

Franklin Township Trustees  
Tuesday, June 10, 2025  
Regular Meeting Minutes

At 7:00pm Chairperson Kellie Kapusta called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Roll call votes Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Tom Byich – Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities – addressed the board of trustees to express Portage DD's desire to have the community utilize the public park in Brady Lake. As per the agreement in place between Franklin Township and Portage DD, they would have first priority for use of the field. They have provided their summer schedule to Jenny August. There was discussion about somehow posting the schedule for the use of the park in a place that could be visible to anyone else wishing to schedule a team practice or event there. We will continue to investigate options. Also, Mr. Byich informed the board that they hope to have pickleball courts installed next year with grant funding.
- Darren Bade – 2664 Sandy Lake Road, Ravenna – a professor at Kent state University addressed the trustees with a request to place water testing equipment in Brady Lake. He would like permission to place a small water monitoring buoy in the lake that would transmit data to the internet monitoring algae. The public would be able to access the data. There would be no liability on the Township's behalf for any damage to the buoy. If possible, he would also appreciate the opportunity to dock a small boat somewhere on the lake for manual monitoring. Collectively, the trustees were supportive of the request. Mrs. Kapusta also stated that she might be able to provide Mr. Bade with a place for him to dock that small boat.
- PCSO – Detective Nick DeSerio – provided statistics for May calls for service answered, which included but were not limited to, thefts, suspicious persons and situations, assists to the rescue squad and other agencies, accidents, property damage, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, domestic situations, harassment, parking violations, and welfare checks for a total of 355 calls. Detective DeSerio was called away on official business at the completion of his report.

**ROAD REPORT**

Submitted as written by Dave Akerley and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. As discussion ensued regarding paving updates, Mr. Akerley explained that he felt it best to do some core depth testing along Thorndale and Basswood to get a better understanding of the level of resurfacing that needs done. The cost is estimated at \$5,000 and the trustees agreed this is a logical first step. There was also discussion about keeping some of the larger pieces of road equipment overnight on site when working to cut down on wear and tear from on and off loading and transport time. The trustees were agreeable to considering this but would like Tom McCarty at the prosecutor's office to be contacted before doing so. Additionally, Mr. Russell will reach out to Jim DeLeone regarding repairs/replacement of the boardwalk at Chase Park.

**ZONING REPORT**

Submitted as written by Joe Ciccozzi and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. Additionally, there are two lots (owned by the same person) that are separated by a paper road at 2254 Iraquois. The owner would like to put up a garage on the second lot but cannot because it would require a primary residence structure to be on it first. The proposal is to possibly vacate the paper road, assigning the land to the property owner, combining the lots into one parcel, and the owner can then build the accessory structure. Mr. Swan also asked Mr. Ciccozzi to look into a possible junkyard situation on Burnette Road.

**FIRE REPORT**

Submitted as written by Richard Smith and is on file at town hall as part of the official record. He also reported that the new Strickland's location is open, Popcakes (Daisy Pops) now has a warehouse open (the old Protech building), and Kent State inadvertently painted the tower that houses the alarm system for the warning sirens (causing a malfunction during testing) but is now aware of it and has taken care of the problem. Mr. Russell then mentioned that he has seen cars parked in cul-de-sacs along Thorndale and in Germaine Reserve. The trustees agreed it is time to start calling the sheriff and having these vehicles ticketed and/or towed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The status update on the North Blvd property where access from township property has been requested remains the same. The information has been forwarded to Tom McCarty at the prosecutor's office and we are awaiting his opinion

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Scott Swan informed the other trustees that he was contacted by Kathy Scott, the principal at Stanton Middle School about accepting a donation of a gaga ball pit that the middle school no longer uses. Placement, if accepted, was discussed and perhaps Phillips Park would be a good area for it.
- Consider an extension of vacation leave usage deadline for Mr. Akerley. Due to an extended medical leave of one road department employee and other crew members using their vacation time Mr. Akerley has been unable to utilize his accrued vacation leave. The trustees gladly extended the deadline for an additional year for the time to be taken and also suggested a partial payout as well if that is something Mr. Akerley would consider or prefer. Ms. August will investigate further to make sure that option is not prohibited.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Kellie Kapusta received correspondence from a Cox Ave. property owner with a complaint about interfering shrubbery that encroaches onto her property. The matter needs settled between property owners as the township is not authorized to perform work on private property.
- Glenn Russell shared that he received a response from Chris Meduri at the prosecutor's office regarding township's using taxpayer dollars to perform work on private property. Under very special and specific circumstances the work could be justified when an issue on private property is causing a township road to deteriorate. Permission and a work authorization agreement would still be required. This is specifically regarding a water retention issue escalating on Sixth Ave on properties where water has been building up and collecting on Sixth Ave causing a hazard and damaging the road. Mr. Swan suggested we might call Tinker's Creek Watershed Partnership representatives to see if they have any input as well.

## **FINANCES**

- Lisé Russell presented the tentative 2026 Tax Budget for review. Highlights include \$475,000 for road resurfacing and maintenance; \$60,000 for road salt; \$128,000 for road operations, maintenance and vehicle/equipment repairs; \$25,000 for pickleball court updates; and \$975,000 for fire and emergency services contracted calls. After discussion about the pickleball courts it was suggested that the \$25,000 be increased to \$75,000 for the construction of a pavilion and completing fencing. There was also discussion about the possibility of adding in money to repair/replace the Chase Park boardwalk.
- Payment of bills, warrant #26600 through 26609, including payment vouchers and totaling \$91,152.45 since the last meeting was authorized by a motion made by Glenn Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott Swan. Roll call votes Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

At 8:46pm motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Swan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kellie Kapusta. Roll call votes Mr. Russell – yes. Mr. Swan – yes. Mrs. Kapusta – yes.

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

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_