

Minutes of January 28, 2025

Record of Proceedings

The Washington Township Board of Trustees regularly scheduled meeting held at Washington Township Administration Building, 6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin, Ohio, on January 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., with Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chairman, calling the meeting to order, and it opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call – Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chair – Present

Mr. Charles Kranstuber, Vice Chair – Absent

Mr. Stu Harris, Trustee – Present

Franklin County Deputy Sheriff's Report:

Deputy Burton Haren with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) submitted a verbal report to the Trustees for the period of January 14 through January 28, 2025, including an update on the following:

- There were no thefts reported within the township;
- Deputy Haren noted that the Columbus Police Department is working on vehicle thefts at hotels in the Crosswoods and Easton areas, similar to incidences in the Metro Place area of Dublin. CPD also suspects juveniles are responsible for the thefts, with around sixty (60) guns stolen from vehicles across the city;
- Deputy Haren continues to monitor the Cosgray Road area south of Rings Road for reports of excessive speed.

Opportunity for Residents to Speak:

Ms. Amy Kramb, City of Dublin Councilwoman and liaison to Washington Township, communicated that Dublin City Council has met twice so far this year, with nothing substantial related to the Township. She also announced that the annual State of the City will be held Thursday, March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Resolution to Declare Intent to Proceed with Election on the Question of Renewal of a Tax in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation:

Discussion:

Mr. Richter explained that this is the second of two (2) resolutions required by the Board of Trustees to place a tax levy on the May 6 ballot.

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING INTENT TO PROCEED WITH ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF RENEWAL OF A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION (R.C. Sections 5705.03, 5705.19, 5705.191 and 5705.25)

Renewal Fire Levy

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2025, the Board passed a resolution (the "Resolution of Necessity") declaring the necessity to levy a renewal tax (the "Renewal Levy") in excess of the ten-mill limitation at the rate of 8.25 mills for each \$1 of taxable value for five years, for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm communications, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or fire-fighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of the firefighters employer's contribution required under Section 742.34 of the Revised Code, or to purchase ambulance equipment, or to provide ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or fire-fighting company; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Auditor (the "County Auditor") has certified to the Board that the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the Renewal Levy during the first year of collection is \$18,351,000, based on the current total taxable value of the Township of \$3,421,581,970;

WHEREAS, the County Auditor has also certified to the Board that the amount of the Renewal Levy

expressed in dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar, for each \$100,000 of the “county auditor’s appraised value” (as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.01(P)), is \$176 (the “Estimated Cost”) (based on the Renewal Levy’s “estimated effective rate” (as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.01(Q), as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03(B)(2)(c)(i);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Township of Washington, Franklin, Delaware and Union Counties, Ohio, two thirds of all of the members elected thereto concurring, that:

Section 1: The Board desires to proceed with the submission of the question of the Renewal Levy to all of the electors of the Township at the rate of 8.25 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which the County Auditor has certified at the Estimated Cost for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value.

Section 2: As authorized by Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.19(I) and 5705.191, the question of such Renewal Levy shall be submitted to all of the electors in the entire territory of the Township at the election to be held therein on May 6, 2025 (the “Election Date”). All of the territory of the Township is in Franklin, Delaware and Union Counties, Ohio.

Section 3: The form of the ballot to be used at said election shall be substantially as follows:
“A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Township of Washington, Franklin, Delaware and Union Counties, Ohio for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm communications, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or fire-fighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of the firefighters employer’s contribution required under Section 742.34 of the Revised Code, or to purchase ambulance equipment, or to provide ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or fire-fighting company, that the county auditor estimates will collect \$18,351,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 8.25 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$176 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value, for five years, commencing in 2025, first due in calendar year 2026.”

	FOR THE TAX LEVY
	AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

Section 4: The Township Fiscal Officer is hereby directed and shall certify, not later than February 5, 2025 (which date is not less than 90 days prior to the Election Date), to the Franklin County Board of Elections a copy of the Resolution of Necessity, and a copy of this resolution together with the certificate of the County Auditor certifying the current total taxable value of the Township, the estimated property tax revenue that will be produced by the Renewal Levy based on such total taxable value, and the amount of the Renewal Levy expressed in dollars for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value.

Section 5: The Township Fiscal Officer is hereby directed and shall also certify to the Franklin County Board of Elections, that the renewal tax levy will be for the following period of time: five years and that such levy will include a levy on the current year’s tax list (commencing in 2025, first due in calendar year 2026), if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of

this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision-making bodies of the Board which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect and be in force as the earliest time permitted in law.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted January 28, 2025. #2025.01.28.001

Append #001

Resolution to Support the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250-OH):

Discussion:

Mr. Richter explained he continues to work with the City of Dublin on the America-250 initiative, and the intent of this resolution is to apply for grant money toward the project. America-250 is a celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. Ms. Krumb noted that America-250 will likely be used as a theme for the Independence Day Parade.

Motion:

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES (FRANKLIN, DELAWARE AND UNION COUNTIES), OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH)

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature and Governor created AMERICA250-OH in 2021 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Ohio's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present and future, and; WHEREAS, AMERICA250-OH hopes to engage ALL Ohioans and ALL 88 counties through their many signature and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the next several years by inspiring future leaders and celebrating all Ohioans contributions to the nation over the last 250 years, and; WHEREAS, by adoption of AMERICA250-OH Resolution we hope to educate, preserve, innovate, and celebrate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, Franklin, Delaware, and Union Counties, State of Ohio:

Section 1: The Board of Trustees hereby endorses AMERICA250-OH and their mission to educate, preserve, innovate and celebrate EVERY Ohioan in EVERY county.

Section 2: The Board of Trustees hereby directs the Township Administrator to submit a copy of this resolution to the Municipal legislative delegation and AMERICA250-OH Commission.

Section 3: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision making bodies of the Board of Trustees which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted January 28, 2025.

#2025.01.28.002

Append #002

Motion to Purchase a Polaris Ranger Crew XP1000 from Polaris Sales Inc., at a Cost Not to Exceed \$29,050:

Motion:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and approve the purchase of a Polaris Rangers Crew XP1000 from Polaris Sales Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$29,050, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. #2025.01.28.003
Append #003

Motion to Authorize the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Sutphen Corporation for the Change Order Dated January 8, 2025 at a Cost Not to Exceed \$29,340:

Discussion:

Assistant Chief Donahue explained that this change order is for the engine scheduled to be delivered this summer, which was originally quoted in 2022. He noted this change order includes a larger number of modifications than previously ordered apparatus due to crews recognizing modifications that will increase efficiency after utilizing new apparatus over the last several years.

Motion:

Mr. Harris moved to introduce and authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Sutphen Corporation for the change order dated January 8, 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$29,340, seconded by Mr. Rozanski. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. #2025.01.28.004
Append #004

Motion to Authorize the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Heritage Fire Equipment for the Purchase of the New Sutphen Engine Compartment Configuration at a Cost Not to Exceed \$35,130:

Discussion:

Assistant Chief Donahue explained these costs are for mounting the brackets, shelving and other devices on the new engine to be delivered this summer.

Motion:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Heritage Fire Equipment for the purchase of the new Sutphen engine compartment configuration at a cost not to exceed \$35,130, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. #2025.01.28.005
Append #005

Motion to Update the Washington Township Injury Leave Policy:

Discussion:

Ms. Grossman noted that the update to the Injury Leave Policy was prompted by Township attorney Brandt Rhoad when he attended the board meeting in December. Additionally, the change was discussed with the Employee Communications Committee.

Motion:

Mr. Harris moved to introduce and update the Washington Township Injury Leave Policy, seconded by Mr. Rozanski. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. #2025.01.28.006
Append #006

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and approve the minutes from the January 14, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees who were present voting Aye. #2025.01.28.007

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:

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

- Bills: December 31, 2024 \$ 104,919.71
- Bills: January 10, 2025 \$ 40,675.40
- Transfers December 2024 \$ 30,623.00
- Payroll: January 17, 2025 \$ 692,353.10

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

#2025.01.28.008

Append #008

Round Table Discussions:**Township Administrator Eric Richter:**

- Mr. Richter informed the board that there will be a meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals on Wednesday, February 5 at the Washington Township Administration Building at 6 p.m. to hear two (2) variance requests for a residential swimming pool at 5922 Dublin Road. The first request is for a variance to the minimum required setback and the second is to request a variance to the fencing requirements around the pool. The board expressed concern over the second request to use an automated pool cover in lieu of a fence;
- Mr. Richter reminded the board that one of the goals for 2025 is to review the Township Zoning Resolution to include potential updates regarding solar panels, solar farms, and wind farms, among other topics. He indicated there may be grant funds available for the project;
- Mr. Richter received an email from the Board of Elections, which stated the State will pay at least half the cost to place an issue on the Primary ballot on May 6. He outlined that half the cost is around \$1,250 per precinct. Washington Township has roughly twenty (20) precincts in Franklin, four (4) in Delaware and two (2) in Union Counties, which will equate to just over \$32,000 to place the levy on the ballot if the State elects to charge back other levy ballot issues;
- Mr. Richter provided the board information from Bricker Graydon, LLP. The information outlines what actions are permitted and prohibited by public officials and staff during a levy campaign;
- The fact sheet used for the 2020 levy was provided. Mr. Richter confirmed the sheet will be updated following certification from the Board of Elections;
- Mr. Richter provided an update on the Township's 2024 health insurance claims, with the Township spending around \$2.4 million which is \$589,000 less than budgeted. Calculated using averages over the past five (5) years, it equates to roughly 2.8% annual increases over the five (5) year period.

Assistant Chief John Donahue:

- Chief Donahue provided an update of the 2024 WTFD Strategic Goals. He noted there were only a few incomplete goals that will be carried into 2025;
- The next quarterly meeting of the DEI Advisory group will be held next month. Several of the initiatives developed through the committee have already been enacted, including a part-time hiring process twice a year and plans for a presentation of the hiring process to students in the Firefighting and EMS programs at Tolles Career and Technical Center and the Delaware Area Career Center;
- Chief Donahue reminded the board of the Evening of Excellence awards banquet scheduled for January 30 at the Golf Club of Dublin. He provided a summary of several of the awards to be presented at the banquet;

- Chief Donahue described issues preventing the training tower from being fixed last year, and was happy to report that it was completed in December. He noted that all WTFD firefighters have completed burn training in the tower since it has been fixed;
- Chief Donahue provided an update on the error by Medicount, the Township's new EMS billing partner. There were a total of 1,570 responses with an error causing residents to be billed. Only 175 of those had been invoiced, and of those, only eight (8) had been paid. A letter will be sent to all residents who were invoiced to refund their money or request them to ignore the invoice they received. Medicount will be paying the \$1,803.34 in refunds;
- An analysis of billing rates will be completed in the coming weeks, and Chief Donahue anticipates providing a recommendation to the board in February.

Human Resources Manager Catherine Grossman:

- Following the most recent part-time hiring process, thirteen (13) candidates were provided employment offers contingent on the background check process. Ms. Grossman anticipates presenting the resolutions to hire the successful candidates in late February or early March;
- There were sixteen (16) responses to the Assistant Fire Chief job posting, of those, five (5) did not meet the minimum qualifications. The remaining eleven (11) candidates will be interviewed via a Zoom call tomorrow and Thursday, January 30. An assessment center of the potential candidates will be held on Thursday, February 6. Ms. Grossman will provide updates to the board as the search narrows.

Fiscal Officer Scott Melody:

- Mr. Melody confirmed that the fiscal year 2024 was closed;
- The Dublin Business Advisory Council will hold their meeting at the Township Administration Building on April 22. He confirmed that all trustees may attend, but may not hold any official business during the meeting.

Trustee Stu Harris:

- Mr. Harris expressed his appreciation to Mr. Richter, Ms. Grossman and Mr. Melody for their assistance with a student intern from the DCS Co-op. Mr. Richter noted that he has invited the student to attend the next Dublin-250 meeting at Emerald Campus.

Adjourn Meeting:

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Rozanski, to adjourn the meeting of January 28, 2025 at approximately 6:53 p.m.

#2025.01.28.009

Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chair

Mr. Scott Melody, Fiscal Officer