

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of *MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES* Meeting

Held

January 3,

2023

Chair Stewart called the meeting of the Mifflin Township Board of Trustees to order at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, with Chair Lynn Stewart, Vice Chair Richard Angelou, Trustee Kevin Cavener, Fiscal Officer Nancy White, Fire Chief Fred Kauser, Police Chief David Briggs, Assistant Fire Chief Brian Dunlevy, Service Director Roger Boggs, IT Director Craig Main, and Administrative Services Manager Melanie Barnette present. Accounting/Payroll Assistant Rick Duff attended virtually.

Visitors were Angela & John Landry, 3754 Earl Avenue, Columbus, OH 43219 and Quanetta Batts, 3824 Emmons Avenue, Columbus, OH 43219.

Chair Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

TRUSTEES COMMENTS:

Mr. Angelou wished all in attendance a happy new year.

MINUTES & WARRANTS:

Chair Stewart requested a motion to approve the Warrants of January 2023.

Res. 12-23 Approve the Warrants of January 2023

Mr. Cavener moved to approve the Warrants of January 2023. Chair Stewart seconded the motion. All voted yea. Motion carried.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Leonard Park resident Angela Landry asked what became of a community survey taken in December of 2021, and would another meeting be scheduled. Service Director Boggs said that Matt Brown of Franklin County Economic Development, coordinated meetings and discussion groups regarding development in the area, and that a follow-up meeting has not yet been scheduled. Chair Stewart asked Mr. Boggs to contact Mr. Brown for an update, and Mr. Boggs said he would. Mr. Boggs said the original developer sold the properties, and Franklin County is working on acquiring the bond for the properties so that finish work could be done. Fiscal Officer White said that the Franklin County Engineer's Office is working together with Mifflin Township to formulate a plan for the area's stormwater drainage. Mr. John Landry asked if the plan would include retrofitting the area's stormwater system. Mr. Boggs said that with the area's current design, the plan would be to put in a new stormwater system throughout, keeping to the front of properties, and minimizing disruption to residents' back yards. Ms. Landry said that her Franklin County water bill rate was high, and asked that if in the future, could water be provided by Columbus. Fiscal Officer White said that Leonard Park has water is because of an agreement between the Franklin County Commissioner's office and the City of Columbus. Ms. Landry questioned her home's property tax rates and asked why she was not paying Columbus tax rates. Fiscal Officer White said that Leonard Park is in Mifflin Township, and the area would need to be annexed to the City of Columbus to change the entity to which taxes are paid. Fiscal Officer White also said that property tax collection rates remain the same throughout the life of a voted tax levy. Chair Stewart welcomed Ms. Landry's input and invited her to contact Mifflin Township's office at any time with

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any questions. Mr. Cavener said that it was encouraging to see more families moving into Leonard Park.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Fiscal Officer White reviewed correspondence received from the law firm of Fishel, Downey, Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP stating that the firm is increasing their billing rate structure beginning in January of 2023, to \$220.00 per hour. (See Referral File.)

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Fiscal Officer White and Accounting/Payroll Assistant Duff reviewed the 2023 Compensation Chart for township officials, showing the 1.75% cost of living (COLA) adjustment that took effect December 27, 2018, effective through 2028. (See Referral File)

Fiscal Officer White shared one other piece of correspondence received from WBNS 10TV reporter Bryant Sommerville regarding the shooting that took place at Bucks Platinum Club at the corner of Stelzer Road and West Johnstown Road in Mifflin Township. Mr. Sommerville asked if Mifflin Township had any comments regarding deeming the building a public nuisance, or of possibly shutting it down. On the recommendation of Ms. White, Police Chief Briggs compiled a report of incidents at the same location, which totaled 25 calls since June of 2022. Chief Briggs said that when the establishment first opened under the new name, there were frequent incident reports filed, but with new management things had quieted down. Fiscal Officer White recommended a response to Mr. Sommerville that the current issue was still under investigation and that until a resolution occurs, Mifflin Township Trustees would not be making any decisions or determinations.

Fiscal Officer White said that office spaces were rearranged to prepare for the new Administrative Assistant starting on January 9, and for the new Accounting Assistant starting on January 30. Ms. White also said that Clemans Nelson & Associates would be able to hire an HR generalist or HR director depending upon what the Trustees decide for the position. Chair Stewart recommended to have Clemans Nelson provide a quote to temporarily act as part-time HR director for the Township, and then hire a person for the day-to-day HR work.

Fiscal Officer White gave a reminder for the 2023 Strategic Planning Workshop scheduled for Monday, February 13th at 9:30 a.m. with the following schedule:

Police	Police Chief Briggs	9:30 a.m.
Service	Service Director Boggs	10:30 a.m.
Fiscal	Fiscal Officer White	11:30 a.m.
Admin	Admin. Services Mgr. Barnette	1:30 p.m.
FIRE	Fire Chief Kauser	1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
EMS		
Dispatch		
Tech	IT Director Main	

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Fiscal Officer White submitted the request for advance payment of property tax settlements as collected from the Franklin County Auditor and submitted the debt service requirements for the same. Ms. White said that temporary appropriations are filed and have received inquiries from Julian & Grube regarding the Township's annual report.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:

Administrative Services Manager Barnette said that new administrative assistant Becky Swingle would be starting on January 9th. She said she has been working on a large public records request demanding much of her time, along with HR responsibilities.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

No report.

SERVICE:

Service Director Boggs said that per the Assistant Prosecutor's office, two court cases were set for January 12th. Mr. Boggs said that in one case the plaintiff would be facing contempt of court charges for not cleaning the junk from his yard and for leaving animals behind at property located at Baughman and Denune Avenues, and in the other case the plaintiff would be leveraged daily fines if the unlawful setup of a homestead on property located on Lindale Road was not removed by the court date.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Service Director Boggs said that while he was on vacation the service crew did cleanup of a few properties for which code violation tax liens would be requested at the next Trustee meeting. Mr. Boggs also said that an update would be provided after he speaks with the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer about the issue on Perdue Avenue.

POLICE:

Police Chief Briggs said that after doing research it was determined that using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase radio upgrades to furnish secure Internet for the police department within the new fire department would not be allowed. Chief Briggs said that the second round of ARPA funds was designated for infrastructure, and that the Internet/Wi-Fi would need to be set up for public use. Chief Briggs said that the police department access to the Internet would need to be secure from public use due to the sensitive nature of their operations.

Trustee Cavener said that he met with Chief Briggs and IT Director Main to discuss solutions to help stabilize the police department, including hiring up to four officers and increasing officer pay. Chiefs Briggs said that he and Fire Chief Kauser are working on a three to five-year plan for assisting the police department.

FIRE DIVISION:

Chief Kauser provided project updates. (See Referral File.)

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Chief Kauser requested an opinion to determine if Capital funds used by Mifflin Police can be reimbursed by the Fire Division in the form of Operating Funds. Fiscal Officer White said that she would do research on this.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

IT Director Main provided project updates. (See Referral File.)

IT Director Main said that the phone system problem of calls showing as spam when originating from the office was resolved, and that the issue of dropped calls is being addressed. Mr. Main is also specifying requirements of the current system to obtain comparable quotes for a replacement phone system. Mr. Main requested to schedule the Trustees for a required cyber security training course and to set up two-factor email authentication on their mobile phones. The training was scheduled for January 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the OPS Center, EOC, 400 West Johnstown Road.

OPERATIONS CENTER:

No report.

Chair Stewart asked Chief Kauser to confirm the date of the new Fire Station 132 dedication. Chief Kauser confirmed the date and time as Monday, March 13, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Chair Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cavener seconded the motion. All voted yea. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Lynn M. Stewart, Chair

Richard J. Angelou, Vice Chairman

Kevin J. Cavener, Trustee

Nancy White, Fiscal Officer