

## **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

*Minutes of Meeting*

Plain Township Board of Trustee Meeting

The Plain Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at 12:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 9500 Johnstown Road, New Albany, OH 43054.

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order. Mr. Ferguson led the Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Members Present: Dave Ferguson, Kerri Mollard and Jill Beckett-Hill. Others present: Fiscal Officer Bud Zappitelli, Administrator Ben Collins, Battalion Chief Pabst, Captain Moore, Lieutenant Pershing, Firefighter Dozier, and Township/Zoning Coordinator Mary Fee.

### **ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Ms. Beckett-Hill stated that she has new business.  
Mr. Collins stated that resolution F4 was added to the agenda.

### **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to pay the pending warrants in the amount of \$531,217.23.  
Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 23081601)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Mollard made a motion to approve the August 2, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes with corrections. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye. (Resolution 23081602)

### **CITY LIASON-MIKE DURIK**

Mr. Durik was not in attendance.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Deputy Upton was not in attendance.

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Collins updated the Board of Trustees on the pool activity. The Pool continues to have an excellent year, total attendance and daily admission revenue exceeds last year's totals. Staff will provide a recap of the season after the pool closes. Legal counsel is working on some of the front-end documents to bid out the slide tower work.

Franklin County engineer's office was asked to conduct a stop sign warrant study for the four-way stop at Bevelhymer Road and Walnut Street. The traffic doesn't currently meet the warrant requirements for a four-way stop. Mr. Collins supplied the Engineer's office with the traffic count for a sports-tournament weekend where there have been 3000+ trips per day.

Mr. Collins reported that there is a hearing date set for a Workers Compensation claim. And Mr. Collins is starting to look at health insurance renewals with our consultant next week.

Mr. Collins indicated that he responded to an email he received regarding a pool concern. He also reminded the Board that the pool will be closed on weekdays now that school has started back. Mr. Ferguson indicated that he received a call from a resident whose daughter was a lifeguard. She was very complimentary of her experience, specifically discussing the pool's cleanliness and working with the managers, lifeguards, and swim team. Her concern was with some of the non-members that visit the pool after 4pm and are very rowdy and disrespectful of the lifeguards. She said they are demeaning and abusive to the lifeguards and there have been instances of people taking pictures of the lifeguards and posting them online. Ms. Mollard stated that Ben had shared with her that the individual who took the photos and posted them was retaliating for being asked to leave since he was trying to swim in his underwear, which is not appropriate. Administrator Collins noted that there is generally a turnover in the makeup of the visitors because of the 4:00 PM price break. We are also the only public pool in the community. Mr. Collins reminded the Board that half of the community are school students who live outside of the township and the City of New Albany. Mr. Ferguson would like staff to survey other pools and do a comparison of their policies and practices. Ms. Mollard stated that she has two close family friends whose daughters worked at the pool and they both felt good about SwimSafe's management and they did not experience anything negative.

## ZONING

Administrative & Zoning Coordinator Mary Fee stated that the Board of Zoning Appeals held a hearing earlier this month and approved a swimming pond. It is a pool that is shaped like a pond, it has a liner but it is all natural, and there are no chemicals in the water. Plants and a UV system are used for filtration purposes.

## ROAD/MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Superintendent Pharris was not in attendance, but Mr. Collins indicated that the maintenance staff will be getting ready to begin maintenance on the pool once it closes. Maintenance staff plans to paint the interactive and slide pools and they have been sprucing up the public restrooms with wall repairs, fresh paint and power washing the tiles. The dump truck has been repaired and returned. Staff is still looking at pricing for a new truck. The office parking lot will be sealed and striped September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mollard asked if there had been

any additional issues with the pool leaking water. Mr. Collins stated that it appears that sealing the bubblers has eliminated the water loss. We are using about 1/3 of the water we did last year.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Connor thanked the trustees for their time in dealing with some personnel issues. Assistant Chief Ecleberry stated that the department continues to do a lot of training. The department participated in a Rescue Task Force active shooter training with the Police Department at the schools. This is training to get our paramedics on scene faster with police protection. Assistant Chief Ecleberry also recognized Fire Marshal Guthrie, who has undertaken the task of switching all the station lighting to LED. The front apron project is going to start September 1<sup>st</sup> and Chief Dudley has a plan to navigate the trucks around during the project. EMS Director, Mark Powell, has been at the schools over the past couple of weeks training their staff on Stop the Bleed tourniquet training and CPR. He did CPR/AED and seizure disorder awareness training with the transportation staff and CPR/AED training with maintenance staff. The Fire Department continues to work with the City of New Albany on road closures and lane changes. Chief Connor and Assist Chief Ecleberry met with Joe Stefanov, Chief Wright, and Chief Majors from West Licking and Monroe Township to continue working on communication and runs. The radios and sirens are in and will be installed on the new Tahoes in the next week or two.

Fire Department has been utilizing part-time staff more and added the internship program which has been a tremendous success. There is a job fair scheduled next week that gives us an opportunity to look at students who have recently graduated high school programs or the fire programs at Columbus State, CTEC, or the Delaware Career Center. There are 9 candidates for 4-5 spots to replace interns. The intern program lets us provide on-the-job training. The recruits come from recommendations of our staff who are currently teaching at Columbus State (Battalion Chief Pabst), Delaware Career Center (Battalion Chief Dudley), as well as through the recommendations of other chiefs who are working at the various fire programs. The Fire Department currently has 14 part-time firefighters and would like to get to 20. The part-time firefighters can fill the 9-person minimum staffing for training and call-offs. However, part-time firefighters are not always a reliable source of emergency staffing since most are full-time at other departments.

Chief Connor, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, and Administrator Ben Collins, re-interviewed the 3 top lateral candidates from the last full-time opening in May for two full time openings. One will replace a recent resignation and the other will replace the firefighter who is expected to be promoted to the EMS Coordinator Position. Lt. Mark Powell has done an excellent job and will train the new coordinator. Mrs. Mollard would like to see a reception to thank Lt. Powell for his commitment to the department and for all his contributions.

**Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230816F1. Be it resolved to offer conditional employment to Kenneth (Chip) Kinder and Erick Fisher as full-time Firefighter Paramedics as lateral transfers at an enhanced pay of step 2 pending results from background checks and drug screen. Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye**

**Ms. Beckett-Hill made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230816F2. Be it resolved to pay Flex Financial, a division of Stryker Sales, LLC the amount of \$168,332.10 for the annual payment on the master agreement for the Stryker ALS Program, out of fund 2111-220-54034 (Fire District – Tools and Equipment-EMS). This is a ten-year agreement subject to future appropriations by the Board of Trustees.**

**Flex Financial, a division of Stryker Sales, LLC  
1901 Romence Road Parkway  
Portage, MI 49002**

**Ms. Mollard seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye**

**Ms. Mollard made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230816F3. Be it resolved, to offer conditional employment to Brant Griggs and Issac Ackers as part-time Firefighters EMT-Basic pending the results of background checks and drug screen.**

**Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye**

**Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230816F4. Be it resolved to authorize the purchase of replacement radios for the fire department from B&C Communications off of State of Ohio STS073 Schedule 573077 in the amount of \$67,332.48 out of fund 4910-220-55000 (Capital Equipment – Fire).**

**B&C Communications  
1740 Harmon Ave. Suite F  
Columbus, Ohio 43223**

**Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye**

Assistant Chief Ecleberry reviewed the Capital Equipment Update. Capital improvement needs include everything from the building improvements to the apparatuses, radios, rescue tools, and turn-out gear. He reported that the rescue tools will be here next week. The radios will be phased in over a three-year period to maintain compliance and serviceability. The bay floors are original, and the concrete that is cracking and breaking needs to be fixed, resealed, and painted. The overhead garage doors are original to the station and need to be replaced. The public restrooms need to be updated. Ms. Beckett-Hill asked that the exterior windows be sealed and painted to preserve the life of the windows. Landscaping for the firehouse was discussed. The facilities team consists of Ms. Beckett-Hill, Assistant Chief Ecleberry, Lt. Reynolds, Administrator Ben Collins,

Maintenance Superintendent Pharris, and Battalion Chief Sponaugle. The fire department is also trying to rotate the purchases of the medics.

Ms. Kerri Mollard presented the final drafts for review and reflection of *Mission Vision Values*. *Mission: to save lives through education, engagement, and emergency services; Vision: a community that is informed, connected, and safe; Values: courage, we do not hesitate in our response, and we fulfill our oath with passion and pride; Integrity: we operate with honesty and transparency to those who trust in us; Compassion: We care for those in distress as we respond to their emergency needs; Equity: We ensure every employee has access to learning and development and every person or business receives the same level of service; Professionalism: we adhere to the highest standards in our industry, trained diligently to provide a skilled response and work effectively to achieve the best outcomes and connectedness, we celebrate and engage our community at events in the schools and throughout neighborhoods.* Ms. Beckett-Hill suggested including “the people make this organization and together we stand united in our pursuit to saving lives, nurturing, compassion, fostering professionalism, promoting safety education, emergency services with unwavering integrity.” Mr. Ferguson wanted to know how the Township measures the “Connection” in the Vision. Ms. Mollard explained that “Connection” ties back to engagement efforts, whether that is on the prevention side, on the education side, or on the EMS side. She feels it is also a nice reflection of the township’s relationship with New Albany, whose vision is about a connected community.

Changes to the Mission Statement are: *Together, we save lives through education, engagement, and emergency services; Vision: a community that is informed, connected, and safe; Values: courage, we do not hesitate in our response, and we fulfill our oath with passion and pride; Integrity, we operate with honesty and transparency to those who trust in us; Equity, We ensure every employee has access to learning and development, and that everyone person or business receives the same level of service.* The draft of Mission Vision Values will be circulated along with the Word cloud to the entire department for a final review.

The Fitch SWOT analysis was discussed. Mr. Collins was concerned about the use of the word ‘aging’ under weakness to describe the building and the equipment. This is being addressed with the purchase of a new engine and a new medic, along with the improvements to the building with lighting, flooring, and painting. Although not addressed yet, the staff showers and restrooms will be renovated. Ms. Beckett-Hill suggested a deferred maintenance capital replacement plan for the building. Ms. Mollard will add as a strength that the Township has created a Facilities Team to track the life expectancy of the building’s interior and exterior. Mr. Ferguson thinks that long term planning is an Opportunity for the Department. Ms. Mollard has as an Exterior Opportunity the City of New Albany expansion and partnerships. The strategic priorities are saving lives, protecting property, prepare for growth, work effectively, and engage community. Mr. Ferguson would like to initiate an annual physical fitness test that must be passed. Mr. Ferguson stated that he does not believe that contractually, Fitch met their obligations and should not be fully paid.

This is demonstrated by all the reworking that is taking place. Ms. Mollard would like to come to an agreement on the big-picture items and get some of the objectives written in detail. The stakeholders were promised that they would be brought back together to share in the outcome of the Mission Vision Values, the SWOT, and the priorities and goals. Ms. Beckett-Hill would like to have this stakeholder meeting in October, around the same time as the Fire Station open house.

### **FISCAL OFFICE**

The July 2023 Bank Reconciliation, Month End reports, and Credit Card statements were presented.

**Mr. Ferguson made a Motion to pass Resolution No. 230816B1. Be it Resolved, to increase Fund 2903-000-45019 OneOhio Opioid Settlement Fund receipts by \$3,559.25.**

**Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the Motion. Vote: All Aye**

Assistant Chief Ecleberry stated that he will be forwarding some information about the ARPA Grant that the fire department received. The language in the grant is not clear on whether the award is pensionable.

### **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Beckett-Hill reported that the Plain Local School District has the results from their parent survey on their website. She also congratulated Ms. Mollard on Mollard Consulting's 20 year anniversary. Ms. Mollard is hosting an anniversary party on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 4-6pm.

Mr. Ferguson would like to go to two evening meetings per month because the noon meeting has been going long.

**Mr. Ferguson made a motion that the regularly scheduled meetings will be the first Wednesday and the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 1, 2023. Ms. Beckett-Hill seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye (Resolution 23081603)**

In regard to the re-zoning on Walnut Street, Ms. Beckett-Hill stated that she has spoken to the applicant's attorney, Aaron Underhill, and she encouraged him to come up with options/resolutions for the setback, density and landscaping and encouraged him to engage with the neighbors.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m. Ms. Mollard seconded the motion. Vote: All Aye**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**



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David Ferguson, Trustee



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Kerri Mollard, Trustee



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Jill Beckett-Hill, Trustee



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Bud Zappitelli, Fiscal Officer