

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, June 25, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Bids for the OPWC Sixth and Ohio Project were opened as scheduled at 7:00pm. The bids opened are as follows:

• Perrin Asphalt	\$258,937.00	Bond sheet present
• Phillips Paving	\$248,166.00	Bond sheet present
• Ronyak Paving	\$286,676.00	Bond sheet present
• Barbica's Construction	\$275,821.00	Bond sheet present
• Karvo Construction	\$265,179.75	Bond sheet present
• Cardinal Asphalt Co.	\$238,779.00	Bond sheet present

A motion to accept the bid from Cardinal asphalt Co., pending review of the bid packet for accuracy and compliance with requirements of the county engineer's office was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

A motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- PCSO Detective Nick DeSerio reported statistics from May 2024 as an assortment of calls for suspicious persons, warrants served, juvenile complaints, assists to other agencies including 911 calls, welfare checks, traffic stops, informational calls and alarms, among others, for a total of 384 calls for service answered in Franklin Township. Scott Swan asked Detective DeSerio about an uptick across entities in festival instances of disorderly behavior and how the department is addressing it. Several annual festival activities in Portage County were addressed – the Potato Festival, Ox Roast, Summer Festival, and the Portage County Fair. The sheriff's office provides generalized support at the fair from opening to close annually and at other festivals when requested. It is considered the responsible thing to do to have law enforcement at these types of events and asking for that support is encouraged. Then security and destructive/suspect activity at Franklin Township parks was discussed. Recently, a hunting type knife was found on the slide at the Brady Lake Park playground. The road crew member removed it from the slide, turned in to the superintendent who turned it over to the office. The county sheriff's office was called and a report was made; a deputy confiscated the blade at the time. Due to the line of possession being compromised and prints likely being unable to be verified, the investigation will continue but likely be unproductive. Ways to handle something a find of this type in the future were discussed and protocols will be put in place to protect the scene of such an incident should it occur in the future. At the request of trustees, Detective DeSerio will request that more frequent patrols around the parks be made. Also, Dave Akerley asked if some type of class or training could be provided to the road crew so that they know what to look for, what to do in a case of finding an illegal item on public township property, and how best to handle situations that could arise. Detective DeSerio assured him that something like that could be most likely be arranged. Glenn Russell will keep working with the road department and Detective DeSerio in determining the best scenario for security lighting and cameras for our parks.
- Hal Lehman – 2218 Leonard Blvd – mentioned that his wife frequently walks along the lakeshore around Brady Lake and often finds used and discarded hypodermic needles and uses gloves to gather them and dispose of them. The road crew will make sure trash cans are available at the lake area for disposal of trash.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, lighting at Brady Lake Park was discussed. The meter base will need upgraded to handle additional lights. Also, The Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities has grant money available that could benefit local communities. Jenny August filled out a grant application for a \$38,000 grant to cover the cost of paving the parking lot at Brady Lake Park. It was approved and the entire cost of \$38,000 will be reimbursed to the township after the project is complete. After receiving a quote from ProTree regarding removal of trees at Phillips Park for \$14,900, it was noted that the quote is \$5300 more than the quote received earlier from Falls Tree Service.

A motion to use Falls Tree service was made by Glenn Russell; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes. A township resident interested in mowing and doing some seasonal work for the township approached the road superintendent. The trustees advised him to have her come in and fill out an application.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at the township office as part of the official record. Mr. Ciccozzi was excused from tonight's meeting due to a conflict event he needed to attend.

FIRE UPDATE

Richard Smith reported the following:

- He investigated an open burn complaint this evening on North Blvd. and determined the burn was legal. He relayed his findings to the complainant.
- He is in regular contact with the electrician working with Ming Cheng owners to get their breakers into compliance.
- The fire gear grant applied for by the city has not yet been awarded; the department purchased ne keyboards for all tablets used; the Spitzer property issue is status quo; and TITAN USA has been issued an occupancy permit but Mr. Smith has had trouble contacting anyone who works there. Mrs. Kapusta shared the owner's contact information with him.
- Discussion regarding the siren located Ravenna Rd and its function led to the suggestion that either Signal Service or Mitchell Communication be called to inspect the tower to see if it is usable before seeing if it can be hooked up to Motorola for activation in case of weather emergencies. Also, Mr. Smith will contact Portage Parks or Ryan Shackelford at Emergency Management to find the location of a siren tower at Towner's Woods he cannot locate.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A solicitation letter from Kevlar Investments was received asking to purchase a 19.86 acre parcel that a portion of Brady Lake sits on. The trustees chose to disregard the offer to buy.
- Mrs. Kapusta received contact from a realtor with an interest to purchase a parcel zoned commercial along Brady Lake Road for \$38,000. No interest was shown by the trustees.
- Lynn Duffy asked that the road department fill in gravel or something at the turn from Diagonal Road onto Walnut where plowing has caused gravel to erode. Mr. Akerley will address it.
- Wendy Cline contacted Glenn Russell asking if Knoll Circle could be paved to assist her in walking and with her wheelchair due to the rest of Knoll Rd. being paved recently. He explained that it was determined that her portion of the road was not failing and the expense wasn't justified.
- Elaine LeBlanc contacted Dave Akerley and Glenn Russell regarding flooding issues that continue on the lower portion of Horning Road, Carlton Dr., and Pineview. They explained that they are aware of the issues that area has with storm water runoff, spent time investigating the entire area and how it drains starting from the Cuyahoga River dam all the way to the Brimfield Ditch. Dave Akerly will contact Eric Long at Portage County Water Resources.
- Marianne Hayes is still having trouble accessing her driveway due to land being dug up near the entrance by Eric Hansen. Mr. Russell will follow up with Mike Collins for contact information for a surveyor to definitively determine property boundaries.

FINANCES

Lisé Russell broached the topic of getting information out to the public regarding fire protection levies throughout Portage County and the comparatively low millage and cost to our Franklin Township residents. The information was collected by Richard Smith. Scott Swan suggested contacting The Portager and asking them to write a story with the information; possibly advertising in The Portager; and advertising for an open meeting for all residents to get the information out. Mrs. Russell will follow up on all of these. Payment of bills, warrants #26356 through 26371, including payment vouchers and totaling \$287,851.28 was approved by a motion made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

At 8:31pm motion to adjourn was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____ Chairman _____