

Minutes of October 22, 2024

Record of Proceedings

The Washington Township Board of Trustees regularly scheduled meeting held at Washington Township Administration Building, 6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin, Ohio, on October 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with Mr. Stu Harris, Chairman, calling the meeting to order, and it opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call – Mr. Stu Harris, Chair – Present

Mr. Jan Rozanski, Vice Chair – Present

Mr. Charles Kranstuber, Trustee – Present

Franklin County Deputy Sheriff's Report:

Deputy Burton Haren with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) submitted a written and verbal report to the Trustees for September 25 through October 22, 2024, including an update on the following:

- During this period, there were thirty-two (32) Total Calls for Service / Self-Initiated Activity, three (3) Total Reports Taken, and four (4) Total Arrests / Citations:
 - The three reports resulted from car crashes.
- Deputy Haren expressed his appreciation to Mr. Richter, Chief O'Connell and Chief Donahue for their communication regarding the potential strike at Sutphen;
- Deputy Haren has been working with Bo Foster, Community Manager for Hayden Heights Community. The community recently installed Flock cameras at the entrance and exit, and have given the FCSO access to the system. These cameras will allow FCSO to monitor for stolen vehicles in the area;
- Deputy Haren would like Washington Township residents to be aware that the FCSO Citizens Academy will be available next year, with registration available on the FCSO website. Participants in the FCSO Citizens Academy will have the opportunity to experience several areas of the department, including the K-9 Unit, SWAT, Detective Bureau and Patrol. Append #001

Opportunity for Residents to Speak:

No comments.

Annual updates from David Reutter, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District, and Nathan Ralph, Franklin County Public Health

Mr. Reutter apologized to the board for missing the previous meeting, and thanked them for their time. He is optimistic that Stormwater Awareness Week will become a statewide resolution next year. Mr. Reutter provided two (2) handouts; the first listing resources available to residents and the second outlining the benefits of green infrastructure in Central Ohio. He noted that this is the final year of the five-year permit term. He explained that he will be sending more information regarding post-construction efforts, noting that when a township has its own Zoning Resolution, the township is the zoning authority that would remedy any potential post-construction issues.

Mr. Ralph outlined the Franklin County Public Health's robust operations and maintenance program to ensure septic systems are working properly and, when they aren't, working with individuals to bring them back into compliance. He provided a handout regarding septic care in Spanish. He reminded residents that they should call if they witness anything that doesn't look or smell appropriately.

Append #002

David Conley, Rockmill Financial Consulting, LLC, will be providing updates to the Board

Mr. Conley continued his conversation from the meeting on September 24th, presenting additional financial analysis. He reminded the Trustees that the goal is to remain financially stable even when the community is experiencing change, and noted that using historical data will help develop a taxing policy to guide the current and future boards.

Mr. Conley provided a comparison of Washington Township to similarly-sized townships across Ohio, using data on population, population demographics, property values, and fire and EMS taxes. He noted that Washington Township is currently the seventh largest township in the state by population, but with the large growth it is experiencing, it will likely be fourth or fifth within the next decade. Washington Township is currently the largest township by property value and value per capita. Despite its size, he noted that Washington Township has the lowest property tax cost to residents as a percentage of income, at 0.459%, based on median values. This indicates Washington Township residents are getting a good value, and allows 1 mill to provide more, compared to other large townships.

Mr. Conley continued the discussion with a background on Washington Township's election history. He noted Washington Township has a 100% passing rate, something he has not seen in his over thirty-six year career.

Mr. Conley provided several recommendations to include in the policy that will assist in determining when to place a levy on the ballot, which type (new, renewal or replacement), and the length of the levy:

- Update the Annual Current Property Cost table annually;
- Consider a future benchmark comparing Washington Township fire levies to those of similarly-sized townships;
- Discuss pros and cons of changing the operating levy to continual.

Responding to comments by the Trustees on receiving complaints about fund balances in the past, Mr. Conley explained there is a statistical method to determine the threshold. He continued, stating the next steps will be to review the amount of money in the Fire and General Funds, complete a stress test on the General Fund to determine the minimum amount of money required, and analyze targeted Fire Fund revenues.

There was additional discussion regarding school levies, including the philosophy to avoid placing a fire levy on the ballot simultaneously with a school levy. Mr. Conley noted that generally school levies have a larger effect on taxpayers due to the traditionally larger millage. There will be a better understanding of the effects of the new property values on school levies following the November election. It was noted that the Dublin City School District was on the ballot in 2023, so will likely not have a ballot item in 2025.

Append #003

Resolution to Hire Colten B. Hinch as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION TO HIRE COLTEN B. HINCH AS A PART-TIME PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER / EMT-B

WHEREAS, Washington Township provides fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical services and other Township administrative duties to its constituents, and

WHEREAS, a need to fill a vacancy in the position of part-time firefighter, and

WHEREAS, to adequately provide services, it is necessary to fill the vacancy in the position, and

WHEREAS, the appointment is being recommended by the township administrator, human resource manager, and fire chief;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN, DELAWARE, AND UNION COUNTIES, OHIO THAT:

Section 1: The Board approves the hiring of:

Name:	Colten B. Hinch
Position:	Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B
Classification:	Uniformed / Part-Time Non-Exempt / Fire
Hourly Rate:	\$18.62

Effective date: October 31, 2024

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of the Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time permitted by law.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees that were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted October 22, 2024.

#2024.10.22.001

Append #004

Resolution to Hire Brittany T. Piening as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

Mr. Rozanski introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION TO HIRE BRITTANY T. PIENING AS A PART-TIME PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER / EMT-B

WHEREAS, Washington Township provides fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical services and other Township administrative duties to its constituents, and

WHEREAS, a need to fill a vacancy in the position of part-time firefighter, and

WHEREAS, to adequately provide services, it is necessary to fill the vacancy in the position, and

WHEREAS, the appointment is being recommended by the township administrator, human resource manager, and fire chief;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN, DELAWARE, AND UNION COUNTIES, OHIO THAT:

Section 1: The Board approves the hiring of:

Name: Brittany T. Piening

Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B

Classification: Uniformed / Part-Time Non-Exempt / Fire

Hourly Rate: \$18.62

Effective date: October 31, 2024

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of the Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time permitted by law.

Mr. Kranstuber seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees that were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted October 22, 2024.

#2024.10.22.002

Append #005

Resolution to Authorize and Direct the Township Administrator to Execute an Intergovernmental Construction Agreement between Washington Township and the City of Dublin for the Construction of a Shared Use Path on the South Side of Shier Rings Road

Motion:

Mr. Harris requested a motion to introduce the resolution. No motion was moved, and the resolution was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

Discussion:

The board requested additional information on the breakdown of funding for the shared use path, and how the amount to be paid by Washington Township was determined. Mr. Richter provided a brief history of the project, including the City of Dublin’s desire to join two existing paths to benefit residents. The figures are an estimate of the Township’s cost if no grant funding is received for the project. The amount includes the purchase of additional right of way should the City desire to widen Shier Rings Road in the future. Mr. Richter will request a more detailed breakdown of the right of way purchase estimate, to determine whether it significantly changes the cost of the project. Mr. Richter will also invite a representative from the City to a future meeting to further discuss the project and funding, and to address any additional questions the board may have. Append #006

Resolution to Accept the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and to Authorize the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor:

Motion:

Mr. Kranstuber introduced and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR (BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES) OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTIONS 5705.34, 5705.35

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio, in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Franklin County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted: and be it further

RESOLVED, that there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said Township the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation for tax year 2024 (collection year 2025) as follows:

SCHEDULE A

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

FUND	Amount to be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor’s Estimate of Full Tax Rate to Be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
General Fund		\$1,694,358.89	0.50	
Road & Bridge Fund				
Cemetery Fund				
Police Fund				
Fire Fund	\$22,080,788.56			14.95
Road District Fund				
General (Note)				
Bond Retirement				

TOTAL	\$22,080,788.56	\$1,694,358.89	0.50	14.95
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And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Officer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees that were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted October 22, 2024.

#2024.10.22.003
Append #007

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees that were present voting Aye.

#2024.10.22.004
Append #008

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as follows, seconded by Mr. Harris:

- Bills: October 15, 2024 \$ 141,482.38
- Payroll: October 11, 2024 \$ 457,552.89
- Transfers September 2024 \$ 5,000.00
- Monthly Financial Report September 2024

Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees that were present voting Aye.

#2024.10.22.005
Append #009

Round Table Discussions:

Township Administrator Eric Richter:

- Mr. Richter reminded the board that there will be an information meeting for Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals members on Monday, October 28, led by attorney Rebecca Princehorn. He welcomed the board to attend;
- Mr. Richter provided the board an invitation to attend the Franklin County Engineer’s annual meeting of Township and County authorities on Thursday, November 21;
- As requested at the previous Board of Trustees meeting, Mr. Richter, Chief O’Connell and Chief Donahue met with Joel Campbell regarding his desire to step down as Treasurer of the Levy Committee. Following the meeting, Mr. Richter spoke with Greg Peterson who agreed to serve in that capacity. Work will continue to determine a Deputy Treasurer, as well as another meeting date with Mr. Campbell to transfer responsibilities.

Chief Alec O’Connell:

- Chief O’Connell provided an update on the work of the Awards Committee, which has resumed since a hiatus during the pandemic. The board supported resuming the Awards Banquet as a great opportunity to acknowledge the department’s commitment to excellence. Chief O’Connell noted the tentative date will be January 30th at the Golf Club of Dublin;
- The department will be holding a poinsettia sale in November. Like the flower sale sponsored by the department in the spring, all proceeds will go to Honor Flight. Orders are only available online at www.HonorFlightFlowers.org. The deadline to order is Thursday, November 21st. Pickup will be at Station 91 on December 7th and 8th.

Assistant Chief John Donahue:

- Chief Donahue outlined working with the Secret Service while Vice Presidential Candidate J.D. Vance was in Dublin for several personal events on Tuesday and Thursday last week. He noted that Battalion Chiefs Riebel and Smith, along with Fire Marshal Parsons were instrumental in the planning, and he is proud of the department's personnel and actions;
- The Washington Township Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was adopted early in the year. The COOP provides a framework of actions should there be a disaster affecting operations. The department will be running a combination tabletop exercise covering the COOP and the IT Disaster Recovery Plan in the next month, to ensure personnel react as outlined in the plans. Tom Hirschy, Emergency Management from Dublin will assist;
- Christine Nardecchia, Director of Outreach and Engagement for the City of Dublin has scheduled several events with Citizens Academies, which will provide an opportunity for different citizen academies to interact with each other. Washington Township's event will be on March 20th;
- In response to Mr. Harris' questions, Chief Donahue indicated that the City's Spooktacular event went well, with several Citizens Fire Academy volunteers assisting in passing out candy at the WTFD tent.

Human Resources Manager Catherine Grossman:

- Ms. Grossman expressed her appreciation to Mr. Richter, Chiefs O'Connell and Donahue, Battalion Chiefs Harris, Smith and Reibel, and the Employee Communications Committee for their efforts in assisting her to revise the Employee Handbook. She noted it is nearly complete, and will be presented to the board prior to the end of the year;
- Ms. Grossman reminded the board that annual performance reviews are in the process of being completed;
- Ms. Grossman is also working on vision and medical insurance renewals, which will be presented to the board in November. With the renewals, the required annual Open Enrollment for employees will be coming up;
- Ms. Grossman will provide a memo at the next meeting outlining an opportunity to increase vision benefits for a nominal amount;
- Todd Bollinger with CBIZ will attend the next meeting to outline renewals. He is currently negotiating the stop-loss rate, noting that being self-insured realizes a large savings for the Township;
- Ms. Grossman stated that many comparable departments are slow to respond to the compensation study this year, many responding a 3% increase simply because they are not certain what they will do yet. She will continue collecting data to present to the board with a recommendation at a future meeting;
- Ms. Grossman informed the board that Lt. Larger is currently working on two Bureau of Workers' Compensation grants, the first is a grant for an automated hose roller. If a grant is approved, it will be presented to the board.

Fiscal Officer Scott Melody:

- Mr. Melody expressed his appreciation to the board for approving the rates by the Budget Commission, and to Mr. Richter for having the resolution prepared ahead of time;
- Mr. Melody will be attending the Center for Public Investment Management training at the Fawcett Center on Thursday, October 24th.

Trustee Jan Rozanski:

- Mr. Rozanski drew attention to the Washington Township election history Mr. Conley provided earlier in the meeting. He commended Chief O'Connell and the department for their exceptional

work which elicits such a positive response from Washington Township residents. Chief O'Connell expressed that he will share Mr. Rozanski's sentiments in the upcoming Department Update meetings with crews, and thanked the board for providing the tools that allow the department to be so successful.

Executive Session – Personnel – To Discuss the Employment and Compensation of a Public Employee Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1)

Motion by Mr. Rozanski, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment and compensation of a public employee per the request of the Chairman, pursuant to ORC#121.22(G)(1) at approximately 7:21 p.m. #2024.10.22.006

Reconvene and Adjourn Meeting:

The Board reconvened the meeting from Executive Session with no action taken. Motion by Mr. Rozanski, seconded by Mr. Harris, to adjourn the meeting of October 22, 2024 at approximately 8:00 p.m. #2024.10.22.007

Mr. Stu Harris, Chair

Mr. Scott Melody, Fiscal Officer