ciamacco discussed property taxes. The Franklin County Board of Revisions is holding a mobile filing event on January 24th from 9:30AM-12:30PM (Columbus Metro Library on Karl Rd), which will also feature a homestead exemption application clinic. January 27th from 3:00PM-5:30PM (Grove City Library—Room A.).

She also provided information regarding renewing dog licenses, and they can be purchased at a discounted rate until February 28th (doglicense.franklincountyohio.gov). License fees support Franklin County dog shelter/adoption centers.

Next, she provided information on the number of runs the police are making. In December 2025, the police made 324 runs.

Huber Ridge Area: 60

Cleveland Heights Area: 19

Hoover East of Sunbury Rd: 16

Sunbury Woods: 12

For the year ending 2025, the police made 4,974 runs, which averages 13.62 runs a day.

Huber Ridge: 898

Cleveland Heights: 228

Sunbury Woods: 193

Hoover East: 149

The additional runs not included in the preceding totals are for areas outside of neighborhoods (Westerville Rd, industrial parks, Sunbury Rd, 161, 270, etc.).

She next discussed The Blendon Beautiful Initiative, which she started in 2024, driven by a need she saw while going down every street in the township. She stated they have made great strides with Franklin County partners in cleaning up the township. Since she has analyzed one full year of the police run statistics, she plans to launch "The Keep Blendon Safe Initiative". Over the coming months, she will meet with Chief Belford, Leaders from other Cities, Villages, Townships and community watch organizations. She already contacted The National Sheriffs Association, and is waiting to hear back.

Lastly, she announced that the 2026 Scholarship Program is open now until January 31, 2026. The Ohio Township Association Scholarship Program began in 2005. Since 2005, the scholarship has provided support to high school seniors residing in Ohio's townships who show excellence in their communities and schools. Go to [www.ohiotownships.org/scholarship-program](http://www.ohiotownships.org/scholarship-program) to learn more and apply.

**Trustee Zobel**—Trustee Zobel discussed implementing a Neighborhood Advisory Committee, and it should be rolling out soon. She hopes to have sub-committees as well.

She thanked the HRAA for everything they have done for so many years, such as events. She encouraged anyone who wants to volunteer to reach out to them. She hopes other neighborhoods will do something similar.

She is looking to start holding public work sessions in the near future.

### Fiscal Officer Report

**Minutes**—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the Trustees if they had reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025, and the Special Meeting on January 5, 2026. Trustee Adkins motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Zobel seconded. All voted yes,

**Approval of Purchase Orders**—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the Trustees if they had reviewed the Purchase Orders presented. She also stated that the purchase orders and bills that are discussed are always available for inspection by emailing Administrator Myers (pmyers@blendontwp.org) or visiting the township website. Trustee Adkins motioned to approve the purchase orders as presented. Trustee Zobel seconded. All voted yes.

**Bills**—Fiscal Officer Bury asked the Trustees if they had reviewed the bills presented. Trustee Zobel motioned to approve the bills as presented. Trustee Adkins seconded. All voted yes.

**Bank Reconciliation**—Fiscal Officer Bury asked to table this until the next meeting.

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## Administration/Human Resources

**Zoning Commission Alternate Appointment**— Administrator Myers asked the Board if they were ready to move forward with an appointment. The person who was previously appointed has since decided not to do it. The Board was given a list of applicants and could decide how they wanted to move forward. Trustee Ciamacco moved to appoint Scott Gurwin as an alternate to the Zoning Commission with a term ending 12/31/2028. Trustee Zobel seconded. All voted yes.

Trustee Ciamacco thanked all the applicants but thought Mr. Gurwin was the most qualified and Trustee Zobel agreed and was glad to see there was interest. Trustee Adkins discussed having legal counsel to help with an introduction for the committee for the new year and any new updates. Administrator Myers will check with legal. Trustee Ciamacco asked Administrator Myers for an effective date for the Zoning Commission, and he stated immediately.

**Renewal of Commercial Building Official Agreement**— Administrator Myers asked the Board for approval of the renewal of the agreement for Commercial Building services with Building Health Safety and Welfare LLC and authorization for him to sign the agreement. Trustee Adkins moved to approve as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

**Resolution 2026-01 Certification of Township Road Miles**— Administrator Myers asked the Board for approval of Resolution 2026-01 approving the road miles certificate presented by ODOT certifying Blendon Township road miles at 24.891 miles. Trustee Zobel moved to approve as presented. Trustee Adkins seconded. All voted yes.

**Report from Sedwick**— Administrator Myers shared that he received a report from the townships' managed care provider for the Bureau of Workers Compensation. The 2025 report showed that there were two incidents and no missed work.

## Maintenance/B&G/Parks/Cemetery

None to report.

## Police

**Resignation of Dakota Szymkowiak**— Chief Belford asked the Board to accept the resignation of Dakota Szymkowiak, effective 1/28/2026. He stated he wishes him well as he moves on to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Trustee Zobel moved to accept as presented. Trustee Adkins seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Ciamacco asked Chief Belford to thank him for his service.

All voted yes.

**Conditional offer of employment to Aja Chung**— Chief Belford asked the Board to authorize him to present a conditional offer of employment to Aja Chung as a Part-Time Detective. Trustee Adkins moved to authorize as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Adkins stated that she had a really good work history. Trustee Ciamacco asked when her start date was. Chief Belford stated she is ready to go once she is onboarded.

All voted yes.

**Conditional offer of employment to Brandon Pettry**— Chief Belford asked the Board to authorize him to present a conditional offer of employment to Brandon Pettry as a Full-Time Police Officer. Trustee Adkins moved to authorize as presented. Trustee Ciamacco seconded.

Discussion: Trustee Ciamacco asked about his start date. Chief Belford stated he has to take an OPERS physical to enter the retirement system and a psychological test, so his start date is contingent and conditional on passing those, which could take about a month.

All voted yes.

## Fire

The Battalion Chief There were 9,462 runs in 2025 (about 26 runs a day between the 3 stations).

## Announcements

Wednesday, January 28, 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 Zobel stated that Executive Sessions are not secret meetings, but a portion of a public meeting that the law requires to be held privately when discussing very specific topics such as the discipline of a public employee. Any action taken (if any) will occur once the Board returns to the public portion of the meeting.

Trustee Zobel moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:05PM 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 purposes. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

Trustee Zobel moved to return to the Regular Trustee Meeting at 7:39PM. Trustee Ciamacco seconded. All voted yes.

No further action resulted from the Executive Session.

## Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Zobel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. Trustee Ciamacco seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Approved by:

April Zobel, Chairperson

Approved by:

Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer