

Franklin Township Trustees
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairman Glenn Russell called the meeting to order. Fiscal officer, Lisé Russell was excused due to illness. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Detective Nick DeSerio – PCSO – provided a breakdown of calls for service answered in the township for the month of February, including but not limited to, animal complaints, other agency assists, disputes, disorderly conducts, suspicious persons and vehicles, harassments, frauds, premises checks and 40 traffic stops for a total of 209 calls. He also reported that body cams are now active on all deputies and dash cams are active on some vehicles. Training is in progress for use of all this equipment and the response from deputies has been positive.

ROAD REPORT

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is attached to the official record. The ODNR grant application has been submitted for help with the installation of pickle ball courts at Phillips Park. The township portion is estimated to be \$36,000 or slightly higher. A 60 X 110 yard field for Lacrosse play is still in the process. Todd Peetz of Portage County Regional Planning pointed out that in the grant application process, additional points are given to entities that hold public input meetings. Mr. Swan suggested that a table be set up for resident input regarding parks and other such services at the Spring Cleanup which will be held at the maintenance garage April 28th and 29th. Proof of residency will be required to drop off trash at the Spring Cleanup and no hazardous materials will be accepted. A status update on nearing the completion of Phase III Hudson Road final design and of Phase IV were given. Ms. McBride – 1257 Hudson Road – spoke from the audience asking for some specific details on road widening and shifting. No definitive answers were available at the time but the website will reflect the answers as soon as it becomes available. The McBrides also expressed concerns about speeding on Hudson Road and asked for consideration of lowering the speed limit to 25mph and an increase in patrols.

ZONING REPORT

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is attached to the official record. As a sidenote Mr. Ciccozzi informed the trustees that per a phone conversation with Brett Bencze at the prosecutor's office, any legal professional contacting the township regarding the Burnt Pickle should be referred to Mr. Bencze. There was also discussion of the increased number of vape smoke shops opening up throughout Ohio, not just in Franklin Township. It was noted that these types of shops tend to open up on their own terms and then apologize later for violations of code they didn't meet, showing a lack of due diligence. Mr. Swan would like an inventory done on the number of these shops and their location within the township for later discussion. Mr. Ciccozzi will remain vigilant.

FIRE REPORT

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is attached to the official report. It was noted that Detect Alarms Systems, Inc. is getting a permit pulled to proceed with upgrade work on the alarm system at town hall. Mr. Russell asked the question of why a permit is required when because it has been listed as repair work vs a new installation. The answer is that it is more than a device change and the fire department is asking a permit be drawn.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion about an open-door policy versus an appointment only presence during the day at town hall. There have been a few occasions where administrator, Jenny August, has been made to feel uncomfortable when here during the day alone by residents or others who are here and agitated about zoning or other related issues. All three trustees agreed that safety should be a top priority for our employees but also feel it is important that our residents feel like they can come here to conduct business. Zoning operates on an appointment only basis - and did so in the past. A possible solution could be keeping the door locked but installing some kind of Ring or similar video/audio communication system when people come to town hall. Ms. August will explore options.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Russell and Scott Swan are both attending the current PCSO sponsored Citizens Academy on Wednesday evenings for twelve weeks. Both are finding it very informative.

CORRESPONDENCE

Glenn Russell received a call from a woman living on Hissom Lane who is concerned about a rising level of aggression shown by a neighbor who has an issue with street parking on their street. He has been seen waving a baseball bat. Mr. Russell instructed the woman to call the sheriff's office to file a formal complaint. Detective DeSerio also responded that offenders such as this should be reported as frequently as necessary as it helps build a case against them, showing a pattern of behavior.

FINANCES

Payment of bills, warrants #26026 through 26038, including payment vouchers, and totaling \$12,383.33 was approved by a motion made by Scott Swan; 2nd Kellie Kapusta. All three trustees voted yes.

At 7:47pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kellie Kapusta; 2nd Scott Swan. All three trustees voted yes.

Date _____ Fiscal Officer _____

Chairman _____