

## **Franklin County Township Association**

### **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**April 8, 2021, 6-7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

The meeting was opened by President Chet Chaney at 6pm, immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron Grossman, Treasurer, provided a financial report, the association's current balance is \$5,283.42. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion provided by Vice President Nancy White and seconded by Trustee Rich Courter (Jefferson Township). Mr. Grossman provided an update from the Ohio Township Association on the annual membership process: The 2021/22 membership invoices will be going out in April/May and due May/June. The OTA Membership is due June 30th. The FCTA membership dues are \$15.00 for all members, plus OTA's \$40 for elected officials and \$10 for all Associate members. The county Membership Coordinators OTA training webinar is Friday, April 23, 2021. The OTA would like us to update our own membership rosters online this year.

Secretary Laura Kunze provided the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting. Trustee Joe Martin (Brown Township) moved to approve the minutes, the motion received a second from Fiscal Officer Grossman and was passed. The appointments to the OPWC - District 3 Board was raised and the current members, Nancy White, Joe Martin, and Ron Grossman (Alternate) expressed interest in continuing to serve on the board. A motion to reappoint these members was made by Nancy Hunter (Pleasant Township) and seconded by Laura Kunze (Sharon Township) and the motion passed. A letter will be sent to MORPC as to this action.

Chet stated that Franklin County had slipped into the "Purple" category for COVID-19 status. Ken Wilson (County Administrator) and Jeanine Hummer (Assistant County Prosecutor) both provided updates on activities from Franklin County. Tentative date for the Legislative Roundtable is Sept 9, 2021. Motion was made by Joe Martin to adjourn the FCTA business meeting at 6:20pm, which was seconded by Nancy Hunter and motion to adjourn was passed.

The remaining portion of the program addressed the issues surrounding "Broadband", with the following guest speakers:

- Lindsay Miller - An attorney and partner with ICE Miller (Columbus). Ms. Miller has nearly fifteen years of experience in the technology field. She has a reputation in the broadband and telecommunications arena of being a strong advocate with a successful track record in building relationships with public and private sector stakeholders. Ms. Miller regularly advises local governments on how to utilize Public-Private Partnerships for fiber and Wi-Fi expansion.

- State Representative Rick Carfagna (Genoa Township, Delaware County) - COLUMBUS, Ohio — Rep. Carfagna is the sponsor of House Bill 2, which passed out of the Ohio House of Representatives on February 18, 2021. H.B. 2 will create Ohio's first ever Residential Broadband Expansion Program providing grants (\$210 million over a three-year period) to offset construction cost and help facilitate the expansion of high-speed internet and all broadband services to underserved Ohio households. H.B. 2 works to target the problem of last mile connectivity to households where it remains cost-prohibitive for private providers to otherwise extend their service. The legislation also contains critical industry reforms designed to drive increased private investment of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.
- Stephanie Megas (Spectrum) & Christopher Wyche (ATT) - Internet Assistance Programs are planning to be made available to eligible households across the country to provide low-cost broadband options for eligible families and seniors. Helping bridge the digital divide for families through these programs is creating life-changing opportunities, allowing residents to connect with school and complete homework, apply for jobs, or start their own businesses.