

Minutes of February 25, 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 February 25, 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 – Present

Mr. Stu Harris, 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 February 11 through February 25, 2025, including an update on the following:

- During this period, there were eighteen (18) Total Calls for Service / Self-Initiated Activity, two (2) Total Reports Taken, and one (1) Total Arrests / Citations.
 - The FCSO now has a mobile app to provide important notifications, such as road closures, major crimes and snow emergencies;
 - Deputy Haren has been working with a business on Cosgray whose security alarm was inadvertently creating false alarms. The issue has been corrected. Append #001

Opportunity for Residents to Speak:

No comments.

Ms. Sara Harrison-Mills, CEO of Syntero:

Ms. Harrison-Mills provided a brief background on herself, having worked at Syntero for over fourteen (14) years before becoming the CEO in August of 2024. Ms. Harrison-Mills provided annual updates to the Board, including statistics on behavioral health and social services Syntero provided to Franklin County residents in 2024, as well as a breakdown of services provided to Dublin residents via the Public Safety Services Liaison (PSSL). Washington Township recently partnered with Syntero to expand the work of the PSSL with Dublin Police Department to include Washington Township Fire Department. This program allows first responders to refer cases to the PSSL for follow up on behavioral health and social services. Responding to questions from Mr. Rozanski, Chief Donahue confirmed the partnership was initiated to meet the needs of residents past the initial emergency response of WTFD crews by facilitating a connection between residents in need and subject matter experts.

Ms. Harrison-Mills expressed her appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their continued support, and noted that all funding goes directly into the behavioral health and social services provided to the community. Append #002

Resolution to Conclude Michael E. Behrendt's Employment as a Part-Time Firefighter / Paramedic to Accept Full-Time Employment Elsewhere:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION CONCLUDING MICHAEL E. BEHRENDT'S EMPLOYMENT AS A PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER / PARAMEDIC

WHEREAS, the Board of Township Trustees of Washington Township hired Michael E. Behrendt on June 1, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees for Washington Township recognizes Michael E. Behrendt has voluntarily resigned from his position to accept full-time employment elsewhere.

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 approves the resignation of:

Name: Michael E. Behrendt
Position / Department: Firefighter-Paramedic / Fire
Classification: Part-Time
Effective date: March 1, 2025

Section 2: Michael E. Behrendt is eligible for rehire;

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.

Section 4: All prior legislation, or any parts thereof, which is/are inconsistent with this Resolution is/are hereby repealed as to the inconsistent parts thereof.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.001

Append #003

Resolution to Hire Joseph C. Baker as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION TO HIRE JOSEPH C. BAKER 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: Joseph C. Baker
Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B
Classification: Uniformed / Part-Time Non-Exempt / Fire
Hourly Rate: \$19.17
Effective date: March 6, 2025

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. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.002

Append #004

Resolution to Hire Alonzo V. Bush as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION TO HIRE ALONZO V. BUSH 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: Alonzo V. Bush

Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B

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

Hourly Rate: \$19.17

Effective date: March 6, 2025

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. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.003

Append #005

Resolution to Hire Brody M. McLaughlin as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION TO HIRE BRODY M. McLAUGHLIN 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: Brody M. McLaughlin

Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B

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

Hourly Rate: \$19.17

Effective date: March 6, 2025

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. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.004
Append #006

Resolution to Hire Colby M. Simkins as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION TO HIRE COLBY M. SIMKINS 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: Colby M. Simkins

Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B

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

Hourly Rate: \$19.17

Effective date: March 6, 2025

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. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.005
Append #007

Resolution to Hire Blake O. Wilfong as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION TO HIRE BLAKE O. WILFONG 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: Blake O. Wilfong

Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B
Classification: Uniformed / Part-Time Non-Exempt / Fire
Hourly Rate: \$19.17
Effective date: March 6, 2025

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. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.006
Append #008

Resolution to Zachary T. Zinser as a Part-Time Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B:

Motion:

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

RESOLUTION TO HIRE ZACHARY T. ZINSER 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: Zachary T. Zinser
Position: Probationary Firefighter / EMT-B
Classification: Uniformed / Part-Time Non-Exempt / Fire
Hourly Rate: \$19.17
Effective date: March 6, 2025

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. Rozanski seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025. #2025.02.25.007
Append #009

Resolution to Authorize and Direct Reimbursement to Syntero, Incorporated in Support of Community Services:

Motion:

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

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING REIMBURSEMENT TO SYNTERO, INCORPORATED IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

WHEREAS, Syntero, Incorporated is an advocate and supports the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities by providing professional, compassionate behavioral health and social services that adapt to the changing needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, Washington Township also supports the services offered by Syntero, Incorporated and all that they do for the community; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Township has provided financial support to Syntero, Incorporated in the amount of \$50,000, or \$1.00 per Washington Township Resident (estimated population of 50,223); and WHEREAS, if there is a special funding need for a new program offered by Syntero, Incorporated in the future and there is a need for additional funding, Syntero, Incorporated can then request additional funding from the Township.

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 of Washington Township hereby authorizes and directs the Fiscal Officer to reimburse Syntero, Incorporated an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to support the above causes as stated.

Section 2: 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. Kranstuber seconded the motion, and the roll was called, and all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye. Resolution adopted February 25, 2025.

#2025.02.25.008

Append #010

Motion to Authorize the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Stryker for the Purchase of a Stryker PowerLoad Cot, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$69,900:

Mr. Rozanski moved to introduce and authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Stryker for the purchase of a Stryker PowerLoad Cot, at a cost not to exceed \$69,900, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye.

#2025.02.25.009

Append #011

Motion to Authorize the Township Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Strategic Sourcing, Inc. for the Purchase of Three (3) Getac Fully Rugged Tablets and Accessories, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$12,540:

Mr. Kranstuber moved to introduce and authorize the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement with Strategic Sourcing, Inc. for the purchase of three (3) Getac Fully Rugged Tablets and accessories, at a cost not to exceed \$12,540, seconded by Mr. Harris. Motion passed with all members of the Washington Township Trustees whom were present voting Aye.

#2025.02.25.010

Append #012

Motion to Replace the Community Safety Educator Position with the Community Safety Liaison Position and Job Description, and Maintaining Classification in Existing Pay Band:

Discussion:

Following the resignation of Community Safety Educator Sara Hall in January, Mr. Richter explained the position was reevaluated internally. Chief Donahue noted the revised position of Community Safety Liaison will still focus on education through CPR instruction, and teaching fire safety and risk reduction. However, the position will also serve in a community outreach capacity.

potential for the Township to revise the language to improve clarity, Mr. Richter will review the language of the recently passed legislation by the General Assembly. However, he advised it is unlikely the Township is able to edit the language.

Chief Alec O'Connell:

- The Board and Mr. Richter expressed their sincere appreciation to Chief O'Connell for his years of service to Washington Township, emphasizing his outstanding leadership.

Assistant Chief John Donahue:

- Chief Donahue displayed a map to the trustees indicating the location of private hydrants within Washington Township, a total of 694 are known. He explained the public hydrants are painted solid green, while the private hydrants are green with a white cap. He outlined the process for the Prevention Bureau to require proof of inspection for private hydrants during annual inspections of commercial properties, which make those hydrants easier to track than hydrants owned by individuals or located on private streets. Chief Donahue provided the example of a private hydrant being serviced in April of 2024, with the Prevention Bureau working directly with the Homeowner's Association (HOA) Secretary. There was discussion around the Township's rights if a property owner does not comply with the requirement. Chief Donahue indicated he will continue to work with Deputy Fire Marshal Chad Hamilton and the City of Dublin on a process to document and track private hydrants not located on commercial property within the Township to ensure they are properly maintained, and will keep the Board informed of progress;
- Chief Donahue was happy to announce three (3) WTFD Firefighter/Paramedics will be recognized by OSU for their exemplary work on a cardiac run in July of 2024;
- Several WTFD Firefighters are scheduled to participate in a study by OSU and several other universities comparing structural firefighters to wildland firefighters;
- Chief Donahue expressed his appreciation to Dublin City Council for their presentation at the February 18 meeting, in recognition of Chief O'Connell for the outstanding service he has provided the community. He noted that he was in attendance with Chief O'Connell, Mr. Richter and Mr. Kranstuber. Chief O'Connell provided his official retirement date to WTFD Firefighters during the Chief Updates he and Chief Donahue presented to crews and the Prevention Bureau;
- With the Dublin Police Department (DPD) drone initiative, Chief Donahue notified the Board that DPD identified the Township Administration Building as a site for one of the drones to be stored for deployment;
- The internal DEI Advisory committee was created as an initiative of the 2024 Diversity Committee, and held its second meeting last week. The group continues to progress with great discussion surrounding recruitment strategies. In preparation for the upcoming hiring process, Chief Donahue is meeting with various educational institutes that offer fire curriculum, including Tolles Career and Technical Center, Columbus State and Delaware Area Career Center. He noted that one of the students and the instructor at Columbus State reached out following his visit to express their appreciation;
- Chief Donahue updated the Board on several individuals who created social media accounts that appeared to be connected to WTFD. He indicated there was no malicious intent and both individuals removed their accounts after being contacted. He reminded the group to please reach out if they see anything Township related while on social media that is not through the Township's official channels;
- Chief Donahue returned the Board's attention to a conversation following the motion to approve a change order request at the January 28 meeting. He compared the cost of the

apparatus, around \$654,000, to the cost of the most recent apparatus acquisition by the City of Columbus, at around \$863,000. He emphasized that WTFD does not purchase exclusive pieces of equipment and great care is taken to buy functional apparatus while remaining good stewards of tax funds.

Human Resources Manager Catherine Grossman:

- Ms. Grossman was unexpectedly called away before providing updates, Mrs. Lawler provided the following information:
- The Assistant Chief hiring process is continuing with in-person interviews of the three (3) potential candidates on Thursday;
- Orientation for the newly hired Part-Time Firefighters will be Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7. Mr. Richter invited any interested Trustee(s) to attend and swear-in the new hires at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 6 as Mr. Harris had previously expressed interest;
- With approval of the Community Safety Liaison position and description during the meeting, the search to fill that position will begin;
- The process to create a Part-Time to Full-Time list is nearly complete.

Trustee Chuck Kranstuber:

- Mr. Kranstuber commended Ms. Amy Kramb, Dublin City Councilwoman and liaison to Washington Township, for the recognition of Chief O'Connell and Joel Campbell at the February 18 Council meeting;
- Mr. Kranstuber inquired on the diversity of the recently hired Part-Time Firefighters. Chief Donahue confirmed one successful minority applicant in this hiring process, with another being offered but having already accepted full-time employment elsewhere. Chief Donahue indicated the lack of applicants was the impetus to increase presence in educational institutions in alignment with graduation dates of the fire program.

Trustee Stu Harris:

- Mr. Harris, Mr. Melody and Mr. Richter attended the Dublin Chamber Economic Forecast Breakfast at OhioHealth Dublin earlier in the day. While there, Mr. Harris spoke with the CEO to organize a tour of the ER, new facilities and Trauma level 3 unit. He will pass along the details when it is scheduled. Mr. Kranstuber expressed interest in attending;
- Mr. Harris expressed his appreciation to Mr. Richter for attending a meeting with the YPA and Co-op advisor at Dublin City Schools Emerald Campus.

Adjourn Meeting:

Motion by Mr. Rozanski, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber, to adjourn the meeting of February 25, 2025 at approximately 7:22 p.m.

#2025.02.25.017

Mr. Jan Rozanski, Chair

Mr. Scott Melody, Fiscal Officer