

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:10pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. DFPO Richard Smith was excused from the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio reported on statistics for January. A total of 281 calls for service were answered in Franklin Township during January including, but not limited to, calls for shoplifters, domestic situations, missing persons, assists to other agencies, premise checks, traffic stops and warrant service. Additionally, Det. DeSerio stated that the department is in possession of a portable radar sign to use throughout the county and a covert traffic count box that can be mounted to entity owned property to count cars and record the speed they are traveling on a given road. He will be in touch with Dave Akerley to determine the best places to mount this box as a traffic calming solution.
- Jill Grimm – 1509 Merrill – asked the trustees what the protocol is to address dark streets in need of streetlights throughout the Twin Lakes area, as residents have brought concerns forth to the Twin Lakes Association. Scott Swan responded that the most effective process will be to first identify areas that need addressed, make comparisons of other areas in the entire township, determine costs to have streetlights installed and possibly make use of NOPEC grant awards to help.

#### ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file in the township office as official record. Additionally, there was discussion regarding Hudson Road Phases IV and V. At a meeting Monday, February 12, 2024, Glenn Russell, Dave Akerley, and Jenny August met with Mike Collins and PC Engineer Larry Jenkins to discuss a significant increase in the estimate given by the county office last year. An additional \$117,000 will be added to the new estimate, bringing the Franklin Township portion of the total project cost to \$788,259 including 10% contingency. Discussion followed about whether or not to proceed with bidding the project out. Hudson Road qualifies as an AMATS road as a high traffic thoroughfare. AMATS projects usually run about 2-3 years out from application to award. Mrs. Kapusta will make follow up contact with representatives at AMATS and with the City of Kent engineer Jim Boling to further investigate this as a possible alternative. The trustees will be prepared to make a decision on whether to proceed or scrap the final two phases. Should they decide to not move forward Franklin Township would lose \$65,000 in engineering fees but save nearly \$725,000. Glenn Russell asked Mr. Akerley to prepare a vehicle condition report for trustees so that decisions can be made on whether or not to replace one or more chase or transport vehicles used by the road department that are in poor condition currently. A meeting is pending next week to meet with county engineer representatives, the Germaine Reserve developer, Mr. Akerley, and Mr. Russell to review the punch list of repairs that were to be completed before handing over jurisdiction of the roads in that development and dedicating them as township roads. Speed signage and the possibility of snow event parking ban signs will be discussed due to the configuration of the roads, cul-de-sacs, and short driveways in Germaine Reserve.

#### ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township hall as official record. There was a question of an outdoor seating request made by a business owner planning to open a Strickland's Ice Cream store. There is no provision on outdoor seating in the township code. The trustees asked Mr. Ciccozzi to put together a plan for this business and present it for their approval.

Also, the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities wishes to erect two dugouts at Brady Lake Park to be used for the Special Olympics endeavors. Upon the direction of the county building department these will be considered accessory buildings and a permit will be issued as such and the fee will be waived.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2024-07** – authorizing all actions necessary to accept the NOPEC 2024 Energized Community Grant was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- **Resolution 2024-08** – appointing Scott Stiegemeier as a permanent member of the Franklin Township Zoning Commission for the vacant term ending February 19, 2029 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.
- **Resolution 2024-09** – appointing Travis Copen as a permanent member of the Franklin Township Zoning Commission for the vacant term ending February 19, 2025 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.
- **Resolution 2024-10** – appointing Bahman Taheri to the Kent Franklin Joint Economic Development District Board of Directors was approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

An invitation was extended by the Portage County Commissioners to county residents to Coffee With the Commissioners at the Brimfield Family Restaurant on February 27, 2024 at 9:00am.

FINANCE REPORT

Submitted as written by Lisé Russell and is on file at town hall as official record. Payment of bills, warrants #26275 through 26283, including payment vouchers and totaling \$90,676.30 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. Also, **Resolution 2024-06** – a resolution to proceed with the placement of a Fire levy replacement with an increase (from 3.42mils to 3.5mils) which will generate an estimated \$726,000 annually was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 9:05pm the meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_